

Tying Bench - Pat's One-step Baitfish *By Pat Damico*

Synthetic material is durable, versatile and very easy to use. This pattern simplifies the process and allows for modification, expansion and creativity. The amount of time needed for most patterns is greatly reduced. A variety of materials can be used once the principles are understood and applied.

Materials:

- Mustad C68SZ size 6 to 1/0 hook
- Monofil clear .004 or .006 thread
- EP Fibers, EP Sparkle, Pearl Wing N' Flash
- Hologram Dome eyes
- Dave's Flexament, Hard as Nails and Fletch Tite cement
- Permanent markers and pens

Tying Instructions:

1. Mount hook in vise and begin to secure thread close to hook eye with jam knot
2. Take about 15 EP Fibers, a little less of Sparkle and Wing N' Flash, the amount will be the most difficult to determine at first. Mix the strands depending on how much flash you want in the fly.
3. Fold them in half, and in half again. Hold them in the middle and using a scissors cut the bent over strands on each end as you hold them in the middle
4. Tease the strands on the tail side of the fly to shape a minnow's body, longer in the center and hold over hook to determine pattern length
5. Holding the fibers on top of the hook, secure with several wraps of thread allowing the fibers to cover the upper half of hook shank. Make a few more wraps of thread. Comb fibers toward tail to break any that are bent or use scissors tip to help
6. Fibers that are sticking out on eye side of hook are now taken and pointed at tail as you hold them over first wrap but allow some of fibers to cover lower half of hook too. They should expose hook eye and allow thread to now wrap over all fibers to form a nice head.
7. Comb all fibers toward tail to finish shape of pattern. Inspect fly to make sure there aren't any bare spots. If there are, fibers picked up on comb can be tied in and bent back before final head shaping.
8. Baitfish shape should be complete. Whip finish and coat head with head cement.
9. Use markers to produce desired colors, starting with lightest and finishing with darkest for baitfish back
10. Apply drop of Fletch Tite on each side for eye placement. A needle can transfer Hologram eyes to desired location
11. Place point of open tweezers on each eye and squeeze together for 10 seconds allowing proper shape of head. Later coat head and front part of fly with Sally Hansen's Hard as Nails

Try other synthetic material with this technique.

Capt. Pat Damico
St. Pete Beach



Pat's One-Step Baitfish tied by Pat Damico

Sequeira photo