

# Fly Tying Bench—Springer’s Crystal Shrimp by Al Pitcher

ON THE FLY

Springer’s Crystal Shrimp: tied and photographed by Al Pitcher  
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Original Designed by: Tom Springer, Pensacola, FL

Although there are several flies that bear the name “crystal shrimp,” this variation by Tom Springer of Pensacola, FL is not only very simple to tie, but has proven to be the most effective of the shrimp patterns. It is a killer under the lights for snook and the trout love it. Before Don Manning has a chance to ask the question “can you add a little weight to it,” the answer is definitely yes. Although Tom Springer’s Crystal Shrimp is tied with no additional weight, I have added the use of .010 lead wire; your choice. Tom’s pattern does not have a weed guard, but I have added one since I believe it will fish better in the grass. Also, I made the eyes a little longer than the 1/4” Tom recommended; this allows them to be more prominent. I tied this pattern at the Tampa Boat Show and received a great deal of interest; primarily because it is simple to tie and it looks inviting.

## Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 3407 size #2 to #6
- Thread: Danville’s Flat Waxed Nylon or equivalent in white or pearl
- Body: Medium Pearl Chenille
- Shellback: Krystal Flash; Gray Ghost/Pearl
- Antennas: Krystal Flash; Gray Ghost/Pearl
- Eyes: Approximately 3/4” to 1” section of 80# monofilament burnt at each end, crimped in the center, and colored black with a Sharpie permanent marker.
- Weight: Lead wire; .010
- Weed Guard: 80# monofilament
- Glue: Head cement and Zap-a-Gap CA+

## Tying Instructions:

Step 1: Starting at the hook eye, lay down a base of thread back to the hook bend and then back towards the eye until half way between the barb and the hook point.

Step 2: Tie in mono eyes using figure eight-wraps. Add a drop of Zap-a-Gap on the figure-eight-wrap.

Step 3: Tie in several strands of Krystal Flash about 3” long at the rear of the hook with about 1/2” to 1” of strands going past the bend of the hook.



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Step 4: Double back the remainder of the Krystal Flash towards the rear of the hook and tie it down so that it points away from the hook eye.

Step 5: Tie in the Crystal Chenille over where the Krystal Flash is tied in then bring the thread back to about 1/2" of the end of the hook eye.

Step 6: Wrap in the desired amount of .010 lead wire; bring the thread forward to the hook eye to secure the lead wire. Add a drop of Zap-a-Gap to the lead wire and thread.

Step 7: Tie in a weed guard under the hook eye using 80# monofilament so that it is about 1/16" from the hook point.

Step 8: Make one wrap of the chenille in front of the mono eyes; then proceed to wrap the chenille behind the eyes toward the hook eye. That first wrap helps to separate the eyes outward. For a good body, always make the wraps tight against each other.

Step 9: Tie off the chenille at the hook eye.

Step 10: Take the long strands of Krystal Flash that we doubled back and now extend them over the top of the chenille and tie in at the hook eye. Some of the flash will extend over the hook eye. Trim so that the fibers extend about 1/4" to 1/8" past the hook eye. This will create the shrimp tail.

Step 11: Whip finish and apply head cement.