

July Fly of the Month
Modified Phil Rowley-Bruised Balanced Leech
By Dell Swearingen



Fishing Stories:

We fished Krumbo Reservoir South of Burns and enjoyed a day and one half of good fishing on both balanced leeches and casting and stripping regular leech patterns. We also enjoyed fishing the Westside of Klamath Lake. A friend of mine has a cabin there and invited a group of us to stay with him and fish. Several large rainbows were landed trolling an olive minnow pattern as pictured below and a modified Phil Rowley-Bruised balanced leech.



Size six hook (3x), wrapped with a 3 inch Eurico Puglisi (EP) Thunderstruck Smolt Minnow Brush with round olive eyes.

This article will focus on tying the modified Phil Rowley-Bruised balanced leech pattern.

Materials List:

Hook: 90 or 60 degree jig hook size 10

Thread: Black 6/0

Body: Arizona Simi Seal black/blue #21 formed into dubbing noodle a wrapped around hook and pin

Pin: ½" Silver sequin

Double Bead: 7/64" Tungsten gold bead and 3.2 mm hot bead

Tail: One inch strip of fur cut from a black rabbit zonker
or Montana Fly Company (MFC) Blue/Black/ Marabou



Figure 1: Thread base

Directions:

1. Insert hook in the tying vise and put down a thread base.

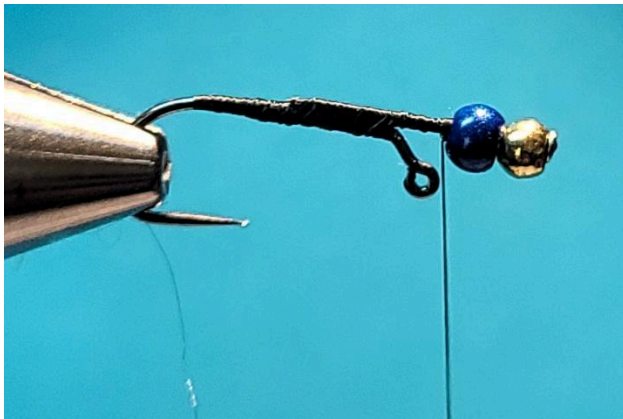


Figure 2: Attach pin to jig hook

2. Using a 1/2" silver sequin pin, insert pin through a 7/64" tungsten bead and through a 3.2 mm hot bead. (Phil's pattern omits the hot bead.) This modification was made by Bill Burns from Medford, Oregon. Attach the pin to the hook shank with the back of the hot bead even with the hook eye.



Figure 3: Hook should aim slightly down in front

3. Apply a layer of super glue to the thread base for durability. Do a two or three whip finish and use a small wire through the hook eye and check to ensure the fly balances. The bead should be aimed a little South of a perfect balance. The tail will help balance the fly.



Figure 4: Tail cut from black rabbit zonker

4. From a black rabbit Zonker, cut off about an inch of fur close to the leather backing and tie on for the tail of fly.



Figure 5: Optional tail material.

5. MFC Barred Marabou Blood Quill in Blue/Black also works for tail material.



Figure 6: Fly with attached tail.

6. Measure rabbit material to length from bead to hook point and secure to hook shaft.



Figure 7: Tie two pearl opal flash strips on each side of tail

7. A couple of strands of pearl opal flash seems to improve the fish catch rate of fly.



Figure 8: Black/Blue Simi Seal for dubbing noodle

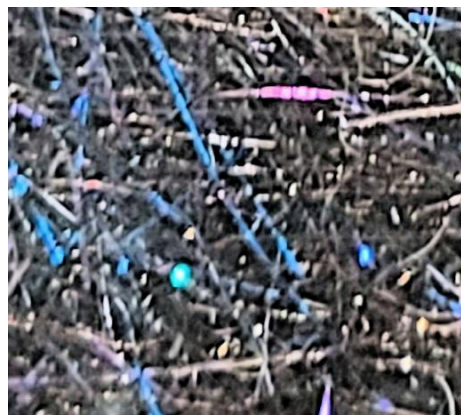


Figure 9: Black/Blue Simi Seal material

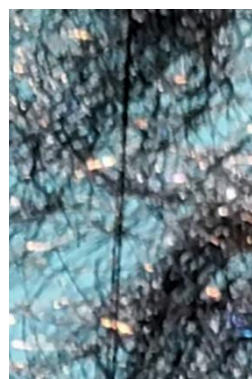


Figure 10: Form a three-inch dubbing loop and insert small clumps of simi seal.

8. In front of the tail, make a three-inch dubbing loop and insert four small clumps of the Simi Seal in the loop. With the thumb and index finger on your left hand, grasp the dubbing loop

just below the bottom clump of Simi Seal. This will help to secure the dubbing material until the dubbing twister tightens the thread below your holding point.

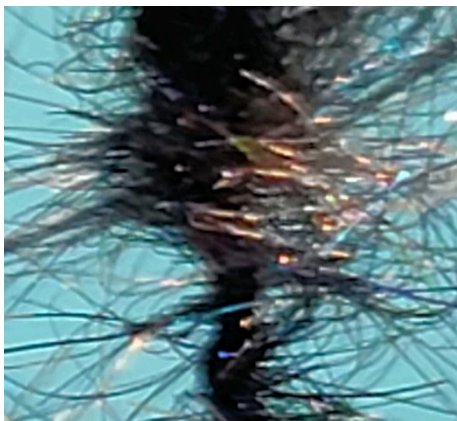


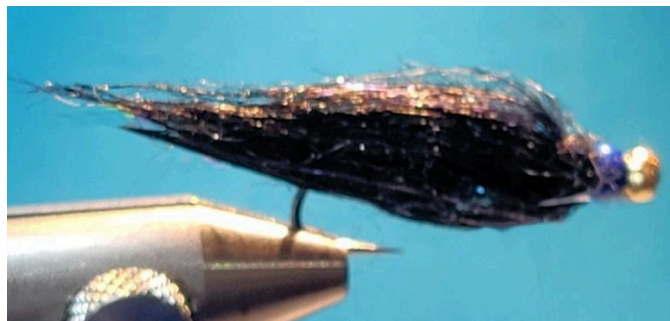
Figure 11: Insert dubbing twister and hold left thumb and fore finger against the last clump of material and twist.

9. Before the loop gets too tight, brush out the dubbing loop to spread fibers evenly throughout. Next, twist the dubbing loop until tight. Brush again so material is evenly distributed.



Figure 12: Wrap dubbing noodle.

10. Brush the fly thoroughly towards the tail to release any trapped fibers. **Then dip in hot water to delete fiber memory.** Shape and trim to desired look.



Finished Fly