

## Fly of the Month

## Bob's Bits



Hook :- Dry fly 14-12-10

Body :- Seal's fur. Usually red, olive, brown or black

Rib :- ( Optional ) Fine wire, mono or tying thread.

Hackle :- Black or brown

Wing :- White hackle fibres

The Bob's Bits originated in the days when the big UK reservoirs were being opened up to fishing in general and trout fishing in particular. Grafham Water in Cambridgeshire, built in the mid 1960s, is one of the largest of those reservoirs and soon became known for its trout, pike and zander fishing. One man who made a name for himself at Grafham was Bob Worts and the 'bits' is one of his flies which he said was intended to look like a buzzer trapped in the surface film. These days it is one of the most popular and successful stillwater flies in the UK.

The Bob's Bits is simple to tie and a good one for beginners because it doesn't have to be too neat and tidy. You start the fly by laying the foundation thread from eye to bend of the hook where you attach your ribbing material. The ribbing is basically there to keep the dubbed body material in place when it is teased out later on. Next step is to dub your thread with seals fur and wind it forward to just behind the eye. Counterwind the ribbing forward to the same spot and secure it. The Bob's Bits is made to sit low in the water film and not high on it so it can be difficult to see in a ripple, which is why most tyers attach a wing. The wing doesn't have to be white and doesn't have to be feather fibres, just something you can see.....polyprop yarn in various colours is popular. Next step is to attach the black or brown cock hackle feather which should have fibres about as long as the hook gape. Four or five turns of that tied off and, apart from head cement on the wrap knot, the fly is finished. Well, not quite finished because you now take scissors to the hackle and trim off the part below the body. The seals fur body is also scuffed up with a piece of Velcro or teased out with a needle to make a few more straggly bits to stick to the surface film. Both latter steps are to get the fly sitting low in the surface film where it is meant to be fished. As with most 'damp' flies..... neither wet nor dry.....you will have to apply floatant occasionally to stop the fly sinking.

Variations are really only limited to different body and hackle colour with some tyers preferring a more visible rib. There are also versions around on the 'net where the hackle isn't trimmed and the fly sits high, but then it's not really a Bob's Bits which isn't supposed to do that.



Alan T.

