

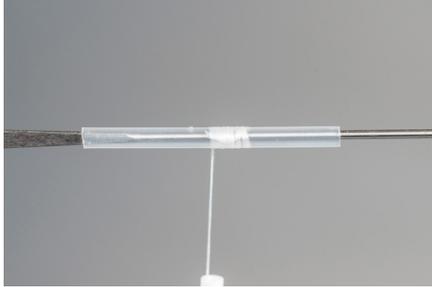
# Fly Pattern Sheet - Metalhead Sculpin

compliments of 2GuysFlyFishing.net

Tube: 3/32" or 1/8" rigid tube\*  
Thread: 210 denier, white  
Body: Optional (pearl braid or tinsel)  
Belly: Marabou, mixed brown  
Wing/Back: Rabbit strip, barred  
Collar/Gills: Guinea feather, red  
Pectoral Fins: optional  
Collar: Deer Hair, olive, spun  
Head/weight: Fish Skull Sculpin Helmet\*



Notes:  
This pattern is a direct reaction to the release of Sculpin Helmets by Flymen Fishing Co. I tied some prototypes on (UTE) salmon hooks, but thought the hook was too big for where I fished. A tube solved the problem. Rigid tubing is just flexible enough to squeeze into the slightly oval shape in the helmet.



Your tube length should allow for about 3/4" for materials and the helmet in front, and far back you want your hook. (For me, another 3/4") Attach your thread.



On the "bottom" of the tube tie in your marabou belly. (This came from a Brown Mottlebou from Spirit River. Mottlebou is a type of boa in mixed colors.)



On the "top" of the tube tie in your rabbit strip.



Select a large guinea feather and strip the fluff from the base. Tie in by its tip.



Collar the guinea with touching wraps. Tie off and clip the excess. (Now's the time to add pectoral fins if you want them.)



Cut a clump of deer hair, stack the tips and measure the length to be approximately the length of the guinea fibers.



Spin the deer hair on the tube. This does take some practice, even if you can spin hair on a regular hook shank. It's just that much different on a tube.



Trim the deer hair butts fairly close to the wraps but leave enough to fill the inside of the helmet. (I like to trim my butts before I spin the hair. It takes a little practice, but saves a step.)



This is my favorite gel super glue. It's not totally necessary for this tube fly, but I think of it as insurance.



Pinch the deer hair top and bottom to work most of the tips to the sides. Put a couple dabs of gel glue in the deer hair butts. Careful not get too much as it'll ooze out in the next step.



Slip the Sculpin Helmet onto the tube and work it back over the deer hair butts and super glue. You'll want to hold the tube with your left hand as you do this as you need to push hard enough to force the tube through the oval hole in the helmet.



Trim off all but a very short length of tube from the front with a razor blade. Melt a lip on the tube using the blue flame on a lighter. (The melted lip will usually form enough of a seal at the front of the helmet to hold it on. But remember, we have glue insurance; just in case.)



The finished tube sculpin. Once you get the hang of working on tubes, you can knock these out fairly quickly. Which is a good thing as the helmets are really heavy and love rocks.



This is an example of a Helmet Head tied with a stinger hook. The body is on an up turned eye salmon hook.

A couple of things about Sculpin Helmets from my personal point of view.

Eyes are included (good) but not attached to the helmets (bad). They are a major PITA (and we're not talking the animal group here) to put on. They're designed to be self adhesive, but I've never had any luck with getting them to stick on correctly. I'll usually sit down with a bottle of thin Zap-a-Gap, a bodkin, and a pair of fine pointed tweezers and install all the eyes from a package all at one time. ...and I don't drink any beer until I'm done!

The helmets are keel weighted to ride face up. This is a really cool feature and I trust that it works. The helmets are very heavy. I've found them a bit difficult to use in shallower water. On the other hand they are great for the deep runs in our bigger rivers where the bottom is mostly cobblestoned or sandy.

Sculpin Helmets come in two sizes and two colors. I use mostly the smaller size, and like the brown color as it isn't quite as bright (totally subjective). Besides, most of our sculpins are dark anyway.

The bigger of the helmets is a bear to cast; we like to throw lead in Alaska and this definitely qualifies as "chuck and duck" casting. \*You'll also want to use the 1/8" tubing for the larger heads as the hole in front of the helmet is too large for the smaller diameter tubing.

I've seen some amazing creations with these helmets on the internet. Get creative!