

# THE MAIRA



DAVE KLAUSMEYER

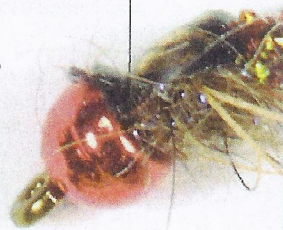


# MARABARE

*Expert fly designer Vince Wilcox explains  
how to turn a time-tested pattern into a  
**FISH-CATCHING MACHINE.**  
It's easier than you think!*

Most fly tiers, anglers, and guides appreciate patterns that are inexpensive and quick to tie. They also like flies that work throughout the entire season no matter where they are fishing. The Marabare meets all these expectations.

Oftentimes, when I sit at the bench to create a new fly, I incorporate the ideas and materials from established successful patterns. The traditional Hare's-Ear Nymph is one such fly that remains effective throughout the season and is quick and inexpensive to tie. With the traditional Hare's-Ear in mind, I sat at the bench to create an even more effective version of the century-old classic.





## How to Improve an Established Pattern

The first question you should ask when starting with an established pattern is this: What makes that fly so successful? With respect to the Hare's-Ear Nymph, I concluded that the guard hairs from the hare's-mask dubbing create a buggy appearance the fish can't resist. It seemed logical that I could maintain the effect by constructing the thorax using my Lint Bug dubbing. Lint Bug dubbing is a blend of natural fibers and UV Ice Dub. (You may substitute Hare's Ice Dub or a similar product. Ask for recommendations at your local fly shop.)

The Midge Braid abdomen gives the fly a lifelike sheen lacking in the original Hare's-Ear Nymph. The majority of my patterns possess this sheen; Fly Fishing Masters champion Frank Smethurst calls it a "curious sparkle." That sparkle is best described by inventing a new term, *refractolucivity*. Refractolucivity is the ability of an object or material to absorb and refract or bend light while enhancing its own natural color. You won't find *refractolucivity* in Webster's dictionary, but it is the best way to explain why this effective material is so hard to accurately photograph.

Departing from the Hare's-Ear design, I felt I could make the tail better mimic the swimming motion of a nymph struggling to the surface of the water. Grizzly marabou is an excellent tailing material for nymph imitations. Selective trout will refuse offerings that appear too rigid, and the waving motion of marabou is a trigger that encourages those fish to strike.

## Tying the RUST MARABARE

- 1 Slip a bead on the hook, and place the hook in your vise. Start the thread opposite the point.
- 2 Select a marabou feather. Preen the fibers so that the tips are uniform. Measure the fibers so the tail is even with the length of the hook.
- 3 Tie the marabou fibers to the top of the hook shank using six to eight firm thread wraps. Trim away the remaining butt ends of the fibers as shown.
- 4 Continue wrapping the thread down the hook shank, but make sure you do not close the hook gap. Next, wrap the thread back to the starting position.
- 5 Pinch the braid to the top of the hook with the tag end sticking just beyond the thread.
- 6 Tie the braid parallel to the far side of the hook shank, and again return the thread to the starting position.

