

# Fly Tying Bench *by Paul Sequira*

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## Lefty's Deceiver *by Paul Sequira*

It is said that imitation is the greatest form of flattery. If that is true, then Lefty Kreh's Deceiver must be one of the most flattered flies in fly tying history. There are more "original" flies out there that bare a striking resemblance to a Lefty's Deceiver than you can imagine. It is one of the first salt water flies that I learned to tie and has always been one of the most productive flies I have used. I would never be without several of them in my fly box; it is perhaps my favorite fly. Last month I featured Bob Popovic's Bucktail Deceiver (BTD); a new (to me) version of this remarkable fly and different from the bucktail pattern I was familiar with. This month, let's cover the original.



*Traditional Lefty's Deceiver Photo & Flies by Paul Sequira*

*Chartreuse and White*

### Materials:

- **Hook:** Mustad 3407 (or any equivalent) sizes 4 through 3/0 (or as larger)
- **Thread:** 3/0 flat waxed nylon color to compliment the fly
- **Wing:** 6 to 8 matched saddle hackles
- **Flash:** Flashabou, Krystal Flash, silver/gold mylar (your choice)
- **Body:** Silver mylar or none or mylar braid or spun strands of Krystal Flash (your choice)
- **Collar:** Bucktail, top and bottom. Sometimes a short grizzly hackle is used as a cheek.

### Tying Instructions:

1. Pinch down the barb and secure the hook in the vise in the normal fashion. Attach the thread with a jam knot about ¼ inch behind the hook eye. Spiral the thread down to the start of the hook bend.
2. Select six to eight (or more if desired depending upon the size fly you are tying) saddle hackles. Remove the fluff from the base of each hackle; divide them into two equal sets, line up the tips and pair up the two sets with the curvature facing inward (praying hands style). I usually make them at least twice the length of the hook.
3. Place the grouped hackles on top of the hook, butts facing towards the eye and secure them to the top of the hook shank starting just forward of the bend. Tightly wrap the thread forward towards the eye stopping approximately ¼ inch from the eye. Cut off and discard excess hackle butts.
4. At this point, look at the hackles from the front of the fly. They should be centered on the hook shank,

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standing on edge and not leaning to one side or the other. Straighten them out now by twisting the entire bunch.

5. Your Deceiver is now ready for a body. If you choose not to use a body, simply wrap the hackle butt tie-down area with several layers of close thread wraps and give it a coat of head cement.
6. Although the original used a double wrap of silver/gold mylar, it is a fussy wrapping procedure. I prefer to wrap a body of silver (pearl or gold depending upon the color fly I am tying) mylar lace. If you don't have any lace, you may use about a dozen strands of Krystal Flash twisted together to form a "rope". With the thread hanging at the front of the hackle butt tie-down point, secure the lace to the bottom of the hook shank and spiral wrap the thread towards the hook bend trapping the lace to the bottom of the hook all the way to the start of the hackles. Now spiral wrap the thread back to your starting point. Wrap the lace around the hook shank advancing to the tie-in point and secure it with the waiting thread. Cut off the excess lace.
7. Select a bunch of hair from the top 3<sup>rd</sup> of a bucktail, finger stack the tips and remove/discard all of the short and unruly hairs. Measure the bunch against the hook so that the tips extend beyond the hook bend; cut and discard the butts. Place this bunch on the side of the hook on the bare spot of the shank and take two slightly loose wraps of thread. As you tighten the thread, coax the hair around the hook shank. Take a few more tight turns of thread securing the hair to the hook. Examine the fly for any bare spots and add small bunches of hair where needed.
8. Take about ten strands of Krystal Flash or Flashabou and tie in on top of the hair collar using the center tie method. Cut the ends of the flash unevenly to produce more flash points.
9. Cut a small bunch of contrasting color bucktail and tie in on top of the collar as a topping. This topping should extend just beyond the collar.
10. Wrap a nice neat bullet shaped head and secure it with a whip finish. Give the head several coats of head cement and the fly is done.

### **Options:**

You may add stick-on eyes to the head and coat the finished head with epoxy as I described last month. Also, some tiers like to add a short throat of bright red Krystal Flash or wool. Still others like to add cheeks of grizzly hackle (short) of a contrasting color and some tiers also like to add a topping of 8 to 10 strands of peacock herl.

### **Comments:**

I might mention that when I tie Deceivers, I tie a ½ dozen or more up to step #6 above. Then I mix a batch of epoxy (see last month's BTM for my comments) and coat the bodies. After the epoxy has cured, I finish the flies. The important thing is that the finished fly should have a baitfish shape and that the bucktail collar is long enough to prevent the saddle hackle wing from wrapping around the hook bend during casting.