# Tying Bench—Kwan Fly *by Tom Jones*

This fly may look a bit complicated but is easy to tie. As with most flies, the Kwan Fly has many variations but this one is the one resident expert, Pat Damico, uses and that's good enough for me. I gave away the sample flies that I tied at the November meeting and Walt Ruda caught a keeper-size trout on one of them at the outing that Saturday. Even though I caught none, I got a vicarious thrill out of the catch since it was my fly.

Above: Kwan Fly Top view Below: Kwan Fly Bottom view

Tom Jones photos

Pat advises that you work this fly slowly, inch by inch across the bottom as if mimicking the speed of a small crab. Also, although the one pictured here is made of tan and olive yarn, you should roughly match the bottom of the area you'll be fishing (i.e., brown & olive over a grassy bottom or tan and brown over a sandy bottom.) In very shallow water, you can use bead chain eyes but in deeper water you might want to use lead dumbbells. In either case, I paint the eyes black to represent crab or shrimp eyes. With the addition of a mono-filament weed guard, this fly is virtually weedless. I used it for most of the outing at Weedon Island and had almost no problems with it snagging grass.

**Materials:**

- **Hook**: Any standard size 1 or 2 hook
- **Thread**: Clear monofilament or nylon
- **Eyes**: Black bead chain, dumbbell, or other depending on the depth of the water and how fast you want it to sink or how little you want to splash.
- **Body**: Strands of wool yarn (not synthetic — they tend to float). Wool yarn can be purchased at many department stores. Look for a multi-colored yarn with all the colors that you need so that you only have to buy one ball or skein. Cut the yarn into 1" segments and sort them according to colors to speed up your tying.
- **Tail**: Tan craft fur. Tough to find without going to a fly fishing shop. Sometimes available at Michael's or the fabric stores. There are different lengths, so make sure you don't settle for the short one.
- **Egg sac**: Bright orange egg yarn. This you'll probably have to get at a fly fishing outfitter like Bill Jackson's.
- **Brown, medium tip felt marker**. This can be hard to find without buying a set of markers. Try Michael's for single markers of various colors.

**Tying Instructions:**

1. Pinch down the barb on the hook with a pair of pliers and secure it in the vise point down.

2. Attach thread to hook at tangent point between shank and curve.

3. Tie on a small bunch of craft fur about twice the length of the hook (See photo). (Tie a couple of half hitches here and at each of the following steps, just in case you break your thread, so that your fly cannot unravel.)

4. Option: You can tie on a tail guard, a "U" shaped piece of 10 or 12 test monofilament with the loop protruding a 1/4" or so passed the straight part of the hook, to keep the tail from wrapping itself around the hook when casting. Personally, I like it.

# Tying Bench—Kwan Fly .....*continued*

Tom Jones demonstrating the Kwan Fly at the November 19th meeting.

Bob McIntyre photo

5. Tie on the orange egg sac at the tangent point between the hook shank and the curve. Cut about a half inch long piece of the material, no larger than the diameter of a pencil lead when compressed. Fold it around the thread and lash it down on top of the hook, trimming off all but about 1/8" of the orange material.

6. Wrap thread forward to about 3/16" from the eye of the hook and continue wrapping at that point to create a small ball of thread on which to anchor the eyes.

7. Tie on a pair of eyes, just in front of the thread ball, using a figure 8 pattern and add your favorite glue.

8. Now, turn the hook point up in your vise for the remainder of the steps.

9. Tie on a piece of yarn on top of the hook, just the way you would the eyes, using a figure 8 pattern, except that there's no need to repeat the figure 8 many times. One will do, or two if your motto is like mine — "More is better." Start as close as you can to the egg sac and repeat with alternating colors until you get to the eyes. Run  a line of glue the hook on both top and bottom to solidify the body.

10. Pass the thread in front of the eyes and tie on a weed guard of 80 lb mono or 30 lb plastic coated braided wire. Pinch the tip of a 1" piece of mono with needle nose pliers to create a flat place which will make it easy to make the weed guard stand up and in line with the hook point. Make sure to leave a tiny knob of round mono at the tip to keep the thread from slipping off the end when tying it down. Also, as you squeeze the pliers to make the flat spot, stretch the mono at an angle to make it stand up on its own. When tying the weed guard in place, wrap thread in a figure 8 pattern to build support under the angle of the mono to keep it from collapsing. It won't take much as you've already put a permanent bend in it. Add a big drop of glue. Trim off the tip of the weed guard just above the hook point and make the cut parallel to the hook shank. Often, this will create a bur which will snag fine bits of grass. You can file that off with a couple of strokes with your hook sharpener or some other abrasive tool or slice it off with a razor blade.

11. Pull the tail taught between your thumb and forefinger and lightly stripe the craft fur with the brown marker on both sides.

11. By now, the glue in the body wool along the hook shank should be dry and you can comb out the wool to cause the fibers to intermingle forming the body. Trim the body into something like a shovel shape, narrower at the head than at the tail.

11. Now, go fish!!

If you have internet access, you can watch Pat Damico explain how to tie this fly while he demonstrates tying it. Just click on this link — http://fishbuzz.tv/index.html?channel=flytie&videofile=fishbuzz/flyfishing/kwan

You can explore many other flies which are demonstrated on this web site. Enjoy!

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