

Fly Tying Bench - Popovics Jiggy *by Don Coleman*

This is a rerun from the December '07 issue of "On The Fly" but I think we all might enjoy reading some of Don's words again and this is a good fly for a winter outing. On December 20th SFF will honor the memory of member Don Coleman with the outing named for him at Ft DeSoto Park. Don always enjoyed the December outing and it would be a nice tribute to him to use the flies Don would have used. Don didn't develop any saltwater flies of his own that I know of. He did however; enjoy modifying existing flies that he thought he could improve. Generally it was simplifying the tying procedure. This time of the year most of our baitfish are small and bend-back flies would be a good choice. A fly similar to the bendback that Don introduced us to is Bob Popovic's Jiggy. Don was very fond of the Jiggy so we'll let him tell us how to tie it.*PS*

Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 34011 size 2
- Weight: Cone Head - ¼ inch copper or brass
- Wing: Bucktail – white and chartreuse
- Flash: Pearl Krystal Flash or Flashabou
- Eyes: stick-on (optional)

Here are Don's tying directions.

JIGGIES -- Being a firm believer in the logic of the "Occam's Razor" principle, I was convinced that Bob Popovics' new fly, the Jiggy, would be successful. Bob and Ed Jaworowski claim that they now tie and fish these simple flies more than any other fly in their fly boxes. Capt. Gene Quigley reports that more than 70 percent of the saltwater fish landed by his clients are now caught on Bob's simple Jiggy. But I was still unprepared for the success of fellow club members when fishing around the grass beds in Tampa Bay, where Clousers are prone to collect grass and debris. I tie the fly on a #2 Mustad 34011 hook with the barb mashed down and with a slight bend in the hook shank for a bendback fly. I use 1/4 inch (Large) Cone Heads. I find the tungsten cones too heavy. Usually I wrap a few turns of chenille around the shank and jam it into the cavity (of the cone head) to stabilize the cone. I then tie a simple bucktail wing--Chartreuse over White separated by pearl mylar flash material for example--directly behind the cone head and epoxy the wraps to form a taper up to the back edge of the cone. All material must be tied on the point side of the hook to make the fly swim point up. I make the overall length of the fly approximately 3 inches long. Depending on the color of the wing, I use either red or black Flat Waxed Nylon thread. I do not use stick-on eyes as recommended by Popovics. But where are the beautiful names of yesteryear--like Parmachene Belle, Royal Coachman, Wickman's Fancy and Greenwell's Glory?



Jiggy tied by Don Coleman - Photo by Paul Sequira

I know, the article describes a chartreuse over white Jiggy and the illustration is brown over yellow. (An excellent color combo in cold water.) Obviously this fly can be tied in any color combination you desire. As it turned out, this was the only unused Jiggy tied by Don that I had; the others are used and beat-up. I didn't have time to tie a new one and I wanted to use one of Don's flies anyway.