

Fly Tying Bench *by Paul Sequira*

AND YET MORE CLOUSERS

Last month Charlie Most's fine article introduced us to another weapon from Bob Clouser's bag of tricks called Clouser's Floating Minnow. Well, guess what, there are more Clousers out there; some developed by Bob himself and others developed by innovative fly fishers. This month, I'll cover two popular Clouser patterns that have proven to be productive in recent years.

HALF AND HALF

This fly developed by Bob Clouser, combines features of two deadly flies, the Lefty's Deceiver and the Clouser Deep Minnow. This combination produces a fly with an appearance of bulk and length, and as with all Clousers, fishing depth can be controlled with the type of eyes chosen and the amount of materials used.

Tying the Half And Half is straightforward and simple; it uses materials common to many saltwater flies. The Half And Half may be tied on standard length or long shank saltwater hooks.

Materials

- Hook: Mustad 3407 or 34011 (or equivalent) sizes 2 though 2/0
- Thread: 3/0 or flat-waxed nylon, color to match wing
- Tail: 4 to 6 saddle or neck hackles
- Collar: buck tail
- Wing: buck tail and flashabou and/or crystal flash
- Eyes: bar bell or bead chain



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Directions

Attach the thread at the front of the hook about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the length of the hook shank behind the eye with a jam knot, take several wraps and create a bump with the thread. Attach the eyes using the same method as described in the Clacker Clouser directions.

Move the thread to the rear of the hook shank to the start of the hook bend. Select 4 to 6 saddle hackles and pair them up with the curvature facing inwards (praying hands style). Measure the length of the tail approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 times the length of the hook shank, remove excess fibers from the butts and lash them down to the top of the hook shank.

Move the thread up the shank to directly behind the eyes and tie on a small bunch of buck tail as the bottom part of the collar.

Turn the fly over (hook point up) and tie on a similar bunch of buck tail for the top part of the collar. This is directly over the bottom collar, behind the eyes.

Move the thread in front of the eyes and tie in the flash. Select 4 or 5 strands of flash and tie them in from the center point of the flash material. Fold the forward facing flash strands over the thread and tie the entire bunch down. Trim off the flash butts to slightly beyond the hook bend. It is good practice to make the flash butts uneven in length.

Tie in a small bunch of buck tail on top of the flash to complete the wing. You may use a different contrasting color of buck tail or the same color as the rest of the fly.

Wrap a nice tapered head and whip finish. Put several coats of head cement on to complete the fly.