

Sam's One Bug and L-Eye-Bee

Craig E. "Sam" Blevins



Fishing for bass and panfish with a fly rod is most exciting when you can see the strike. Surface lures, flies and poppers have always been in the tackle box and fly vest at our house. Even when I'm not catching fish, I prefer to not catch them on the surface. The anticipation of what might happen can keep me casting for hours.

The L-Eye Bee was first tied back in 1988 as a bream or bluegill and sunfish fly. When I tested it at Lake Guntersville, a TVA Lake on the Tennessee River in Alabama, I made ten casts and caught ten largemouth bass. I said, "Well, I'll be a sun-of-a-gun!" Hence the name L-Eye-Bee.

The One Bug was developed out of a need for an attractor pattern with movement, to be fished on flat or very calm water. Adding the crossed rubber legs on the Live Body foam was the solution. After catching a hundred-plus bream, three smallmouth, and five largemouth bass on the same fly, it was dubbed the One Bug—I needed only one bug to fish all day.

The Live Body foam takes considerable amounts of abuse when fishing rocky shorelines. The foam bounces off the rocks. It does not crack or lose its finish, and it comes in a variety of fish-friendly colors. I try not to spend more time tying a fly than it takes to lose it, barring bad knots, weak tippets and tree limbs too high to reach. The One Bug is the single most productive and longest-lasting fly I have ever used.

As with most poppers and attractor surface patterns, fishing these is a matter of who can wait the longest. Cast it, let it sit until you can't stand it, then let it sit awhile longer. If you think the fish are asleep, then strip in about four to six inches of line and again let it sit. Most strikes on these flies are quick and sometimes vicious. Pay attention.

These patterns are most effective when fished in or near heavy cover, close to the shoreline, near drop-off areas in depths of three to six feet. During periods of slow fishing, when you feel certain that the fish are there but are simply not hitting, it may be that there is a large bass cruising the area. Change your presentation to a deliberate plop down of the fly. Allow the fly to sit until the rings from the plop dissipate, then retrieve or strip in your line with short, rapid pulses of ten to twelve inches, with a one- or two-second pause between strips. This will often draw a kill-it-quick response from both small and largemouth bass.

Sam's One Bug

Hook: Mustad 9674, size 8,
Straight-Eye Streamer

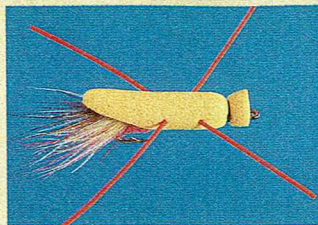
Thread: Danville's 6/0 Fly Master,
black

Tail: 6 strands Rainbow/Pearl
Krystal Flash; marabou,
fluorescent fire orange, fluorescent chartreuse, and brown

Body: Live Body, 1/4" diameter, yellow

Legs: Living Rubber, medium round, fluorescent orange

Head: Segmented portion of body made by wrapping tightly with
thread



Sam's L-Eye-Bee

Hook: Mustad 9674, size 8,
Straight-Eye Streamer

Thread: Danville's 6/0 Fly
Master, black

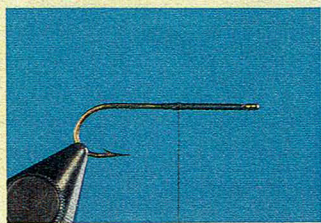
Tail: 6 strands Rainbow/Pearl
Krystal Flash; marabou,
fluorescent fire orange, fluorescent chartreuse, and brown

Head: Live Body, yellow 3/8" diameter, with black 1/4" diameter
(sliced thin), with plastic movable doll eyes (5mm) all
glued together with cyanoacrylate adhesive (warning: use
extreme caution when handling this adhesive, it is an eye
irritant and will bond skin instantly)

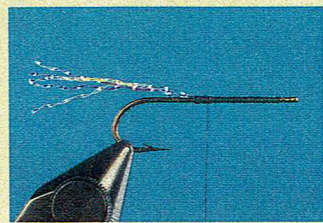
Thorax: Red rooster saddle hackle, palmered



