

Tying Bench

Flute Fly -- Tied by Layne (Smitty) Smith



This is a favorite fly of Pat Damico for snook. Although it is a "popper-style fly," its construction makes it very different in that the "flutes" in the face of the fly cause water to spray out in different directions as a subtle indication of a wounded baitfish rather than the distinctive loud "POP" of a cup-faced popper (the sound of a baitfish under attack). This subtle difference seems to draw more strikes from the snook.

Pat favors a simple variation using just bucktail and a few strands of Krystal Flash for the tail and a collar of Estaz. Mine is a little fancier but not much!

Materials

Hook: Mustad #CK74S SS Signature Kink Shank Hook #2 - 2/0

Thread: Danville Flatwaxed Nylon white

Tail: White bucktail with splayed white hackle feathers or your favorite tail material

Flash: Pearl Krystal Flash (or your favorite pearl flash)

Collar: Palmered white hackle feathers. You can add an under-wrap of Estaz. I use hot pink/red under-wrap to give hint of gills.

Head: Flute head

Cement: Fletch-Tite Platinum

Tying Sequence:

Step 1: Place hook in vise and measure flute head length from hook eye to rear of head and mark on hook shank with either a few red thread wraps (my choice) or a permanent marker. This will give you a reference point on where your tying materials should end.

Step 2: Tie in your tailing material (i.e. white bucktail) just above the hook point with a set of tapered wraps to make transition for hackle feathers 2 or 3 each side. The feathers may be tied in splayed or concave sides facing each other depending on the profile you want for you fly.

Step 3: Tie in a half dozen strands of Krystal Flash in "Vee" configuration down each side of tail and trim slightly longer than tail.

Step 4: At this point tie in hackle (1 or 2 feathers depending how full you want the collar) and palmer forward to the mark on your hook shank. Tie off and trim excess. If you option to use the under-wrap of Estaz, tie in Estaz first followed by feather(s). Do one or two wraps behind hackle feathers then palmer forward to the mark on your hook shank and tie off. Trim off excess and then palmer feather(s) forward to the mark allowing the Estaz to show through somewhat and then tie off and trim.

Step 5: Wrap your thread forward to just behind hook eye in tight side-by-side wraps and then wrap thread back to mark on hook with the same type of wraps. Tie off and cut thread. This will give you a good base to lay down your adhesive for a solid set as you slide on the flute head.

Step 6: Slide head onto hook with one continuous push to meet the collar. An option here is to stop at collar for a nice full collar or you can push it slightly up onto the hackle to make it flare backwards (that would help in making it cast a little easier).

Smitty