

Frank Sawyer's Killer Bug



Image courtesy of TenkaraBum.com

Although not as well known as his more famous Pheasant Tail nymph, the Killer Bug was created by Frank Sawyer along the banks of the Avon river after WWII. Although you will sometimes read that it was created sometime in the 1930's. The pattern was originally used for Grayling but it does a great job with Trout as well.

Sawyer originally used Chadwick's 477 yarn. That yarn is no longer in production, but one willing to pay top dollar can occasionally find a card of yarn on Ebay. Modern versions now use Jamieson's Shetland Spindrift wool yarn. And although we'll be using the color called Oyster, Jamison's makes many different colors to fit one's needs.

I enjoy this pattern because along with being effective, it's an inexpensive, quick, and easy pattern to tie. It also allows one to experiment with hook size, yarn color, and ultra-wire color. It's a great fly that lends itself to creativity. The example that will be demonstrated is one I use for skinny water when I'm chasing Brook Trout. Often you'll see this pattern tied on larger hooks sizes like a 10 or 12. However, I generally tie this pattern on a size 16 or smaller. I have better luck with the smaller size hook on streams like Big Hunting Creek or Beaver Creek. I believe this is an effective pattern because it represents a little bit of everything that fish may consume in the water.

Recipe:

Hook – Orvis mudler/stonefly hook size 16 3x long

Body – Jamieson's Shetland Spindrift wool (Oyster)

Thread – Small or extra small gold UTC ultra-wire

Head cement

Note: In the world of Tenkara you will sometimes see this fly referred to as a "Utah Killer Bug" because of the yarn color choice of Oyster. Please remember though, you can experiment with any color you wish. That's the fun of fly tying!

For a video tutorial browse to this web address:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jt61pj90nU8>