

Tying Bench - Pencil Popper - tied by Layne Smith



Pencil Poppers have a justly deserved reputation for catching warm water predators in fresh or salt. Smitty will tie this fly at our August "Tieathon" meeting. Keep a couple in your fly box for all of our upcoming outings -St. Pete Urban Outing, Lake Maggiore, Hillsborough River, Weedon Island Preserve, and Fort DeSoto Park.

Materials

Hook: Lightning Strike popper hook size #2 - #4

Thread: Danville Flatwaxed Nylon white

Tail: Pearl Krystal Flash (optional white marabou w/ Silver Krystal Flash)

Body: Perfect Popper hard foam pencil popper

Eyes: Posted animal eyes or 3D molded eyes

Cement: FletchTite Platinum

Overcoat: Solarez UV Resin

Misc: Red Sharpie marker, Mylar tubing sized to fit over popper body

Tying Sequence

Step 1: Place hook in vise and lay down a base wrap starting at hook bend and wrapping forward to an eyes width from hook eye. Wrap backward over base wrap to original tie-in point.

Step 2. Attach Pearl Krystal Flash (or equal portions of marabou and silver Krystal Flash mixed together as tail.

Step 3. Measure foam body to hook. If need be, use thin file to widen slit in bottom of foam body to accommodate wrapped hook. NOTE: Skip this step if you are using a pre-drilled popper body.

Step 4. Coat base wraps with FletchTite and slide on popper body making sure it is aligned properly. For best results, try to end with hook eye close to the bottom side of popper (It imparts better casting and retrieval from the surface of the water).

Step 5. If you are using the slit-type popper bodies, fill in exposed gap with FletchTite and smooth out. Set aside to dry and start another if you are doing several.

Step 6. Optional choice is to slide Mylar tubing over body and stretch to form a taut layer over the popper body. Over coat this with UV Resin and cure, trimming frayed ends.

Step 7. If you choose, you can skip over step 6 and just overcoat plain popper body after you colored the head of the popper with the red Sharpie as shown in photo.

Step 8. Attach eyes, depending on which eye option you want (3D molded - apply with FletchTite, or posted eyes - trim post to half its length, poke hole in sides of popper head with heated bodkin, fill with FletchTite and insert post). Allow to dry. Then over-coat with UV Resin and cure.

Smitty