

Tying Bench—Mihailoff Glass Minnow by Paul Sequira

How many flies have been designed to imitate the glass minnow? I'm sure I don't know but there are a bunch of them out there. This one, developed by guide Kevin Mihailoff is unusual in that it has a spun deer hair head. Examining the fly, I noticed that the head is not tightly packed as you might do on a spun deer hair bass popper. I would suspect that this deer hair head is designed to push water for a little noise and provide a neutrally buoyant fly. We know it is an effective pattern as attested by the success Peter Cole had with it recently on his trip to Chokolosee (see Peter's article on page 9).

Materials:

Hook: Mustad 3407 (or equivalent) size 4

Thread: 3/0 white flat waxed nylon

Wing: Pearl Angle Hair (or similar)

Head: Spun white deer hair



Mihailoff Glass Minnow tied by Kevin Mihailoff.
Sequira photo

Tying Instructions:

1. Attach the thread approximately 1/4" behind the hook eye with a jam knot.
2. Select a medium sized hank of Angle Hair and size it approximately 1½ times the length of the hook shank. Trim the cut off end that you will tie onto the hook square, but leave the other end sort of ragged as in the picture above.
3. Tie in the wing at the point where you attached the thread. Be sure to leave the forward part of the hook shank bare to facilitate spinning the deer hair.
4. Cut off a batch of white deer hair about the thickness of a wooden pencil and remove the under hair with a comb or your fingers. Trim off the natural hair ends. Lay the hair at an angle against the side of the hook shank facing you with your left hand, and take two loose wraps of thread around the hair and the hook shank. Slowly tighten the thread with a downward pull and release the hair from your left hand. The hair will spin around the hook and spread out.
5. This should be enough hair for the head, but if it seems a little too sparse, add a second batch of hair and repeat step 4.
6. Take a few half hitches or whip finish behind the hook eye and then trim the head to a ball shape as in the picture above. Add a little head cement and you're done.

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