

Tying Bench – Layne Smith, Jointed Pencil Popper



Fish this fly as if it were a wounded baitfish. Give it a couple of SHORT, hard strips to make it POP, POP then let it sit. Because it is jointed it will act like a crippled baitfish.

NOTE: This fly can be tied as a tube fly as well. Just use your favorite tubing material and saltwater hook.

Materials:

Hook: Daiichi saltwater 2546 #2

Thread: Danville Flatwaxed Nylon White

Tail: Krystal Flash Pearl

Rear body: Frizzle Chenille (Hairline Dubbing) UV Pearl (large $\frac{5}{8}$ ")

Articulated Shank: fish Skull Shank $1\frac{3}{8}$ " (35 mm)

Front body: Soft Body Perfect Popper

Eyes: $\frac{1}{4}$ " molded eyes silver w/ black pupil Coating: Loon Hardhead Pearlescent Green or Solarez UV Resin *

Cement: Fletch-Tite Platinum, CA Cement or SHHAN

Misc: Scotch or Blue painters tape, Red Sharpie, pearl glitter (optional)

Tying Sequence:

1. Place hook in vise and lay down a base wrap from hook eye to just above the hook barb. Take 6 strands of Krystal Flash and fold in half and cut, repeat and then wrap the flash around thread at halfway point of flash and tie on hook shank just above the barb for the tail. Trim to hook shank length if needed.
2. Attach Frizzle Chenille in front of tail and palmer forward to hook eye, stroking material backwards after each wrap as you go. Whip finish, coat and cure with UV Resin.
3. Use curved scissors to taper rear body all around to tail.
4. Attach articulated shank down through hook eye. Remove hook from vise and then insert the back loop of the articulated shank in vise. (Note: Use a twist-tie to tie hook bend to vise shaft to keep it from flopping around as you finish the rest of the fly.)
5. Attach thread to rear of articulated shank and use several wraps to close gap of the shank and then continue to lay down a good base wrap to within an eyes width of the shank eye using "touching wraps" as you go. Whip finish and trim thread. Apply a drop of head cement to thread wraps at both the front and rear of shank.
6. Coat base wrap with CA cement and then open the slit in popper body and slide onto shank making sure to cover thread at rear of shank with the popper body. Rotate the vise 180 degrees to expose the slit in body. Fill gap with CA cement, pinch closed and hold until cement sets.

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Tying Bench – Walt Durkin's Rat Fly



I started fishing this small crab/shrimp fly in December 2017. On four trips the first week I caught 13 fish: 4 reds, 4 trout, 4 snook and 1 sheepshead. I really tied it with sheepshead in mind and that was the first fish I caught as it tailed first thing in the morning, Tie the fly in tan or brown to fish over sand and black or green to fish over grass. You can also use Puglisi tarantula brush for the body. However, the Crystal flash works fine and is a little brighter. This simple fly

is a winner as it hops along the bottom with lively legs. Great for sight fishing in the winter for all game fish. You can also strip it slowly in deeper water to imitate a shrimp.

Materials and tying sequence

Hook: Gamakatsu B10S Stinger, size 6 or Mustad Tarpon 2XH/2XS, size 4. Use bead chain eyes on the stinger hook for a light fly and small lead eyes on the Mustad hook for a little heavier fly.



Rat fly in the water

I have been tying mostly with clear mono thread. On the light hook, tie in the bead chain and add 3/8 inch lead wire behind and over the eyes to form a keel.

Tie in a bit of orange rabbit for a small hot spot to represent an egg sack at the bend.

Next, cut two small pieces of thin zonker strips and tie one on each side of the hot spot in the back; angle them up a little.

Use crystal flash to complete the body. I also add one strand of hard Mason (20 lb) for a weed guard.

Walt

Tying Bench continued– Smitty's Jointed Pencil Popper

6. Coat base wrap with CA cement and then open the slit in popper body and slide onto shank making sure to cover thread at rear of shank with the popper body. Rotate the vise 180 degrees to expose the slit in body. Fill gap with CA cement, pinch closed and hold until cement sets.

7. Use "blue painters tape" or Scotch tape to create a template for coloring the head of the fly. Start the tape at the slit on the bottom of the popper body and tilt the angle of the tape to mimic the angle of the fly face until you get to the top then angle it back to match the other side going down the other side. Cut off remaining tape leaving a tab for easy removal after coloring head. Color head and/or face with red Sharpie. Remove tape.

8. Attach eyes with Fletch-Tite making sure to even them out vertically and horizontally. 9. Starting from the rear of the popper, apply coating (Loon Hardhead or UV Resin) with smooth strokes to coat body being careful to not allow the Sharpie colored portion to run. *****NOTE:** This step can be made a little easier by re-aligning popper body in vise to hang vertically as you apply the coating. Let dry in rotating dryer or, if using resin, cure with a UV light.

Smitty