

Fly of the Month

The Magoo



Hook :- Wet fly, size 8 or 10. Kamasan B175 or similar, with bead of your choice, usually red or gold.

Tail :- Olive marabou and two strands of flash.

Rib :- Copper wire.

Body :- Peacock herl

Body hackle :- Olive saddle feather, palmered

Front hackle :- Partridge breast feather or similar.

A friend from Western Australia recently visited Tasmania for a couple of months and travelled around the state fishing just about every stretch of water he could find. There isn't much in the way of hatches in WA so most fly fishing over there is done with wet flies and that's what he did this trip. When I caught up with him he told me that his most successful fly by far had been the Magoo. He'd taken fish on it in the Tyenna River, Woods Lake, Arthurs Lake, Penstock Lagoon and Brumbys Creek, to name just a few. Would you believe he even caught a tench on it above the No.1 Weir at Brumbys ? So I just had to check it out.

Looking at it the Magoo isn't a lot different to the Shrek or a woolly bugger. The main difference seems to be the very long and very generous marabou tail and the long strip of flash each side of it. The flash in the Magoo above is strands of Gliss 'n Glow but Krystal Flash will do the same job of course. I can't remember any woolly buggers being tied with a peacock herl body, and the Magoo is sometimes tied minus the palmered body hackle.

As with most successful patterns fly tyers sometimes use different colours, orange and fiery brown being common



My WA friend reckons the Magoo is best fished with short, sharp pulls that make that long tail pulsate enticingly.

Tying the Magoo is a basically the same as tying a woolly bugger, just remember the extra long and bulky tail. http://corralinn.weebly.com/uploads/1/1/3/4/11347063/wooly_bugger.pdf

There is also a good Vimeo clip on tying it. <https://vimeo.com/180256043>

Alan T.

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