

Fly Tying Bench— The Schminnow *by Paul Sequira*

Outdoor writer Norm Ziegler developed his Schminnow pattern for Snook fishing on Sanibel Island. It is very effective for Snook tied in all white but also works well in chartreuse or yellow. Spotted sea trout and Redfish also like this versatile attractor pattern. When tied in all black with a slightly longer tail, it makes a very good hellgrammite imitation. The Schminnow gets its unusual name because it looks like a cross between a shrimp and a minnow.

This very simple to tie pattern uses white marabou for a tail and white or pearl crystal chenille for the body and black plastic bead chain for the eyes in its original form. Other colors and combinations can also be effective. Because it is unweighted, it lands very softly, floats just below the surface and is a good pattern for spooky fish.

Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 3407 or 34011 or equivalent sizes 2 or 4
- Thread: 3/0 flat-waxed nylon
- Eyes: Small black (or other color) plastic bead chain or burned mono
- Body: White or pearl crystal chenille
- Tail: White marabou sized to the length of the hook shank. Synthetic materials such as Neer Hair may also be used for the tail.

Tying Instructions:

1. Pinch the barb down and secure the hook in the vise. Attach the thread with a jam knot about ¼ inch behind the hook eye.
2. Wrap a small bump of thread at this point and attach the plastic bead chain eyes on the top of the hook shank in front of the bump with figure eight wraps. You may apply some head cement on the wraps to help secure the eyes.
3. Select a bunch of white marabou for the tail and tie it in on top of the hook shank right behind the eyes. Hold the marabou at a 45° angle above the hook shank and take close tight wraps of thread all the way down to the start of the hook bend. This process will keep the marabou on top of the hook shank. The tail should be equal in length to the hook shank.
4. Tie in the white crystal chenille where you finished wrapping the tail and spiral the thread up to the hook eye. Now wrap the chenille in close wraps up to the bead eyes and take one more wrap in front of the eyes.
5. Tie off the chenille, clip and discard the excess. Take several more wraps of thread to secure it.
6. Wrap a nice neat bullet shaped head, whip finish and coat with head cement.



This trio of Schminnows shows three popular colors. From top to bottom: yellow (with a red plastic bead head added), white (with Neer Hair tail substituted) and chartreuse in the traditional tie.

Flies by Don Coleman, photo by Paul Sequira