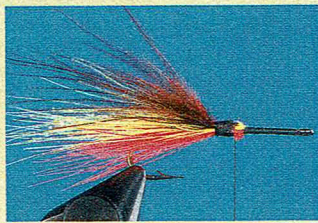
Tying Sam's One Bug



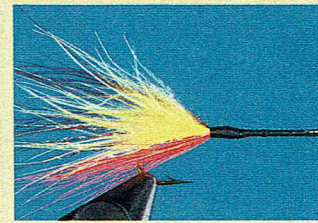
Step 1: Place hook in vise and tightly wrap thread from eye of hook to middle of hook shank, approximately 50 turns. Wrap back to eye, then back to middle of hook shank. Secure with 3 or 4 half hitches. This creates a base for glue to hold Live Body.



Step 2: Attach 3 strands of Krystal Flash at middle of hook shank, fold over and tie off. Extend Krystal Flash 3/4" behind bend of hook.



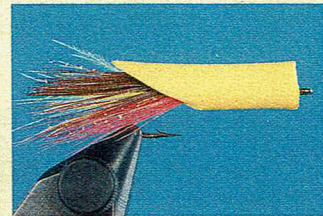
Step 3: Tie in orange, chartreuse and brown marabou separately with approximately ten turns of thread. Place orange marabou below hook shank, chartreuse and brown above hook shank.



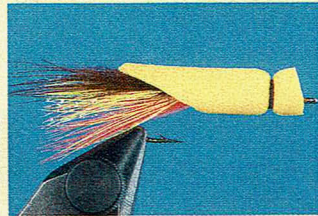
Step 4: Wrap thread tightly toward hook eye to secure all butt ends of marabou, and build a smooth transition ramp toward hook eye. Tie off and whip finish.



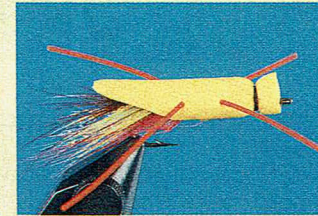
Step 5: Cut 1/4" Live Body at approximately 30-degree angle so that long end extends just past bend of hook.



Step 6: Using a single-edge razor or wallpaper blade, split body lengthwise 1/2 to 3/4 through its diameter. Glue body onto hook shank. Glue and clamp one or two minutes to allow glue to bond.

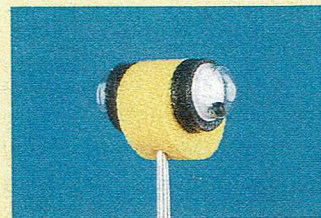


Step 7: Wrap body with thread between head and thorax to form neck with 20 tight turns, and whip finish.



Step 8: Thread rubber legs into body using a small sewing needle. (Suggestion: use needle threader to run rubber legs through eye of needle and pliers to push or pull the needle through Live Body.)

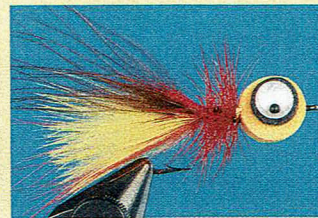
Tying Sam's L-Eye-Bee



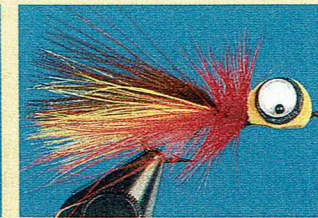
Step 5: (Follow Steps 1-4 for Sam's One Bug as shown above). Pre-assemble head: a. cut 3/8" diameter yellow Live Body into cylinders approximately 3/8" wide; b. cut 1/4" diameter black Live Body into cylinders approximately 1/16-1/8" wide; c. glue doll eyes to black cylinders with cyanoacrylate adhesive. Let dry; d. glue back 1/4" cylinders with doll eyes to sides of yellow 3/8" cylinders. Let dry.



Step 6: When heads are assembled and dry, cut a slot 3/4 of the way through the yellow cylinder to allow for placement on the hook. Attach head to hook just behind eye, glue, clamp, and let dry.



Step 7: Attach thread behind head and tie in red rooster saddle hackle. Palmer hackle and tie off. Whip finish behind head.



Step 8: Trim off head below hook shank to maximize hooking ability.