

## Tying Bench Tom Jones's Crab Fly.



*Tie it with Sili legs*



*Cute little rascal, isn't he?  
Wait 'til you see him fish. Tom*

### Materials

Hook: Any #6 plain shank hook, barb flattened  
 Weight: Any dumbbell eyes  
 Thread: White flat wax nylon  
 Antennae: Grizzly hackle tips  
 Antenna Eyes: Make your own with 30 lb mono, plastic or epoxy, black nail polish. Instructions below.\*  
 Beard: Tan Marabou  
 Shell: Lion Brand Yarn - Alpine Wool, color #223  
 Oatmeal  
 Legs: Sili legs or Office Depot size 16 rubber bands



resin

### Tying Instructions

Step one. Bend the eye of any #6 plain shank hook.



*1. Bend hook eye*

Step two. Tie on your preference in weighted eyes close to the eye.



*2. Tie in dumbbell eyes for weight*

Step three. Wrap thread to just into the bend of the hook and tie in two tiny hackle tips at an angle of about 25-30° from the hook shank.



*3. Tie in tail hackle*



*4. Tie in mono crab eyes as shown. Dip tips in black nail polish.*

Step four. Eye instructions: Bend an elbow in a piece of 30 lb mono and cut the length of both sides a little longer than the desired eye length. Hold each tip of the mono close (not touching) to the base of a flame until it swells to about twice the diameter of the mono. Dip each tip into a puddle of plastic resin and hang on a horizontal wire till cured. paint the eye with black nail polish.

Step five. Tie in a small pinch of tan marabou tips and trim off the rest of the feather.



*5. Tie in tan marabou*

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6. Tie in wool body

Step six. The body is made with short pieces of Alpine Wool from Lion Brand Yarn. Color: Oatmeal. I searched far and wide to find a color that approximates beach sand around Tampa Bay and bought a skein. So, if you'd like some of this color and workability, don't go any further. Just ask me and I'll give you a lifetime supply. This yarn is perfect for combing out smooth to create a shell (more on this below). Tie in 5 pieces using a figure 8 pattern to assure a right angle between the yarn and the hook. To maintain a distinction between the yarn segments I wet them (spit or water) and rolled them to a slender cord. This makes it very easy to negotiate the tight turns between the yarn segments and very easy to slip the 4 legs between them.

Step seven. Wrap each leg around the top of the hook shank and tie a square knot on the bottom. If your legs do not cross the shank at something like a 90° angle, you did not tie a square knot.

Step eight. Clamp all legs together to facilitate combing, trimming, and coating the shell.

Step nine. Comb the yarn fibers to blend them into the two halves of the shell.

Step ten. Trim the two sides to create a shovel shape. There's no such thing as a shovel crab but I have it on the authority of none other than Pat Damico that this shape will be aerodynamic while casting. The snook on the beach don't seem to care that they've never seen a shovel shaped crab. My first experience with this fly was a snook caught within a few feet of the surf's edge. (By the way, my apologies to anyone who knows of a shovel-shaped crab. I don't mean to upset your sensibilities)



7. Add legs



8. Clamp legs to trim shell



11. Coat the top of the shell. Don't let the glue touch the legs.



9. Comb shell



10. Trim shell to shovel shape

Step eleven. Coat the top of the crab shell with your favorite resin or glue and hang it up to dry. I like the side of a round toothpick for this. It allows me to really smooth out the top of the shell. (I should have left the legs clamped for this operation.)

*Tom*