### RUST MARABARE

**Hook:** Mustad C49S, sizes 18 to 12.

**Bead:** Bright red.

**Thread:** Black 8/0 (70 denier).

**Tail:** Tan grizzly marabou.

**Abdomen:** Rust Midge Diamond Braid.

**Wing case:** Natural bustard Thin Skin.

**Thorax:** Lint Bug Dubbing, or you may substitute Hare's Ice Dub or a similar dubbing.

### CHARTREUSE MARABARE

**Hook:** Mustad C49S, sizes 12 to 18.

**Bead:** Light blue.

**Thread:** Black 8/0 (70 denier).

**Tail:** Tan grizzly marabou.

**Abdomen:** Chartreuse Midge Diamond Braid.

**Wing case:** Natural bustard Thin Skin.

**Thorax:** Lint Bug Dubbing, or you may substitute Hare's Ice Dub or a similar dubbing.

### OLIVE-DUN MARABARE

**Hook:** Mustad C49S, sizes 12 to 18.

**Bead:** Emerald green.

**Thread:** Black 8/0 (70 denier).

**Tail:** Tan grizzly marabou.

**Abdomen:** Olive dun Midge Diamond Braid.

**Wing case:** Natural bustard Thin Skin.

**Thorax:** Lint Bug Dubbing, or you may substitute Hare's Ice Dub or a similar dubbing.



DAVE KLAUSMEYER



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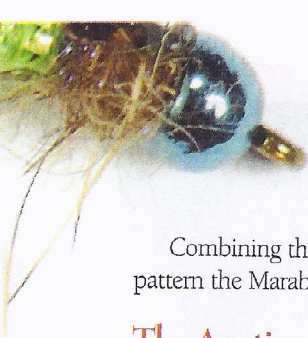
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Combining the words *marabou* and *hare*, I call my new pattern the Marabare.

## The Anytime, Anywhere Fly

I remember telling my fishing partner, "I just tied a fly that I am going to fish all the time and everywhere, and I'll knock the snot out of them!"

The Marabare is an excellent searching pattern, meaning if you are not sure what fly to use, it will match enough different insects to represent something in the water and pick up trout. As with most nymphs, fish the Marabare bouncing on or just above the bottom. The tungsten bead head will get the fly down into the feeding zone without adding extra weight to your leader. The beads I use are anodized, so the color will not chip off or fade.

With the outlawing of lead shot in many watersheds throughout the country, tungsten beads are becoming more prevalent in the fly tying world. The growing number of anglers discovering European nymph-fishing techniques is another reason for the explosion in the use of tungsten beads. These fishing methods have been used for centuries by anglers all over the world, but with the recent spotlight on them, more fishermen are learning what good nymph anglers have always known: Get the fly down! Using a tungsten bead does increase the initial cost of tying a pattern, but the added cost of the bead is offset by the time saved on the water not adding supplementary weight to your leader, and when you lose a rig, you are not replacing that additional shot.

The weighted Marabare is an ideal pattern to fish in a dry fly-dropper combination. It is one of my favorite patterns to use with clients as a dropper beneath a large dry fly like the JC Special. It has the perfect amount of weight to get down quickly into pocket water, where it might drift only a couple of feet. Since it is effective all the time and doesn't require additional weight, it saves time on the water and makes me look good.

When fishing runs that are two to four feet deep, I usually tie a three- to four-foot-long piece of 5X tippet material to the hook bend of the dry fly for the dropper. Trout might come up and eat the fly just below the surface, but increasing the length of the dropper will give you the ability to present the Marabare to fish that are feeding just off the bottom.

Although the Marabare might not replace all the Hare's-Ear Nymphs in your fly box, it certainly has done so in mine as well as in the boxes of many of my customers. Tie and fish the Marabare, and it will find a permanent place in your fishing kit, too.

Vince Wilcox is a longtime contributor to this magazine. Vince is also a guide and professional fly designer. He owns a fly shop called Wiley's Flies in Ray Brook, New York, near the Ausable River. For more information, go to [www.wileysflies.com](http://www.wileysflies.com).

**7** Wrap the braid forward to create the abdomen of the fly. Firmly tie off and clip the remaining braid.

**8** Clip a strip of Thin Skin about half the width of the hook gap. Place the strip on top of the hook shank so that tag end is directly behind the bead.

**9** Tie the Thin Skin on top of the hook shank at the front edge of the abdomen.

**10** Spin a pinch of dubbing on the thread; applying a small amount of wax to the thread makes this step easier. Wrap the dubbing to create the thorax. Here is one time when it is okay to use a little extra dubbing; the buggier the thorax, the better.

**11** Pull the Thin Skin over the top of the thorax to create the wing case. Tie off the Thin Skin.

**12** Carefully tie off the thread and snip. Trim the surplus Thin Skin.



The author created a new can't-miss pattern by combining the best attributes of the Hare's-Ear Nymph and new fly tying materials.

VINCE WILCOX



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