

Tying Bench—Blue Damselfly *By Layne (Smitty) Smith*

Damselflies and dragonflies are very common in Central Florida ponds and lakes. These beautiful insects are a common food source for our bass and bream.

Materials:

Hook: Mustad 94833 or equivalent (size 10 or smaller)

Eyes: Monofilament Dumbbell or Plastic Bead-chain (blue)

Tail: Lureflash (blue) (or other similar soft, thin, stranded synthetic material)

Abdomen: Kingfisher Blue Dubbing

Wings: Bleached Elk Hair

Legs: Grizzly Saddle (optional)

Thorax: Kingfisher Blue Dubbing

Tying Instructions:

1. Attach thread an eye's width in back of hook eye and attach eyes on top of hook with figure 8 wraps and cement.
2. Wrap thread to end of hook shank just before the bend. Tie in Lureflash (approx 20 strands).
3. Twist Lureflash counter clockwise until it starts to buckle on itself. Take bodkin in left hand (if you are a right-handed tyer) and lay it on top of twisted flash at a point of how long you want the tail.
4. Fold remainder of material over to meet hook shank, hold material at that point and slide out bodkin allowing flash to furl. Tie down at the bend and cut off any excess material. Fig. 1
5. Cut small amount of elk hair and stack.
6. Measure elk hair $1\frac{1}{2}$ time hook shank and cut off butt ends.
Tie in behind eyes. Fig. 2
7. Divide elk hair and post wings to either side of body. (90° angle or 45° backswept angle for less spin when casting)
8. Dub thread and make thorax. Remember to dub small amounts at a time (just color your thread).
9. Re-dub thread and bring thorax forward to cover where wings are attached creating body. Fig. 3
10. Continue to dub up to eyes and figure 8 wrap dubbing over eyes. Finish off in front of eyes for head. Whip finish and cut thread. Fig. 4

P.S. If you want legs, attach saddle hackle between wings and eyes. Palmer about 3 or 4 turns. Tie off then finish your dubbing around eyes. Figs. 5 & 6 below

P.P.S. If you want your damselfly to assume tail up position as it often does, then lift tail to 45° up position and apply drop of super glue at base of tail where it meets hook.

All flies tied by Smitty —. Sequira photos

