

## **Tying Bench – HPU Weedless Fly ...Layne Smith's Adaptation of a Derrick Filkins Fly**

*You tie this fly on a shaft of hard mason mono, not the hook. Watch out snook.*

A few years ago a fly tyer by the name of Fox Statler started tying flies on extra wide gap (EWG) hooks to keep the fly's hook point UP in order to decrease hang ups. The fly worked fairly well, but with the hook point exposed some hang-ups would still occur.



*Photo: Salt Water Sportsman*

This got Derrick Filkins thinking. After he stared at a rubber worm on an EWG hook long enough it dawned on him that he could tie a fly on a stiff piece of mono instead of the hook shank. He tied a few prototypes of the Hook Point Up (HPU) weedless fly and went fishing for snook in the mangroves of southwest Florida and caught the biggest snook of his life. He could cast this fly into and under the mangroves without fear of it hanging up.

The great thing about this fly is that it is easy to alter to suit any fishing scenario in which you don't want to get hung up. (Now you can even add foam to the monofilament to make a floating version.)

INTENDED SPECIES: Snook

Pro: Practically impossible to snag

Con: Getting used to tying on monofilament

### **Materials**

Hook: Mustad 38106 or Gamakatsu EWG worm hook, sized 2 to 2/0

Thread: Danville Flat waxed nylon white

Shaft: Hard mason from 60# down to 16# for smaller hooks

Tail: White marabou blood quills

Flash: Holographic Silver Flashabou

Body: Pearl Crystal Chenille, Estaz or Estaz Grande

Eyes: 3D eyes of choice

Adhesive: Zap-a-Gap gel

NOTE: Steps 1 - 6 below are done in hand. Steps 7 - 9 are done with the hook in the vise

### **Tying Sequence**

Step 1: Cut a piece of hard mason about 3-inches long and straighten it. Go ahead and cut several pieces if you'll be tying several flies (\*See note one.) Then melt the tip to form a ball and let it cool. This keeps the material from sliding off the mono shaft. Measure and mark with a Sharpie the distance between the hook point and the shank, making sure to leave a small gap for clearance.

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## **Continued... Layne Smiths Adaptation of Derrick Filkins' HPU Weedless Fly**

**Step 2:** Tie in a marabou blood quill approximately one hook length at the mono "ball" and trim off feather waste.

**Step 3:** Tie in 3 or 4 strands of Flashabou and splay half on either side of the marabou. Top with one more blood quill. Trim waste.

**Step 4:** Tie in crystal chenille or Estaz and create a loop. Place in dubbing. Twirl and spin to create a thicker body. (\*\*See note two)

**Step 5:** Wrap furred body forward on mono to the mark you made with the Sharpie. Tie off with a few half-hitches or whip finish BUT DO NOT CUT THREAD.

**Step 6:** Place mono next to hook behind the eye and measure to make sure you have hook point clearance. Cut mono right behind hook EME leaving a tag the length of the short shank (about 1/4")

**Step 7:** Flatten the mono tag with pliers -- remember round will not tie to round -- and tie securely to that hook platform right behind the eye. DO NOT CUT THREAD.

**Step 8:** Wrap balance of furred body forward to hook eye and tie off. Cut away thread and excess body material.

**Step 9:** Glue on eyes with Zap a Gap gel. You can overcoat and head with UV resin or a light coat of epoxy to better secure the eyes.

**\*Note One:** To straighten hard mason take the 3-inch pieces and lay them in a saucer or shallow dish and cover with cover. Microwave for about one minute. Draw off water. Be careful; it will be hot. The pieces should be straight.

**\*\*Note Two:** Step 4 is used only if you are using regular Estaz. If you are using Estaz Grande or large crystal or cactus chenille you can skip this step as your material will have enough bulk to create a properly-sized body.

*Smitty*

*PS: Smitty called to say that if any of this is confusing then chat with him at the meeting.*