

Seal Bugger

Created by Denny Rickards

HOOK: 5263, sizes 4-10

THREAD: Black

TAIL: Black or maroon marabou as long as body, tied sparse

HACKLE: Purple-dyed grizzly, palmered four times over body

BODY: Black angora goat (a seal substitute) blended with small amount of red (or orange). Pick out some hairs after tying off the ribbing.

RIB: Copper wire

Uses

Denny Rickards originally developed this [Woolly Bugger](#) derivative on Klamath Lake, where huge predatory rainbows find it irresistible, but it works well everywhere. Although designed for seal fur, angora goat makes a good substitute. The hairs move seductively in the water, imparting a more life-like sensation than the standard Woolly Bugger. Note that the tail is at least as long as the body (significantly longer than on most Woolly Buggers), and it is tied sparse.

Like the Woolly Bugger, the Seal Bugger suggests lots of different trout food: [dragonfly](#) nymphs, [damselfly](#) nymphs, [leeches](#), [baitfish](#), or just something that might be alive and edible.

Variations

Good body colors include black, green-olive, yellow-olive, brown, maroon, purple, and white. When the fly will be fished deeply, weight the front half of the hook or use a beadhead.

How to Fish

[Count-down-and-retrieve](#) or [slow retrieve](#). Vary the retrieve until you find what works best at the moment: slow and steady, fast, strip-and-pause, or quick, short two-inch strips. Also, [wind-drifting](#) works well in lakes.

Fish at all depths until you find the right one, but most of the time you should be fishing somewhere between two to six feet deep.

