

## **PT Bugger**

I fish streamers more in the fall than any other time. 80% of the time I fish a Woolly Bugger. I have always liked making odd-colored Woolly Buggers and often use obscure game bird feathers rather than solid-color saddle hackles, since feathers from wild birds possess more movement, color variation, and overall bugginess than chicken saddles. With the PT Bugger, I've combined materials of many colors and my favorite game bird feather, the mottled brown, tan, white, and black "church window" feather from the shoulders of a ringneck pheasant. In addition to create an overall buggy-looking fly, the PT Bugger makes an excellent sculpin pattern, especially since its hourglass eyes make the fly ride with the hook up, cutting down on snags when twitching the fly along the bottom, where sculpins live.

### How to Fish

The PT Bugger can be fished on the traditional down-and-across swing, but it is more effective when stripped and twitched, since its heavy eyes make it dart and dance when fished this way. In deep water or from a boat, it is deadly when fished under a strike indicator and twitched occasionally, like a jig.

### Tying Challenges

The PT Bugger is only a Woolly Bugger with a few bells and whistles. The only difficult step is finding the church window feathers for the collar. The best method of getting them is to shoot your own pheasants, since wild birds have larger and more colorful feathers than farm-raised birds, but some fly shops carry them and I have even found them in craft stores.

### PT Bugger Pattern

Hook: 3XL nymph, #2-6

Weight: .25-.35 tin or lead wire (optional)

Head: Gold or black hourglass eyes

Thread: 6/0 black

Tail: Tan over brown marabou with black Krystal Flash on either side

Body: Tan and brown or other earthtone brindled chenille

Rib (1): Medium copper wire (optional)

Rib (2): Palmered grizzly or variant hackle

Collar: Pheasant "church window" feather, 2-3 turns

