

Tying Bench – Simple Shad Dart by Craig Crumbliss

This is my go-to fly for the St. Johns River shad run. Creativity is key; use a variety of colors and weights. I'll often have the same pattern with bead chain and dumb-bell eyes. Remember to keep your patterns relatively small; sizes 6 and 8 are best. I'll also have a



few in sizes 4 and 10. Some of my favorite colors to include are: chartreuse, pink, pearl, silver, yellow, and red. A variety of patterns will work but most are based around several basic patterns such as the Woolly Bugger, Clouser Minnow, Gotcha, and Crazy Charlie.

Materials

Hook: Mustad 3366 Size 4-8

Thread: 140 Denier Flat Waxed

Tail: Pearl Flashabou

Body: Vinyl Ribbing

Eyes: Silver Bead Chain

Head: Antron Dubbing or Uni-Yarn



Tying Instructions

1. Start a layer of thread from the hook eye to the start of the bend.
2. Tie in your Flashabou tail. Remember to keep it short as the Shad will nip the longer tails.
3. Tie the bead chain or dumb-bell eyes behind the eye of the hook and remember to give yourself some space for the head.
4. Tie in your vinyl ribbing behind the eyes and wind it all the way down towards the tail. Move your thread back towards the eye. Wrap vinyl rib all the way up to the eyes and tie it off.
5. Tie in a piece of Uni-Yarn to wrap around the eyes to form a dubbed head. You can also use any other type of shaggy dubbing and get the same effect.
6. Whip finish behind the eye of the hook.

