

Tying Bench—Redfish Joe by Craig Smothers

This fly is a modification of the Bonefish Joe first tied by Joe Bursell and Les Fulcher. Les had it published in Dick Meyers bonefish fly pattern book a few years back. I've published the Redfish Joe in Fly Fisherman's Guide to Saltwater Prey by Dr. Aaron Adams. Both of these books are must-haves for any saltwater fly tier.

Most bonefish patterns work very well on redfish. After tying this pattern over and over for years, it took on a different flavor and became the Redfish Joe. This pattern works very well for redfish. The fish are always hooked just inside the mouth. When the redfish grabs this pattern, it's soft and squishy. They hold on to it that extra second before rejecting it as artificial. Meanwhile, I've strip struck and they're on.



Redfish Joe tied by Craig Smothers
Smothers photo (more photos on page 13)

Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 34007, Tiemco 811S, Dai Riki 930 #2
- Head: 5/32" lead eyes, painted white with black pupil and wrapped in medium tan chenille
- Body: Spun natural deer hair
- Tail: Matched pair of rooster grizzly neck pins, Rootbeer Krystal Flash, and petite orange ice chenille, tan calf tail
- Misc.: Dave's Fleximent, fine comb, hair stacker, curved scissors, twin edge razor blade.

Tying Instructions:

- 1) Tie the painted lead eyes on top of the hook near the eye. Wrap the eyes with the tan chenille. Whip finish and trim. Glue with Fleximent.
- 2) Retie the thread on to the hook near the hook's bend threading 1/3 of the way up the bend. Tie in a small amount of tan calf tail extending it 1/4" beyond the hook. Next, tie in the neck feathers, splayed, on the sides of the calf tail extending 1" beyond the hook. Add 2-4 strands of rootbeer Krystal Flash on the outside of the feathers. Wrap over your thread with three wrap of orange petite ice chenille. Soak everything with Fleximent.
- 3) Cut a good amount of deer spinning hair off the hide. Comb out the under fluff. Even the tips in a hair stacker. Lay in the first clump of hair at a 45* angle to the hook and wrap the thread around the hair with two wraps. As you pull the hair tight, it should flair and spin around the hook. Glue. Thread wrap forward three wraps on the hook and repeat the process until you reach the eye (about two more clumps of hair). Whip finish, trim and glue one last time.
- 4) Trim the underside of the hook flat with a razor. Cut it fairly close so the ice chenille is exposed. Use the curved scissors to trim the remaining hair just about the hooks point depth, and in a cone shape. Try and retain the tip-hairs around the ice chenille.

Be sure to thoroughly pre-wet this fly before use. Fish it slowly along the bottom on a long leader. It works best for sight fishing, and blind casting in deeper (2'-3') turtle grass. Very weedless.