

Lite Brite Zonker (BH)

We are really impressed with this pattern and hope you will be as well. In a recent email Bill told us about it, "I came up with this pattern in 1994 and ever since then it has been my 'last resort' fly. It is fast and easy to tie plus it can take a real pounding. I had always liked fishing regular Byford Zonkers for steelhead here on the North Umpqua River. Early in 1994 I discovered a magical material called

Lite Brite and soon there after Spirit River introduced it to the fly-fishing industry. It is a very fine shredded Mylar I started using on many of my favorite patterns including the Zonker. I have fished it extensively for trout, bass, crappie, and even shad. However, it is particularly effective on steelhead. I also tie a white version with rubber legs on each side and the smallmouth bass cannot resist it."

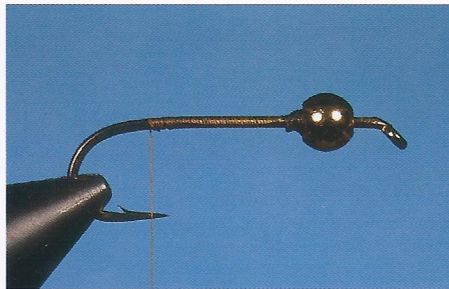


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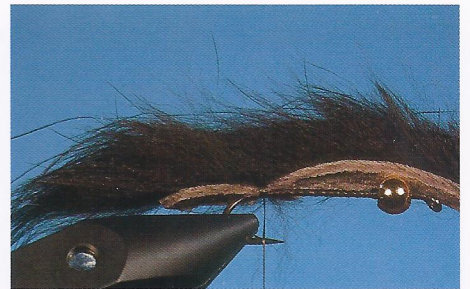
- Hook:** Size 4-12, 4XL streamer
- Thread:** Brown
- Weight:** Brass bead
- Body:** Copper Lite Brite dubbing
- Gills:** Ruby red Lite Brite dubbing
- Wing:** Brown Zonker strip
- Head:** Copper Lite Brite dubbing



Step 1: Slip a brass bead on the shank and place the hook in the vise jaws. Slide the bead all the way forward to the hook eye. At the one-fourth point on the shank wrap a large enough thread dam to keep the bead from slipping over it. Whip finish and remove the thread from the hook. Apply a drop of Crazy Glue to the thread then slip the bead on it. Set it aside to dry.



Step 2: Put hook back in vise and apply thread base that covers complete hook shank. Leave bobbin hanging at the end of the shank.



Step 3: Select a Zonker strip and trim the end to a point. Tie it on the top of the hook at the end of the shank with several tight thread wraps.



Step 4: Apply copper Lite Brite dubbing to the thread and wrap it forward forming the body. Stop just short of the brass bead. Dub on a small section of ruby red Lite Brite dubbing to complete the body. Whip finish and remove thread. Reattach thread in front of the bead.



Step 5: Tie down the wing in front of the bead then trim off the waste end. Wrap thread base over the trimmed material.



Step 6: Apply a small amount of copper Lite Brite dubbing to thread and wrap the head. Whip finish and remove thread. Apply a coating of Aqua Head to finish fly.