

Fly Tying Bench — Bob's Bangers *by Al Pitcher*

An original design by Bob Popovic

This fly is a versatile popper designed originally for fishing the waters of Barnegat Bay which is Bob's home waters in Ocean County, New Jersey. Although, this fly will work equally as well around our mangroves for big snook, the grass flats in our cooler months and in Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico for the schooling fish such as Spanish mackerel. Bob designed this fly so the foam popper head could be removed and replaced with different colors or when one head gets damaged. However, I tie this popper with a permanent head.

I also make what I call a "Baby Banger" by simply downsizing the hook to a 3407 size #4 and using a 3/8" foam cylinder. The rest of the procedure is the same. You can tie this in any color such as orange, green, or gold. See additional pictures that are included with these instructions.

Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 34011 size #1 or other long shank saltwater hook
- Thread: Red Danville Flat Waxed Nylon or equivalent
- Body: Medium or large red Ice Chenille, or Estaz and 5/8" white foam cylinders
- Body Wrap: Red Holographic Tape
- Eyes: Mirage, Hologram, or Stick-on eyes; your preference
- Tail: Large Yellow Northern Bucktail
- Flash: Pearl Krystal Flash
- Glue: Head cement, Hard as Hull, and Zap-a-Gap CA+

Tying Instructions

Step 1: Starting at the hook eye lay down a base of thread back to the hook bend and tie in, just forward of the hook bend, a small bunch of yellow bucktail a little longer than the hook shank. Tie in two strands, doubled over, of pearl Krystal Flash. Secure firmly with several wraps of thread and a few drops of Zap-a-



Bob's Bangers—Tied and photographed by Al Pitcher
Top: side view, Bottom: top view

Fly Tying Bench — Bob Popovic's Bangerscontinued

Gap CA+.

Step 2: Tie in the Ice Chenille and wrap up the hook shank until you have about 1" remaining to the hook eye.

Step 3: Continue wrapping the thread to the hook eye insuring that you have built up a fairly thick base of thread, so when the head is placed on the hook shank, it does not rotate. Whip finish, cut the thread, and apply several drop of Head Cement to the thread wrappings.

Step 4: Cut the foam cylinder in half; about 1" long.

Step 5: Heat the point of a bodkin with a lighter and sear a hole dead center through the foam head with the bodkin. Don't enlarge the hole because you want the popper head to fit snugly on the hook shank.

Step 6: Wrap the piece of Red Holographic Tape around the popper head.

Step 7: Coat the thread wrapping with Zap-a-Gap CA+, and slide the popper head onto the hook shank insuring that it is firmly up against the Ice Chenille. You should have enough room between the front of the popper head and the hook eye to make several wraps with thread; whip finish and cut the thread.

Step 8: Apply the eyes insuring they are in line with the hook shank. Coat the entire popper with several coats of Hard as Hull.

Step 9: Tell you wife or significant other you have some serious field testing to complete and go fishing. Make sure you update your catches on the club's web page. Keep Focused, Pray Daily, and Stay Safe.



Baby Banger—tied and photographed by Al Pitcher
Top: side view, Bottom: top view