

## Tying Bench – Paul Sequira’s Snook Fly

*Inspired by Lefty’s Deceiver and Jack Gartside’s Soft Hackle Deceiver*

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This is my favorite snook fly. I developed it for sight fishing for snook from the beach or casting around the mangroves. Two iconic patterns were the inspiration for this streamer, Lefty Kreh’s Deceiver and Jack Gartside’s Soft Hackle Deceiver. Both of those patterns have been go-to patterns for me for years. Although a Lefty’s Deceiver or even a D.T. Special work well, they are very slim profile flies and I wanted a fuller pattern that would also produce some movement on the retrieve. Marabou does that but Jack Gartside’s Softhackle Deceiver only replaced Lefty’s bucktail collar with a

couple of wraps of marabou, still a very slim profile. The streamer I have developed provides a full body profile by filling the hook shank with wraps of marabou. It is simple to tie once you get the knack of palmering marabou without mashing down the hackle of preceding wraps. My instructions describe the fly using marabou and saddle hackle, which is my favorite version. However, this fly can also be tied using nothing but bunny strips or all synthetic materials; substituting a suitable synthetic hair for the tail and synthetic body hackle. Each manufacturer has a proprietary name for these materials and there are too many to identify here.

### Paul

#### Materials

Hook: Mustad 3407 or equivalent sizes 2 – 1/0

Thread: white flat waxed nylon, red to finish head

Tail: white saddle or neck hackle

Body: white marabou

Body Accent: Any feather with long fibers I often use another color marabou or mallard flank (to pay homage to Jack Gartside)

Flash: Pearl Fire Fly or Slinky Fiber or your favorite very thin flash material

#### Tying Instructions

1. Mash the barb down and secure the hook in the vise hook point down. Attach the thread with a jam knot and take even wraps down towards the start of the hook bend.

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the thread to the tie in point. Clip and discard the excess hackle stems.

2. Select 4 equal sized hackles, even up the tips and make two pairs (two feathers each) with the curved sides facing inward. Remove the fibers at the butt of the hackles and clip to size. For a #1 hook, the tail should be approximately 2 +/- inches long and the total fly should be 3 to 3½ inches long. Place the hackle butts on top of the hook at the start of the bend and secure them with several tight wraps of thread. Wrap the bare hackle stems with tightly spaced wraps to a little less than ¼" from the hook eye to provide an even underbody and then return

3. Select a marabou feather and strip off all the fluffy fibers from the butt end. Stripping these fibers also removes some of the stem material; this will make it easier to palmer the marabou. Tie this feather in by the butt where your thread is waiting for you. (You returned it there in step #2 didn't you?) Take a few tight wraps, clip off the excess bare stems and wrap the thread forward a few turns.

4. Here is the hard part, hold the tip of the marabou feather with the fingers of your right hand (if your right handed). Pull the feather straight up and with your other hand stroke the marabou fibers back, actually folding the fibers and start wrapping the marabou forward, placing each wrap directly in front of the previous wrap for about four wraps. Do not over wrap previous wraps. While you are doing this, you must stroke the fibers back towards the tail. Tie off the marabou feather, clip and discard the excess. Take a couple of half hitches here.

5. Select about 4 or 5 pieces of Fiber Fly, fold them over your thread at the halfway point and secure them to the hook. Take a couple of thread wraps to secure the flash material and separate them equally to each side of the hook. The flash material should extend to about the end of the tail. Clip the excess flash material and discard. The ends should be uneven lengths.

6. Repeat steps #2 and #3 with a second marabou feather (or even a 3<sup>rd</sup> if needed) until you have covered the hook shank leaving approximately ¼" of hook shank bare. Select an accent feather and secure it to the hook directly in front of the marabou body and palmer it taking only a couple of wraps.

7. Tie off the white thread and tie on the red thread. Put a drop of head cement on the thread wraps and then wrap a nice bullet shaped head with the red thread. Secure with a whip finish and coat with several coats of head cement. Comb the marabou fibers towards the tail with a fine tooth comb to neaten it up.

Note: When fishing with this fly, remember that dry marabou floats very well so soak the fly before you make your first cast. Marabou is a rather delicate material; for this reason this fly is not recommended for bluefish, mackerel or ladyfish unless you like to tie a lot of them.

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