

Fly Tying Bench — Flip Pallot's Prince of Tide *by Paul Sequira*

Several years ago, SFF had Flip Pallot as the guest speaker at our annual banquet; he also spent Saturday morning with us at the Antelope Club for fly casting demos and general fishing talk. Flip mentioned that his favorite fly for redfish was his "Prince of Tide". Lefty Kreh, in his revised edition of "Saltwater Flies" also said it is an excellent all around pattern for many saltwater species. Lefty doesn't describe it as a bendback but the photo in his book shows a bendback hook. Flip also told us that he ties it as a bendback; he also said he frequently ties it with a single wire weedguard. It is a simple fly to tie.....PS

Materials:

- Hook: 34007 size 1 to 3/0 or equivalent
- Thread: Brown 3/0 Monochord
- Body: Copper Krystal Flash and gold Flashabou over-wrapped with 12 or 15 # mono
- Wing: (bottom to top) white bucktail, green or olive bucktail and brown bucktail, copper Krystal Flash

Tying Instructions:

1. Pinch down the barb of your hook and then secure the eye of the hook in your pliers with the hook point up and with your thumb inserted into the hook bend, apply gentle downward pressure to create your bend back hook. You should have approximately 3/16" of straight hook shank and then a slight downward bend towards the hook bend with the point up.
2. Tie the mono in under the hook shank starting slightly behind the straight portion behind the hook eye and tie off at the hook bend. Leave approximately four inches of mono hanging.
3. Secure several strands of copper Krystal Flash and gold Flashabou (approximately 3 of each) at the bend of the hook and spiral the thread up to the point where you started the mono. Slightly twist the Flashabou and Krystal Flash into a loose rope and wrap it up the hook shank to the waiting thread. Tie off and discard excess flash material. Tightly wrap the mono up the hook shank completely covering the flash material and tie off at the waiting thread.
4. The wing is built with three layers of bucktail, white, topped with green (or olive) and then topped with brown. Each layer of bucktail should be approximately the thickness of a wooden matchstick when compacted and stretched. Finally, top it all with eight to ten strands of copper Krystal Flash which should extend about 1/4" beyond the bucktail. The total wing should be about 1 1/2 to 2 times the length of the hook. Wrap a neat bullet shaped head and whip finish, add yellow eyes with a black center, either painted or stick-on. Overcoat the head with a good hard clear finish.

Note: I have seen this fly in local fishing publications slightly modified with a topping of black bucktail over the copper flash and then some gold flash over all. Also on a straight hook rather than a bendback. I think the pattern as described in Lefty's book (and above) is more accurate to the original. A note on the body: You could also wrap the mono over the flash material using the easy nail knot method; or, I prefer to coat the Krystal Flash/Flashabou body with epoxy rather than mono. It adds a little weight to the fly and offers more protection; I do this on all my bendbacks or straight hook minnow imitations using an assembly line method. I finish about a dozen bodies and then mix up a batch of epoxy rod wrap finish. I then coat all the bodies with the epoxy and place them on my turning wheel for approximately three hours. I let the epoxy completely cure overnight and then complete the flies the next day or as time permits. I also do this for the fly heads after applying the eyes. This makes for a much more durable and attractive fly.PS



Prince of Tide: Fly tied by Don Coleman, Photo by Paul Sequira