

Tying Bench - Grasset's Flats Minnow, by Capt. Rick Grasset

I developed this fly, which is in the [Orvis](#) catalog, for fishing shallow grass flats for reds, snook and trout. It can be fished like a crustacean or a minnow with a wider profile. It is lightly-weighted so you get a jigging-like action. This fly is light enough to be used for tailing reds on a thick grass bottom. It can be tied in a variety of colors. My favorite color is olive, but I've also had success with black, white, tan, root beer and pink. I usually make the wing match the body; I still use white bucktail for the belly and gold Flash-a-bou in the wing. You may or may not want to use peacock herl with the other colors, but I usually do.



Rick ties the fly in several other colors, typically olive. A couple of these are tied with DNA HoloFusion material for the wing and the others are with bucktail.

Materials

Hook	#2 or #4 Mustad 34007
Thread	Chartreuse
Eyes	Gold bead chain (med) on #2 hook. small gold bead chain eyes on #4 hook
Body	Olive Ice Chenille or Estaz (medium size)
Wing	White and olive bucktail, gold Flash-a-bou
Topping	Peacock herl (optional)
Weed guard	20 or 25-pound Orvis Mirage fluorocarbon (for weed guard)

Tying Sequence

Step 1: Bend hook slightly $\frac{1}{4}$ way down shank from hook eye (be careful to not bend too much)

Step 2: Tie bead chain eyes at bend of hook shank on top of the shank (fly rides hook up like a Clouser, so bead chain eyes are on the side of hook opposite the point).

Step 3: Wrap thread back to bend of the hook and tie on olive ice chenille or Estaz. Wrap forward to just in back of bead chain eyes and tie off.

Step 4: Tie wing of white bucktail, followed by 6 or 8 strands of gold flash-a-bou (doubled over), then olive bucktail and top with 3 or 4 strands of peacock herl. Wing should be about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " on the #2 hook and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " or 2" on the #4 hook.

Step 5 Add weed guard of 20- or 25-pound test Orvis Mirage fluorocarbon. The finished weed guard is 2 strands of 20 or 25-pound Orvis Mirage fluorocarbon that extend just short of the point of the hook. Start by crimping a short piece of leader material into a "V", tie across shank of hook just behind the eye of the hook and then cut to the appropriate length.

Step 6: Finish fly by coating head of fly with Flexament.