

Fly Tying Bench — Pat's Simple Fly *by Pat Damico*

As I mentioned in my “Take Your Fly Rod Out After Dark” article (*see On The Fly October 2007 ...PS*) This fly pattern is very versatile, because the size of the fly can be modified by increasing the length of the hook shank. Using a longer hook, such as a Mustad 34007 or Tiemco 9394 will increase the length of the body and result in a longer overall size. Walking along the beach one morning I saw newly hatched threadfins that were an inch and a half to two inches in length. The Snook were keying in on this size forage. As the season progresses, a longer profile will be more effective.



Pat's Simple Fly — fly tied and photo by Capt. Pat Damico

Captain Rick Grasset of Sarasota uses a shorter version as his Grass Minnow; Florida outdoor writer Norm Zeigler's Schminnow has a longer body length, and usually uses Marabou material for the tail. The name implies a shrimp/minnow resemblance. White is the color that is most popular. I have used this pattern years ago on the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania for smallmouth bass in chartreuse, white and black. The black version, when tied with a longer tail represents a hellgrammite or clipper, which is deadly bass bait.

This fly has been around for many years. Twenty years ago, in PA, we used this fly on the Susquehanna River for smallies. For smallmouths I like white, black and chartreuse. Rick Grasset calls his version a Grass Minnow, and likes to use it around dock lights for snook. In a larger size, it is a good fly for beach fishing for snook.

Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 34007 (or equivalent) sizes 1 to 4
- Thread: 3/0 Monocord
- Eyes: Bead chain
- Tail: Calf tail or marabou
- Flash: Flashabou
- Body: Estaz (or similar crystal style chenille)

Tying Directions:

Secure the hook in the vise after pinching down the barb. After starting thread, attach dumbbell eyes, from a bead chain, on the top of the hook with figure eight wraps about 1/8th inch behind eye. Continue wrapping thread to bend of hook. Coat with Dave's flexament. Calf tail, or marabou, is selected for the tail and a group of fibers a little longer than the hook's length is secured to the top of the hook. Tie in one or two doubled lengths of the same color flashabou a little longer than the tail. Tie in Estaz at the bend of the hook and advance thread to the head area of the fly. Now wrap Estaz forward evenly and tie off with thread to form small head before cutting Estaz. Coat head with Flexament. Fish it like any minnow imitation.