

Bob's Panfish Bugger

Tied by Bob Haase



Hook: Mustad 3366 #8, #10, or #12
Bead: Glass Bead size 6/0 any color
Thread: 140 Denier color of bead
Hackle: Emu Feather Palmered
Body: Chenille to match or contrast color of bead
Tail: Piece of Rabbit Zonker or Chickabou



Step #1 - De-barb hook and place a 6/0 glass bead on the hook and move next to the eye of the hook. Start the thread and wrap to the bend of the hook. Tie in a small piece of rabbit zonker or small marabou such as chickabou. Use whatever colors you desire.



Step #2 - Tie in an appropriate size emu feather as shown. Each barb of an emu feather is like a separate feather which creates a very buggy appearance, especially in the water.

Note: The stems on emu feathers are stiff compared to regular hackle, so you need to tie them in securely so they do not pull out as you start to palmer the hackle.



Step #3 - Tie in a piece of chenille. You can also dub the body if you desire and pick it before wrapping the emu feather. This is a great fly for youth tying programs and chenille is easier to apply.



Step #4 - Wrap the chenille to the bead and tie off the chenille.



Step #5 - Wrap the emu feather to the bead allowing equal spacing between the wraps so that you can see the chenille or dubbed body. I often make the first wrap around the hook just behind the chenille and then advance the wrap over the chenille to the bead. **It helps to hold on to the tailing material as you make your first wrap with the emu feather so that the soft zonker material does not get pulled in with the feather.** Tie off with a series of half hitches and you have the finished fly. The nice thing about emu is that

there is not a wrong way to wrap it. You can wrap the feather on edge or lay it flat and it still looks good.

The Panfish Buzzer is part of what I call my EmuBuzzer family. I have made a lot of changes and the fish seem to approve because they really like EmuBuzzers. It sinks just below the surface and is a great fly to use when the fish are feeding subsurface. I normally tie it on a size 10 hook. You can also add lead free wire over the hook shank if you want it to get down deeper. I use a small piece of rabbit zonker for the tail because it is easier for kids to clip off a small piece and tie it in compared to feathers such as marabou that flies around more, especially when tying outdoors. You can get the beads at any craft store such as Jo-Ann Fabrics or Hobby Lobby. The emu feathers are available in some fly shops and also online where you can buy it by the pound. By purchasing in bulk, you get a variety of sizes such as the smaller feathers that work better for this fly. Just Google emu feathers to obtain a number of sources.

Tip: You can make a half hitch tool for making half hitches over beads by modifying a ball point pen. Some pens you can remove the insert and it is already the correct size for a 6/0 bead. Others you need to sand or cut the tip smaller and then drill it out to the correct size. You can also glue in a small piece of a foam cylinder as a stop so that you don't go too far when sliding the thread off the tip.

