

Sawyer's Killer Bug

By Derek Young

A deadly bug created and developed by Frank Sawyer specifically to catch grayling as a means to control their numbers on the River Avon in Wiltshire. However other species, such as trout, will fall to this fly.

His friend, Lee Wulff, named the fly after him.

It's a general impressionistic dressing that could be taken to imitate a shrimp, larva, pupa or hatching sedge.

Takes are signalled in clear water by a sudden movement of the fish or a white flash as it opens its mouth.

If using fine copper wire as the tying thread it is usually whip finished at the hook bend, at the rear of the fly, not at the eye.

The original wool, Chadwicks 477, is no longer manufactured so is getting increasingly rare and expensive.

A substitute, which works just as well can be purchased from Lathkill.

www.lathkill.com



Wire Version



Thread Version

Dressing

Hook	Grub Hook 8-14 (Kamasan B110) Heavy weight grub hook	Underbody	2in (5cm) of fine lead wire
Thread	Fine copper wire or Buff/Beige waxed 6 ough thread	Body	Chadwicks Mending wool 477 or Lathkill Chadwicks 477 substitute

Two versions follow below – a wire version and a thread version.



Wire Version

Step 1

Set hook in vice (ping it).



Step 2

Catch on Fine copper wire at eye and run down hook in touching turns building up an even tapered body. Return wire to eye.



Step 3

At the eye of hook, catch in the Chadwicks wool or substitute.



Step 4

And return wire to rear of hook.



Step 5

Wrap wool down hook shank to create a tapered grub shaped body.



Step 6

Secure wool, remove excess and whip finish at bend.



The finished fly



Thread Version

Step 1

Set hook in vice (ping it).



Step 2

Squeeze a drop of superglue on centre of hook shank and wind lead wire, in touching turns, along hook shank, so superglue spreads evenly.



Step 2

Cut off excess wire and smooth edges with tweezers.



Step 3

Catch thread on at eye.



Step 4

And build up an even tapered body, ending up at hook bend.



Step 5

Half way round bend tie in wool/wool substitute.



Step 6

Run thread, using touching turns, back up to eye.



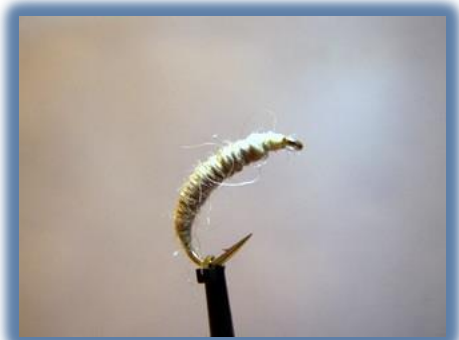
Step 7

Using 1, 2 or 3 ply wool, depending on hook size, wind the wool back towards eye to form a tapered grub shape body and secure.



Step 8

Remove waste, form a neat head, whip finish and varnish head.



The finished fly



A Gold Bead version