

# Fly Pattern Sheet - Marabou Leech

compliments of [2GuysFlyFishing.net](http://2GuysFlyFishing.net)

Hook: #8 2XL Nymph - This is about as large of hook as you can use, given the length of a marabou feather; smaller sizes are possible.

Thread: 70 to 140 Denier

Weight: Lead wraps, .025 (Optional)

Tail: Tip of the marabou feather used for the body.

Body: Marabou feather, twisted

Colors: Different natural or dyed colors will work in different situations



Notes: This pattern was originally called the Lake Leech, but Marabou Leech has become more common.

Although designed to imitate small leeches in lakes, we've had good days in small rivers with black, or a deep maroon color. Tied in cream or tan it makes a fair flesh imitation.



Add lead wraps to the front half of the hook shank and lock in place with thread wraps. Leave two eye widths at the front.

The rear tie-in spot is just above the hook point which is shorter than normal.



Select a marabou feather that has long even fibers and a very flexible center stem. The flexible stem is very important for when you wrap the feather in a couple of steps from now.



Moisten the marabou to keep it under control. Measure a tail that is as long as the hook and tie in at the rear with four or five very tight wraps. (The wraps should be right on top of each other, not spread out.)



Lift the marabou and bring your thread to the front, an eye width back from the eye. Pinch and twist the marabou into a rope. Strip off any long marabou fibers that stick out from the rope.



Wrap the twisted marabou feather forward in touching wraps. You will need to give the rope a half twist after each wrap. Tie off with a few very firm wraps.



Cut the excess material and add a few more tight wraps to secure the marabou. Half-hitch and whip finish. This is one of the few patterns where exposed thread wraps at the rear are acceptable; they are a function of the technique and material.



A great variation is to add a bead-head. This fly is tied on a #8 3XL hook to allow extra space for the bead.



Want a longer leech? Tie three feathers onto a longer hook shank. This is a #6 6XL hook with three sections tied right in front of each other.



Here's a suggestive style damsel nymph tied with the same body on a #8 3XL York shanked hook; we've added a Krystal Flash rib, and soft hackle to suggest the legs.