Tying Bench

Rick Warfel's Bendback Shrimp



This is a great pattern for general flats fishing or night time dock light fishing. I like it in white or tan but other colors work as well. The pattern has bead chain eyes and uses rooster hackle for the tail and bucktail for the wing/carapace. Tying the fly bend back style has several advantages. It rides with the hook point up and is a little more weedless that way. The dropped bend in the hook acts as a keel for stability and the bead chain eyes on the bottom of the hook help keep the fly properly oriented. I normally fish this fly with a

long slow strip followed by a short pause to let the fly sink a little.



Fig. 1. Prepare and tie in hackle

Materials

Hook: Size 2 long shank streamer hook Eyes: Large Stainless Steel Bead Chain Body: Medium Tinsel Chenille

Tail: Rooster Hackle

Wing/Carapace: Bucktail and Palmered Hackle

Thread: 6/0 matching color

Tying Sequence

- 1 Bend the hook down at about a 30-degree angle. Hold the eye and shank of the hook with needle nose pliers with the tip of the pliers at the position you want the hook to bend. This should be about half way between the eye and the bend of the hook. Press down on the bend of the hook until you achieve the angle you want.
- 2 Lay down a base of thread along the hook to a point past where the hook was bent. I like to apply crazy glue the thread base to keep everything from twisting on the hook later.
- 3 Prepare two pairs of rooster hackle by stripping off the fuzzy feather at the base of the shaft and tie in one pair on each side of the hook towards the back of the



Fig. 2, Wrap chenille

- hook just ahead of the point that the hook was bent. The tips of the hackles should be down and to the centerline of the fly. (fig 1)
- 4 Tie in two hackles by the tip at the same positon on the hook. These will be used after the body is applied.
- 5 Tie in the chenille at the same point and wind the thread forward to the front of the hook. Wrap the chenille in a tight spiral to the front of the hook leaving enough space to tie in the bead chain eyes later. Tie in the chenille and trim. (fig 2)



Fig.3. Tie in bucktail wrap, glue

- 6 Palmer the two hackles forward in a loose spiral to the front of the hook. Tie in these feathers and trim.
- 7 Tie in a sparse clump of bucktail on top of the hook near the eye. At this point apply a good coat of head cement to the thread wraps at the eye of the hook. (fig 3)
- 8 Invert the hook and tie in the bead chain eyes near the eye of the hook using figure eight wraps. (fig 4)
- 9 Lift the bucktail wing and move the thread back to the point that the hook was bent. Tie fig. . Add eyes down the bucktail at this point to create the carapace of the shrimp. These wraps should not be too tight or you will splay the bucktail. You can wrap the thread a little ways down the bent portion of the hook to help point the tail slightly downward. Tie off your thread at this point and coat all exposed thread wraps with a liberal coating of head cement.

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