

Fly Tying Bench — Paul's Bay Anchovy *by Paul Sequira*

While going through some of my tackle recently, I came across a long forgotten small box of flies from my days of fishing Long Island Sound for stripers, bluefish, weakfish and bonito. Many of the baitfish that we find here are also prevalent in the Mid-Atlantic and the Bay Anchovy is one of them. Going through that fly box I found one of my favorite Bay Anchovy imitations. It is essentially a Joe Brooks Blonde but tied with my own touch and my selection of materials.PS

Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 34007 (or equivalent) size 4 or 2
- Thread: Lava Lace (clear mono)
- Body: Rainbow Krystal Flash
- Tail: White bucktail
- Wing: Pale chartreuse (or light yellow) bucktail under tan bucktail
- Flash: Pearl Krystal Flash
- Lateral Stripe: Narrow holographic flash
- Eyes: Stick-on silver holographic 2 mm eyes

Directions:

1. Secure hook in vise and tie in thread behind hook eye.
2. Select a small amount of white bucktail for the tail (about the thickness of a round tooth pick when compressed and stretched) measure to 1½ times the length of the hook shank and tie in just behind the hook eye. Tie in with close tight wraps all the way to the hook bend making sure that the bucktail remains on top of the hook. The last few wraps should be slightly looser to prevent the bucktail from flaring.
3. The body is created with 3 or 4 pieces of rainbow Krystal Flash tied in under the hook shank and secured with even wraps spiraling up to the start of the bucktail. Cut and discard the excess. Now twist the Krystal Flash into a rope and wrap the body up to the waiting thread. Tie off and discard the excess.
4. Select a small bunch of light chartreuse bucktail for the mid-wing (amount as with the tail) and tie in with several wraps. Length should be equal to the tail. Select a few strands of Pearl Krystal Flash and tie in on each side of the chartreuse mid-wing.
5. Select a small bunch of tan bucktail for the top wing (amount as with the mid-wing) and secure with several wraps directly on top of the mid-wing. Length should be equal to the mid-wing and tail.
6. Bay Anchovies have a very prominent lateral stripe. Add one strip of the narrow holographic silver flash to each side of the fly. Length is equal to the wing. The entire fly on a size 4 hook should be approximately 1¾ " long.
7. Wrap a neat bullet shaped head, whip finish and coat with head cement. Add the 2 mm holographic eyes to each side of the head. Coat the head with either 2-hour epoxy or rod wrapping finishing epoxy. Hold the wing down towards the body slightly and cover the base of the wing with epoxy to give the fly a more streamlined appearance. Avoid a wing that stands up away from the fly's body.



Paul's Bay Anchovy: Fly tied and photo by Paul Sequira