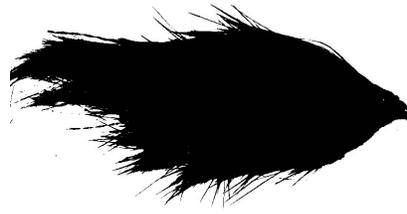


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# FLY OF THE MONTH

## BUNNY LEECH

Hook:	Tiemco 5263 or 300, sizes 4-8
Thread:	6/0 or 3/0 color to match body & tail
Tail:	Thin strip of straight cut "rabbit on the skin"-Black, brown, olive, tan, white purple- we are doing it in dark brown, with few strands of krystal flash
Body:	Same color as tail - cross cut strip of "rabbit on the skin"



As you can see the fly is tied entirely with "rabbit on the skin" except for a few strands of krystal flash.

1. Using a thin strip of straight cut black "rabbit on the skin" taper the tip to a point. After wrapping a layer of thread on the hook shank tie on the tail by the tip with the rabbit strip hanging back over the hook bend. Secure this with tight wraps of thread. Make the thread wraps over the rabbit strip as smooth as possible. The length of the tail should be about the length of the hook shank. Trim accordingly. If you are using a small hook the tail is optional.
2. Tie in a few strands of krystal flash on each side of the tail. With a black tail I would use black, red, pearl or maybe blue or green. Mix them up a little - I am going to use four pieces on each side - 2 black and 2 red.
3. Taper the tip of a cross-cut strip of "rabbit on the skin" and tie it on just in front of the tail. This should be tied in so the fur lays back over the bend. Cross-cut strips are cut so the fur angles off the skin at 45 degrees. Tie the strip in on the far side of the hook with the fur side towards you. When you make your first wrap(counter clock wise) the fur will be facing out.
4. Continue wrapping the fur strip around the shank towards the hook eye. Wrap tight as you go and each wrap should slightly overlap the front edge of the previous wrap. As you wrap stroke the fibers back towards the hook bend.
5. Wrap tight working to just behind the eye leaving room for a head. Tie off taking a few extra turns. Stretch the rabbit strip and trim the material as close as possible. This material is bulky so you will want to tie down as close as possible and trim the material as close as you can. You will have a large head but using thread wraps make it as neat as you can. Whip finish and coat with head cement.

This is one fly which can be tied with kevlar thread, a thread I rarely use or suggest. As the name suggests this fly is usually fished as a representation of a leech. Tan colors are used in flesh flies, which are popular in Alaska. If you have the right materials it is not difficult to tie.

Tom Smith

