

Tying Bench – Layne Smith's Pine Cone Fly



It's a leech, it's a worm. It's Smitty's Pine Cone Fly

Smitty writes,

"The Pine Cone fly is fished as a worm or a leech or even as a baitfish. For a worm I'd make the tail about twice as long as the leech. You just want to work this fly to swim like what you want it to be. A leech undulates in the water so just work the fly so it draws up then sinks up and down so that it moves like a leech would. If it's a baitfish imitation, strip it back in short strips like a minnow. It works in saltwater, too; just change the hook to a saltwater hook. In a larger size the Pine Cone fly makes a great redfish fly. For that I'd probably go with rabbit zonker instead of pine squirrel zonker. Rabbit zonker hair is longer so it presents a larger profile. This fly will even imitate a shrimp."

Materials

Hook: Mustad 3366 size 6 or 8
Thread: Flat waxed nylon to match squirrel
Weight: .15 - .25 lead wire
Tail: Pine Squirrel zonker strip
Body: Pine Squirrel zonker strip
Head: X-small brass cone (color your choice; ie Gold, Copper, Black)

Tying Sequence

Step 1: Slide cone onto hook up to hook eye.

Step 2: Wrap 8 to 10 wraps of lead wire on hook shank and press forward into cone cavity.

Overwrap lead with tying thread. This will give fly a little more weight as well as help secure the cone in place better.

Step 3: Tie in a piece of pine squirrel (about 1 1/2 times shank length) at a point above hook barb and post with about 10 wraps of tying thread. This will raise the tail slightly and make it a little more active as it is stripped (it also helps to keep it from wrapping around hook point).

Step 4: Tie in pine squirrel strip then wrap thread forward to right behind cone. Palmer fur strip toward hook eye. Make sure your wraps DO NOT overlap; that they lay side by side as you palmer forward. ****IMPORTANT**** Make sure you stroke back fur on each and every wrap so fur will lie toward rear of hook.

Step 5: Make an extra wrap once you reach cone and allow it to fill in cone cavity. Tie off squirrel strip; cut off excess then whip finish.

NOTE: If you want to add a little extra flash, add a collar of "ice dub" in a color to complement pine squirrel before you whip finish.