

Fly Tying Bench—Borski's Butterfly by Al Pitcher

Butterfly (Original Design by Tim Borski, Tavernier, FL)

This fly was originally designed for bonefish in the Florida Keys. However, it will work very well for trout and redfish in the grassy areas of Tampa Bay and around the mangroves for snook. Although the instructions for this fly only specify the #2 hook and the colors as noted below, I believe both the colors and hook size can be altered. The colors and hook size used were based on the CD "Borski Ties Flies", Series 2.

Materials

- Hook: Mustad 3407 or 34007 size #2
- Thread: Danville's Flat Waxed Nylon; copper
- Body: Dubbing; tan or medium hare's ear
- Dubbing Wax: Optional
- Wing: Craft fur; tan or shrimp
- Collar: Strung Rooster Saddle Hackles; Natural Fur-nace
- Weight: Lead wire; .025 or .030
- Weed Guard: 33# Rio Saltwater hard mono
- Glue: Fly Head cement and Hard as Hull head cement with acrylic polymers
- Permanent Marker: Tan or dark brown; the color can be modified depending upon the craft fur and dubbing used color combination use



Butterfly: tied and photographed by Al Pitcher

Tying Instructions:

Step 1: Mash the barb down and modify the hook by bending, at the eye, a 45 degree angle towards the hook gap. Place the hook in vice hook point down.

Step 2: Starting at the hook eye, lay down a base of thread back to the hook bend. At the hook bend, tie in a 4" piece of lead wire at its midpoint. Move the thread forward to 1/4" of the modified bend. Fold both pieces of the wire forward so that they are perpendicular to the hook shank (one on each side) not on top of the hook shank. Secure the wire with thread.

Step 3: Fold the remaining wire back towards the hook bend insuring that it lies on the hook shank between the wires that are perpendicular to the hook shank. Wrap the thread back over the top of the lead wire to the hook bend.

Step 4: Spin a small amount of dubbing on the thread and wrap the thread and dubbing forward insuring that the lead wire is covered. This step makes the fly look better and softens the sound when it lands on the water.

Step 5: Rotate the hook so the hook point is facing up. Cut a small amount of craft fur, and clean out loose and short fibers like you would do with deer hair. Measure the craft fur to be 2 or 2 1/2 times the hook shank. Tie in the craft fur directly in front of the dubbing. Once secure, pull the craft fur forward and make two or three turns of the thread behind the craft fur forming a base. This will help keep the craft fur up.

Step 6: Select a neck hackle and remove the majority of the fuzz, but not all, from the lower portion of the hackle. Tie in the hackle in front of the craft fur and palmer forward until you reach the modified hook bend, tie in, and trim off excess. Make a few turns on the hackle to insure that it lays back.

Step 7: Cut a 2" piece of hard mono and fold it in the middle making a "V" shape. Tie in this double mono weed guard under and slightly behind the hook eye. Once the weed guard is secure, pull it forward and make two or three wraps of thread behind the weed guard to form a base. This will help keep the weed guard standing up. Note: The weed guard for this fly is longer than your normal guard, but it will allow you to fish it in heavy grass in skinny water.