

## **Tying Bench -- *Fuzzy Schminnow* -- by Layne Smith**

*Smitty will tie this fly at the June meeting*



This version of Norm Ziegler's Schminnow is made to suspend better in the water by utilizing very closely-palmered saddle hackle. The tantalizing attitude of the hovering morsel drives the snook (or whatever fish you are targeting) absolutely BONKERS. It then become a game of nerves. Whoever moves first loses.

The fly (left) with the marabou tail is the one described in the text .. I also tie it with a hackle tail ... that's the one I hooked and lost my largest snook with (forgot to sharpen the hook) ... he

sent it flying back at me with hook shank straightened out like an arrow !!!

### **Materials**

Hook: Mustad 3407 or 34011 size #2 (or your favorite saltwater hook)  
Thread: White Danville Flatwaxed Nylon  
Eyes: Large black monofilament or plastic. If you need to weight the fly (for strong current or deep water) use small or medium black bead chain eyes.  
Tail: White marabou blood feathers  
Flash: Pearl Krystal Flash Body: Pearl Estaz  
Hackle: 2 White saddle hackle (the longer the better)  
Anti-foul loop: 25 lb mono (optional)

### **Tying Sequence**

Step 1. Insert hook in vise and attach thread 1 hook eyes width behind hook eye making 2 stacked thread bases to form "saddle" for the mono eyes. Attach eyes with figure of eight wraps and then wrap thread base to bend of hook.

Step 2. If you are using anti-foul loop, attach at this time, making sure to keep loop on sides parallel to hook by flattening the mono ends with a pair of serrated pliers to help thread get a secure "bite" on the mono.

Step 3. Advance thread to hook point and tie in marabou equal to hook shank length. Bind down tightly.

Step 4. Tie in 2 or 3 strands of pearl Krystal Flash to extend backwards past tail. Trim to just beyond marabou.

Step 5. Tie in one end of Pearl Estaz and let hang off to the side. Next tie in 2 well barbed saddle hackles by their tips and let them hang.

Step 6. Retrieve Estaz cord and begin to palmer forward starting with 1 wrap behind the 2 saddle hackles (this will make it easier to wrap the hackles when the time comes) and then proceeding with closed wraps to the barbell eyes and tie off with 3 or 3 thread wraps (DO NOT trim off excess Estaz at this time).

Step 7. Palmer saddle hackles forward to where you tied off the Estaz. If you feel that you can comfortably palmer both feathers at the same time. If not, do them one at a time, just remember to keep the wraps very tightly spaced by laying the stems as close together as you can (the denser the hackle wraps the more this fly will suspend in the water column). Tie off at same point as where you stopped the Estaz and then trim excess hackle.

Step 8. Take Estaz and finish head of fly with a couple figure of eight wraps around the mono eyes and end with 1 or 2 wraps in front of eyes. Tie off and whip finish. Cement thread wraps with SHHAN or UV Resin of choice.

*Smitty*