

WOOL HEAD SCULPIN



Recipe

Hook.....Streamer, size 2-6
Thread.....Black 6/0
Weight.....Lead wire, .20
Rib.....Ultra wire, chartreuse
Body.....UV Ice Dub, chartreuse
Wing.....Barred zonker strip, olive
Throat.....Wool, red
Head.....Wool, olive

1. Place the hook in the vise. Cut a 4"-5" piece of lead wire and make about 20 wraps around the middle of the hook shank, then break off the ends flush with the hook shank. Be sure to leave the front 1/4 of the hook shank bare.
2. Tie-in the thread in front of the lead wire and build a small dam, then wrap over the wire back to the rear of the wire wraps and form another small dam. Now wrap a thread base over the lead, then continue wrapping a tight thread base back to the hook bend. Cut off any thread tag and let the thread hang.
3. Cut a 3"-4" piece of ribbing and tie it in by one end at the hook bend. The length of the Rib should extend out over the hook bend and the butt end should reach back to the rear of the lead wraps. Wrap over the rib butts with tight thread wraps and return the thread to the hook bend.
4. Dub the thread and wrap it forward to the front of the lead wraps forming a thick shaggy body. Remove any excess dubbing. The body should be very full and slightly tapered. The thread should now be in front of the body and the front 1/4 of the hook shank should be bare.
5. Now cut a zonker strip at least 1 1/2 times the length of the hook shank and tie it in tightly by one end **on top of the hook shank** tight against the front of the body. The length of the zonker strip should go back over the hook bend. *(At this point, you may wish to do a half-hitch to keep everything secure.)*
6. Pull the zonker strip back over the top of the hook shank past the hook bend. Wet your fingers and part the fur on the strip directly above the point of the hook. Grasp the rib wire and make a single turn with it through the parted fur to bind the strip to the top of the body. Continue to part the strip fur and make wraps of the rib at evenly spaced intervals

to the front of the body, then tie off the wire rib and remove the excess rib. Wet your fingers again and stroke all the fur backward toward the rear of the fly. If desired, you can trim the end of the zonker strip into a small tapered point.

7. Now take the hook out of the vise and invert it.
8. Cut a small bunch of red wool and comb it out to untangle the hair tips. Measure the wool so that the tips reach back to just short of the hook point, then tie it in with tight thread wraps on the bottom of the hook shank tight against the front edge of the body. Trim off the excess wool butts square against the hook shank. Cover the remaining butt ends of the wool with tight thread wraps then wrap a thread base forward to the hook eye, then wrap the thread back to the front of the body.
9. Now take the hook out of the vise and turn it right side up again.
10. Now cut a large clump of olive wool as close to the skin as possible (You want the hair to be as long as possible). Brush out the clump to get rid of any tangles. Holding the clump relatively tightly with the tips pointing toward the rear of the fly, push the center of the clump over the hook eye and slide the hair back tight against the front of the body. *(Try to get the wool tips to extend at least halfway back over the wing.)* Take several tight thread wraps (on top of one another) around the wool and cinch them tight. It's okay to let the wool turn around the hook shank as you tighten the thread wraps. *(The wool should go all the way around the hook shank with the tips reaching back to the middle of the wing.)*
11. Now stroke the butt ends of the wool back toward the hook bend and bring the thread through them to the front and make several tight thread turns. There should still be bare hook shank in front of the wool.
12. Cut another clump of wool and trim the tips off. Push this clump over the hook eye back until the center of the clump is tight against the front of the first clump. Bind this clump down just as you did the first clump with tight thread wraps in the center of the clump. Pull the butt ends of this clump back just as you did the first clump, pull the thread through them and make several tight thread wraps in front of the clump.
13. Make a whip finish and clip the thread. Use a bodkin or other brush to free any loose fibers in the wool head.
14. Take the fly out of the vise, and, using scissors trim the bottom of the wool head flat close to the hook shank to expose the throat. Be careful not to cut the red throat. Now trim the top of the head flat as well but not as close to the hook shank. Leave the sides of the head long for the time being. The head should now be quite wide from side to side but narrow from top to bottom.
15. Now trim the sides of the head so that they flow in an oval shape back into the wing and body. Brush the head into shape and make any necessary cleanup trims. The head should now taper into the wing, forming an overall teardrop shape between the head, body, and wing. The head should be wide and flat and taper from the front to the back in an oval shape.