

Fly Tying Bench — Salt water Poppers *by Paul Sequeira*

To me, nothing is more exciting than the explosive take of a top water lure when pursuing any of my many favorite fish. When I'm fishing for bass or bream, I always have one flyrod setup with a popper; but strangely, in the salt I rarely go that route. On a recent fishing trip, Mark Hays and I enjoyed a steady pick of silver and spotted sea trout, mackerel, bluefish and ladyfish many of which were taken on top water plugs. When we spotted some top water activity, Mark tied a small (for salt water) foam popper on his 8-weight rod and was quickly rewarded with a hefty Spanish mackerel. That action continued for quite a while with trout, bluefish and macks falling for the popper. In fact, Mark mentioned that the very popper he was using had accounted for two Club outing "big fish wins" in the past.

Tying these poppers couldn't be simpler with only a few materials needed, you can make a supply that will last a long time in only a couple of pleasurable hours at the vise.

Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 34007 size #1 or equivalent (some tyers like to use a long shank hook i.e. 34011 but the standard length seems to work well). Mustad also manufactures special hump-shank hooks just for poppers however they are not always readily available except through some mail order houses.
- Body: Foam popper bodies are available in several sizes – small (for bream), medium and large. In this article, I used the medium size, 1/2" X 3/4" which I purchased at Jim Swann's shop several years ago. They are also available from most mail order fly tying material dealers. You may even still be able to buy cork bodies.



Popper and Photo: paul Sequeira

- Thread: White 3/0 flat-waxed nylon.
- Tail: White kip (calf tail). This has proven to be the most durable material. Feathers tend to get fouled around the hook and buck tail gets chewed up much too easily.

Flash: A few strands of silver or pearl Flashabou or Krystal Flash on the sides of the tail.

Tying Instructions:

1. Pinch the barb down and secure the hook in the vise in the normal fashion. Attach the thread immediately behind the hook eye and spiral it towards the bend for approximately 1/2" and tie it off and cut it. This will provide a little "tooth" for gluing it to the body.
2. Select a foam body and widen the pre-cut slit slightly by running a hacksaw blade through the slit.
3. Mix a small batch of epoxy. I like the 30-minute cure variety to avoid the discoloration the fast cure (5 minute) creates as it ages. Apply a line of epoxy into the widened slot with your bodkin and push the slot down over the hook

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shank with the face of the popper just slightly behind the hook eye. Remove the hook/popper from the vise and exam it from the front of the hook, center the body on the hook and set it aside to dry.

4. At this point I usually go on to make several popper bodies and set them aside to allow the epoxy to dry before finishing the popper. A word about glues. Many Cyanoacrylate glues (Cya) will simply dissolve most foam but they could be used with cork or balsa popper bodies.
 5. Re-attach the thread to the hook shank with a jam knot immediately behind the popper body.
 6. Select a small batch of hair from a white Kip tail. Cut the batch and holding the hairs by the tips, remove any short hairs from the cut end. Cut the batch to match the length of the hook shank. Place the Kip hair on top of the hook shank and secure with several wraps of thread.
 7. Select a few strands (2 or 3) of flash material and secure to the sides of the Kip hair. Cut the flash slightly shorter than the hair.
 8. Whip finish the thread wraps and coat with head cement. It is not necessary to cover the thread wraps with hackle or anything else; your popper is finished. It is not necessary to paint the foam body; but as an option, you may want to paint the face of the popper with red paint.
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Suncoast Fly Fishers, Your Board Of Directors Working For You

Activities are at the heart of any successful organization. SFF's BOD has instituted the following Standing Committees to help us maintain a high level of activities that have proven to be popular with the membership and some new ones to fill a need as expressed through membership surveys. These committees are generally chaired by board members but you do not have to be a board member to fill that position. If you would like to volunteer to participate on any or these committees, please speak to any director.

Committees are as follows:

- Casting Skills - Pat Damico
- Club Outings - Richard Oldenski & Mark Hays
- FFF Liaison - Pat Damico
- Fishing Locations - Ken Doty
- Fly Tying - Alan Sewell
- Knot Tying - Ken Doty
- Membership - Alan Sewell & Paul Sequira
- Newsletter - Paul Sequira
- Publicity - Roger Blanton & Larry Cohen
- Programs - BOD
- Raffles - John Rodgers & Tom Hummel

Editor's Corner *by Paul Sequira*

Pictures — I need pictures! You will notice that I have had to resort to the archives to fill out the picture page. If you'd like to see some more up-to-date photos of club outings or some of your own outings, please e-mail them to me. Please keep them under 100 kb.

I have heard from a member that he is not receiving his e-newsletter. A quick check of my address book showed that I have the correct e-mail address for him. E-mails to him requesting confirmation of receipt have gone unanswered. I can think of a couple of things that may have happened: 1) the member in question may have inadvertently put me in his "blocked mail list". Or 2) because the newsletter is a large file with lots of links in it, the member's anti-virus and/or spam blocker software may be viewing the newsletter as a threat and putting it in the "Delete" or "Anti-Spam" folder instead of the "In Box".

If this is happening to you, check your "Blocked Messages" file for my address and if there, remove it. If you see an indication of new mail in either the "Delete" or "Anti-Spam" folders, check it out for the newsletter.

The newsletter is identified as either "SFF newsletter" or "On The Fly" with the month and year in the subject line of your e-mail.

If you have any questions, see me at the meeting or e-mail me at: psequira@tampabay.rr.com