

Tying Bench – Smitty Ties Ed Story’s F-C Dart



This fly was originated by Ed Story of Feather-Craft. He often stopped by Carl Hanson’s on Tuesday night when he came to the Gulf Coast on fishing trips. It is a wingless Glass Minnow to surf-search for ladyfish. He designed this fly without a wing, so that by lowering the rod tip, the fly would sink and swim backwards. Its short Marabou tail and longer Flashabou tail strands simply folds over the fly body, as the fly is moved backwards by the lowering of the rod tip. On lifting the rod tip, the fly can again be stripped forward without the tail becoming tangled.

Materials:

Hook: TMC 9394 size 4-2 (size 2 shown) or Mustad 34011

Thread: Danville Flatwaxed Nylon in white or grey

Tail: Sparse white marabou extending 1” behind hook bend

Flash: 15 strands of Flashabou (Salt & Pepper) extending 1½” behind hook bend

Under-body: Size wide Silver Mylar Tinsel

Over-body: F-C Clear Wide-Lace material or substitute wide D-rib in clear

Head: A build-up of tying thread, large enough to add decal eyes

Eyes: Decal eyes in white, yellow, red, or gold in size small

Gills: Red Flatwaxed Nylon wrapped at rear of fly head just behind eyes

Overcoat: UV Resin, SHHAN or your favorite head cement

Tying Sequence:

1. Attach your thread in at the bend of the hook and secure with a few half hitches. Tie in a sparse white Marabou tail 1” long. Tie in 15 strands of Salt & Pepper Flashabou to extend 1½” backward from hook bend. Tie in a strand of silver Mylar Tinsel about 5’ or so long and let hang. Next tie in a 6” strand of the clear F-C clear Wide-Lace by first prepping it by cutting one end in a long pointed taper (makes it easier to tie in)

2. With everything tied in at the bend, use the tying thread to build up and taper the area in front the tie in spot so there is no “bulge” showing from the tail material. Taper and run your thread up the hook shank in close wraps to just behind the hook eye. Wrap the Mylar Tinsel forward in overlapping turns to the waiting thread. This tinsel will later show through the clear lace to create the “silver sides” of the Glass Minnow.

3. Wrap the Wide-Lace up the hook shank in close touching wraps, forming the Glass Minnow body. On reaching the tying thread, tie in the Wide-Lace with a number of wraps to secure it. Cut off excess lace. Continue to wrap thread over lace forming a fly head large enough to accept small-size decal eye. (The thread “fly head” can be carefully flattened on the sides using smooth flat-jaw bench pliers).

4. Place decal eyes on either side of fly head. Overcoat eyes with a thin coat of Resin and cure. With red thread, make a number of thread wraps behind eyes to represent gills. Overcoat these thread wraps as well as the eyes with a build-up of resin to create a nice head. Cure with UV Light (or set flies outside and let the sun cure them for you).

Smitty