

Fly Tying Bench - Ken Doty's White Spider *by Bill AuCoin*

There's something about rubber band spiders that fascinates bluegills.

Sometimes the bluegill is all over that spider fly the minute it lands. But many times the bluegill is bit more tentative. It will nose up to the surface and watch this thing from one inch away. It's like it's hypnotized by it.

The fly angler doesn't have to move the fly. Some other unseen force will make it move or shake a rubber leg. The bluegill can't help itself. Whop! Yep, he's on.

Ken Doty is one of the best at tying the bluegill spider fly and he demonstrated the procedure at the August 2008 meeting. He makes it look and sound easy:



Ken Doty's White Spider Fly tied by Ken himself at the August 2008 club meeting. Photo by Bill AuCoin

Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 3366 sizes 10
- Thread: 3/0 flat waxed nylon color your choice
- Body: white foam disc about 1/2" diameter
- Tail: pinch of yellow marabou
- Legs: thin rubber legs

Tying Instructions:

1. Start with a 3366 Mustad, size 10 panfish hook with pinched down barb.
2. Lay a base of thread down the hook to the tail.
3. Add a small piece of marabou about the length of the hook shank, usually yellow, for the tail.
4. Run thread halfway back to the eye of the hook
5. Pinch on a white foam disk about a half-inch in diameter.
6. Tie the foam disk to the hook at the midpoint of the hook.
7. Add legs on both sides. Start with a piece of rubber about 2" long and using a middle tie, each leg will be about 1" long.
8. Trim it up.

Editors note: The foam spider has been covered in "On The Fly" a couple of times, but Bill AuCoin did such a nice job of writing up Ken's tying method and photographing the fly I felt it deserved to be presented to the club once more. The Foam Spider in all it's forms is one of the best flies ever developed for bream and bass. We should all keep a couple of dozen of them handy whenever we go fresh water fishing. I think it was Mae West who once said, "Too much of a good thing is not enough." I agree.Paul