

Filo Bugger (Balanced) Phil Rowley

uses after shaft or philo plume feathers , similar to After Shaft Leech in his book Fly Patterns for Stillwaters, p 62. See also Aftershaft Damsel

<https://youtu.be/asWs0DfXQ6w>



Materials

Hook: Daiichi 4640 or 4647 #8 to 12, or other jig hook with long shank.

Thread: MFC 8/0, or UTC 70, Black or grey

Tail: Fluffy material (stuff normally tossed away) From the Base of a Pheasant Rump Feather mixed with Crystal Flash, Pearl or U.V. Pearl

Body: Pheasant Rump Aftershaft Feathers Spun in Dubbing Loop

Bead: 1/8" (3.3 MM) Tungsten, Black for a # 10 or 12

Tying (See below, Note: How to tie a balanced (leech) bead on:)

- Bead: Wrap thread base to extend beyond length of pin. Put bead on pin with larger opening of bead fitting over head of pin*. Phil likes sequin pins from Michael's or JoAnn's, about a half inch long, to avoid the sharp edges of cut standard pins. Note: for some beads, the head is too small to hold.
- Tail: use longer fibers of lower shaft marabou-like feather (ie Not the filo plume), tied in behind pin for balanced leech, to form about a shaft length tail. Tie in a double strand of crystal flash to ride on either side of the tail.
- Body: dubbed with hi tac wax on thread. Shape philo plum to be even. Place ~ 3 feathers end to end on sticky wax. Form loop with fingers at start of tail tie in. Use shepherd crook dubbing loop tool to spin loop, twisting

slowly, until fibers radiate out at 90°. Thread wraps over base of dubbing loop back to base of tail. Then wrap tying thread forward to behind bead. As you wrap the dubbing loop forward, stroke the plume fibers back with your left hand, towards the hook bend.

Just keep dubbing past hook eye, making sure to fill V between hook eye and bead pin. Tie off dubbing loop behind bead. Put a little super glue on last 1/2" of thread and wrap in, then whip finish.

Phil: I love stillwater patterns that move and breathe in the water. Mobile patterns suggest life and trout find them hard to resist. Aftershaft or filo plume feathers to some are one of my favorite soft mobile materials. These feathers work great for bodies on leeches, dragon nymphs, and minnows as well as thoraxes on damselfly and mayfly nymphs. If you want to learn more about how to fly fish lakes please download and subscribe to mine and Brian Chan's Stillwater Fly Fishing App.

Note: How to tie a balanced (leech) bead on:

Method 1 (Original): For Any jig hook. Most accurate, for true horizontal presentation

Slide a tungsten bead onto a straight pin (with a head big enough to secure the bead) with the wide hole toward the pin head. If needed cut the shaft of the pin to about 1/2 - 2/3s the length of the jig hook shaft. Recommend file off sharp edge (or dance around it when you tie the rest of the fly).

Put suitable jig hook in vise. Starting just behind eye of hook, wrap thread base back to extend beyond bend.

Place pin shaft parallel to, and on top of, hook shaft, with the bead seated against the pin head. Adjust the bead to around 2 bead lengths forward of hook eye. With mild tension, wrap 3-4 thread wraps to somewhat loosely bind pin shaft to hook shaft.

Take hook/bead chassis out of vise, and slide some monofilament or thread through the eye. Suspend the chassis from the monofilament.

Slide/adjust the bead/pin portion forward or back, so that the entire shaft balances horizontally. Bind in securely. Suggest apply UV resin and cure.

[Method 2: Jeff Perin method, using pin or needle in place of monofilament.](#)

Method 3: as above, but just position bead/pin so that rear edge of bead rides about 1 1/2 bead lengths ahead of hook eye (without actually balancing). Note- applies ONLY to long shank jig hooks! Bind in securely.

JH