

# Fly Pattern Sheet - Hairball Leech

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Hook: Your favorite Salmon Hook  
Thread: 210 Denier  
Weight: .035 or .030 Lead wraps  
Tail: Krystal Flash with Rabbit Strip over  
Body: Large Cactus Chenille  
with Rabbit strip palmered over  
Hackle: Schlapplen, collared  
Eyes: Barbell eyes  
Head: 210 Denier, hot pink (optional)



Notes: This fly is sometimes called a Hairball Leech. Originally designed as a steelhead pattern it is commonly used in Alaska for salmon as it presents a bulky silhouette with plenty of movement built in, and some flash. The pink head shown here is optional, but is something I like to do on my purple version.



Place your lead wraps in the center two-thirds of the shank. I like to use a loop eye hook so I have a mark at the front to stop my lead.



Bind down the lead with your thread and tie in a tail of flash material.



Tie in a rabbit strip on top of the flash.



Tie in a second rabbit strip with the hair down and the natural grain of the hair towards the hook. Tie in the Cactus chenille and wrap forward to cover the lead. Tie off and clip the excess.



Palmer the rabbit strip over the Cactus chenille and tie down with four very firm wraps. Clip the excess and wrap down the tag end.



Tie in a schlapplen hackle; wrap and collar. At this point I'm going to switch to pink thread for the head. Or, you can leave the head the same color as your tying thread.



Tie down the barbell eyes with cross wraps and figure eight wraps. Whip finish.

This is one of those great patterns that lends itself to modifications and color variations. Although it's most often seen in black or purple, chartreuse, orange, pink, and combinations are all possible. Vary the weight on the lead wraps and barbell eyes to tailor the fly to the water conditions you'll be facing. For King salmon you'll want a sharp heavy hook, for Silvers something a bit smaller and lighter will work. As I mentioned above, I like loop eyed hooks, not only for the lead wraps but the loop back provides a very stable base on which to tie down eyes.

For those of you that just need to know things, the hook I'm using here is a Bob Johns Winter Run from Partridge, but this hook style is made by other manufacturers.