



**May 2023**  
**FLY OF THE MONTH**  
**"Whitlock's Matuka Sculpin"**



**Edition:** May 2023  
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**Photographed By:** Jerry Coviello  
**Creator:** Dave Whitlock

**Whitlock's Matuka Sculpin**

This is a big fly, for big fish such as bass or trout. A great silhouette of a sculpin. Vary the colors to match the sculpins in your area.

**Tying Video:** <https://youtu.be/ftuoufOfzda>

**Materials for this fly are.**

**Hook:** Salmon 2/0

**Thread:** Your Choice ( I use 3/0 White for the body and an Olive GSP for the deer hair)

**Belly:** Pale Yellow or Olive Dubbing

**Underbody:** 50 Pound Mono on each side of the shank

**Weight:** Lead Free Wire

**Rib:** Brass Wire Medium

**Tail and Back:** 6 Cree and 6 Olive Variant

**Throat:** Red Dubbing

**Head:** Deer Hair (Pale Yellow, Black, Olive, Red)

**Pectoral Fins:** Cock Pheasant Back Feathers

**Eyes:** Solid Plastic Doll Eyes (or similar)



**1.** Prepare the hook using 50 pound mono on each side of the hook shank. The 10 to 15 wraps of .030 Lead Free wire. Coat with a cement such as a Zap a Gap or UV Resin.



**2.** Tie in the medium brass wire at the bend of the hook. I am using a Brassie gold wire thickness. Then dub a tapered body using either cream, olive, brown or black, to about half the shank of the hook.



**3.** I am using Hen Back Grizzly feather dyed olive, cree, and light olive. There are 6 feathers on each side for a total of 12 feathers for the wing back. This will be tied in matuka style.



**4.** Take two wraps of the brass wire at the bend of the hook securing the tip of the wing.

Next start separating the back fibers to pass the wire between the feather fibers, trying not to catch and fibers under the wire. But you can use your bodkin to pull out any fibers trapped by the wire.



**5.** Tie in two male pheasant back feathers on each side of the hook. These are the pectoral fins of the sculpin, these are large fins on the sculpin that also help keep the fish off the bottom. The sculpin doesn't have an air bladder. Use red dubbing for the gills. I would whipfinish and cut the 3/0 monocord thread. Switching thread to an Olive GSP Thread to stack the deer hair.



**6.** Turn the fly upside down. Take a stack of yellow or pale deer hair and stack the tips. Hold the deer hair in place and pull the thread to secure the hair to the hook. Do not spin the hair, this stacking hair so different colors are layered.



**7.** Turn the fly back and stack in the natural deer hair, make sure the tips line up with the underside deer hair. Push the natural deer hair down with you finger making a cup and then secure the black deer hair with the tips lined up with the natural hair.



**8.** Layer a stack of red deer hair and top it off with olive deer hair.



**9.** Bring the thread in front of the hair that is now stacked, and pack it, press with nail of the thumb and index finger, and pack it tight.

Turn the fly upside down and add the second section of deer hair on the bottom. Tips of the hair to be cut.



**10.** Rotate the fly back right side up. Stack the hair without the tips, natural, then black then olive deer hair.

Pack the deer hair again.  
Whipfinish



**11.** Trim with the deer hair with scissors or a razor to shape. Glue doll eyes

**Tiers Notes:** I was fortunate to have tied with Dave Whitlock on February 12, 1996. Mr. Whitlock was an inspiration to me, his patterns were not just for trout but panfish, bass and saltwater, showing me that the fly is a food source for all predators. Dave to me was a naturalist, and a conservationist. His book Dave Whitlock's Guide to Aquatic Trout Foods is a reference I still use when teaching others about the sport of fly fishing.

I told my wife when Dave passed away that day on November 25th, her comment summed it all up, he was such a gentle soul. That day the fly fishing community lost a legend. Dave was an FFI Buz Buszek Memorial Fly Tying Award Recipient in 1972. The Whitlock-Vibert Boxes helped with many conservation efforts. His unique fly tying designs still live on today, not just for trout but all fish and all waters.

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FFI Buz Buszek Memorial Fly Tying Award Recipient  
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**Fly of the Month:** Do you know someone who you think should be featured in the Fly of the Month? If so, feel free to refer them to us. If you have a camera and computer, you can write a Fly of the Month article to honor your favorite tier, tying their best creation. For details contact the Fly Tying Group at [ftg@flyfishersinternational.org](mailto:ftg@flyfishersinternational.org).

Please note: The demonstration you are viewing makes no claim, implied or otherwise, that the presenter or demonstrator of the fly pattern was the original creator of the fly. This is the guest tier's version of this fly, and it may differ from the creator's or other versions and variations.

Please Credit FFI Website or FFI Fly Tying Group Fly of the Month with any use of the pattern. You can direct any questions or comments to [ftg@flyfishersinternational.org](mailto:ftg@flyfishersinternational.org).