

Tying Bench – Key Lime Bendback ...

...Tied by Dan Bumgarner



I like to find materials that I can adapt to fly tying in craft stores, tackle shops and hardware stores. Most fail miserably but some work. While browsing around at Michael's I came across these pearlescent pipe cleaners and thought that they might be useful. I purchased some in pearl and gold colors and took them home to tryout. The first flies were standard hook down streamer types using the pipe cleaner for the body. I tried several wing materials but the *Unique Hair and Super Hair* seemed to be the easiest to work with. It is very

important not to over-bend the hook; the entire point of the hook must stay above the plane of the section of the hook that is bent down. The stick on eyes are probably not necessary but they sure do dress the thing up.

I usually fish this fly with a medium speed strip pause. The fly is most effective when there are minnows on the flats which is starting to happen now so tie some up and let me know how well (or bad) they work for you. Bend backs are simple to tie, fun to fish and allow a lot of creativity and I hope you have as much fun with them as I have.

Materials

Hook: Size 1 3407 Mustad or equivalent.

Thread: Chartreuse 210 denier

Body: Pearl sparkle pipe cleaner

Wing: Supreme hair in white, fluorescent chartreuse, and olive

Eyes: ¼-inch yellow Hologram Dome

Finish: Cover head and eyes with Aleene's Fabric Fusion or some sort of epoxy

Tying Sequence

Step 1: Prepare bend back on hook.

Step 2: Lay down a thread base front to back and half way up the hook bend.

Step 3: Prepare pipe cleaner by removing material to expose about ¼-inch of the wire then bending it to 90 degrees.

Step 4: In pipe cleaner at the hook bend on top of the thread base. Tie very firmly and carry the thread back up to the prepared bend.

Step 5: Wrap pipe cleaner forward to the bend and tie off. Clip off excess with wire cutters.

Step 6: Invert hook in vice.

Step 7: Select a small bundle of white Supreme Hair about two hook lengths long. Work the fibers to make the ends uneven. Cut one end square and tie it in on the straight part of the hook just behind the eye.

Step 8: Select a small bundle of chartreuse Supreme that is just slightly longer than the first bundle and tie it on top of the white.

Step 9: Select a small bundle olive Supreme hair that is just slightly longer than the chartreuse and tie it in on top.

Step 10: Build a tapered head and whip finish.

Step 11: Apply eyes and topcoat with fabric fusion or epoxy.

Dan