

Rob Denson's trout fly of the month

Fiery Bugger's Muddle

Hook Size 10-12 Kamasan B175

Butt Flat gold **Rib** Oval gold

Body Seal's fur mix: 40 per cent fiery brown, 40 per cent fiery claret, 20 per cent "ant black" or dark brown

Body hackle Furnace hen

Shoulder hackle I One red golden-pheasant body feather

Shoulder hackle II One yellow golden-pheasant body feather

Head Natural deer hair

being quite vague as to what is being suggested here. Ambiguity beats detail hands down for me, and with so many food items still at large at this time of year, and very much on the trout's menu, it pays to be non-specific. Daddies, sedges and all manner of wind-blown terrestrials account for the bulk of surface action, which is where the Fiery BM does its best work, making a fist of all of them, and letting the trout's imagination do the rest. Floating and intermediate lines, therefore, will score well, with the Fiery BM in the bob position, fished classic loch-style, with a short line, and a dibble. It is worth trying it on the tail from time to time, too, especially in conjunction with a Di3 or 5 line, when the fish are holding between mid and deep water. Provided that the flies above the BM are more streamlined, the BM will "keep its end up", creating an attractive arc, and the change in direction that trout find so difficult to resist. Hopefully, though, the dreaded fast-sinkers will have no place on your late summer/early autumn outings, which will, fingers crossed, be dominated by surface-feeding fish, chasing a bushy bob-fly bulging through a wave.

TYING TIPS

Rake out the seal's fur with a velcro pad. This allows more space and light to mix with the seal's fur, exploiting its translucency, creating a colourful, attractive "haze" and adding to the illusion of life. I trim down a self-adhesive velcro pad (available from haberdasher's, pound shops etc) and stick it to a wooden lolly stick.

Tie the golden-pheasant feathers in by the tip, after stroking the barbs back up the central stem. Remove the waste from the lower part of the feather, leaving about a dozen of the uppermost barbs on each side of the stem. Tie in by the tip, stroking, and doubling, or folding the feather in half, then making two turns.

The Muddler head is quite a sparse, loose affair on this fly. We're looking for "bugginess" here, not a tight full-blown Muddler head. Spin about half as much as one would for a standard Muddler. When trimming, leave a few hairs trailing backwards to blend in with the golden-pheasant feathers.



Rob Denson has fly-fished for trout for 25 years, visiting all four corners of Britain and Ireland, combining his love of fly-tying, photography and a rolling wave.

"IT'S A RIGHT old bugger's muddle," as the saying goes around these parts, when things get messy.

And messy is how I'm liking my Muddlers these days; buggered, one might say!

The Fiery Bugger's Muddle has been a favourite back-end fly over the past two or three seasons, taking fish on Malham Tarn, Stocks and Bewl. Basically a muddled "Crippler" (*T&S* April 2011), the Fiery was the first Bugger's Muddle in what was, like the Crippler, to become a series, with much inspiration taken from the classic wet-flies.

As with the Crippler series, the elongated, springy barbs of the golden-pheasant body feather provide a colour-splash, and that all-important movement, so often

a key factor in eliciting a positive response from the fish. The "fiery" body mix is not to be confused with the standard Fiery Brown. Containing fiery claret, fiery brown, and a hint of "ant black" (darkest brown), a darker, "redder" light is what's transmitted here, as opposed to the gingery/orange hues of the standard fiery brown. A furnace hen hackle adorns the body, its centre matching well with the dark body colour, while the lighter, golden barb-ends provide an attractive halo. Finally, after trying a few shades for the deer-hair head, "natural" seemed to be more in keeping with the natural, buggy feel.

Again, as with the Cripplers, many of my favourite classics, and many of my own flies, I'm

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