

## Fly Tying Bench — Inshore Keys Tarpon Fly *by Paul Sequira*

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What's in a name? Call it an Apte Tarpon Fly, a smaller version tied in all white hackle is known as a D.T. Special and is a great snook fly when they're active on the beach in the summer. Nonetheless, the tarpon fly tied in smaller sizes and various colors works well for many inshore species such as redfish, trout, snook and others. Here is a favorite of mine with a slight variation, marabou instead of saddle hackle wound on for the collar.

### Materials:

- **Hook:** Eagle Claw 254N sizes 1 or 2 (a short shank hook works well for this fly)
- **Tail:** 6 grizzly saddle hackles
- **Flash:** Pearl Flashabou
- **Collar:** Fiery brown marabou
- **Thread:** Black 3/0 flat waxed nylon



Inshore Keys Tarpon Fly, tied and photo - Paul Sequira

### Tying Instructions:

1. Pinch the barb down and secure the hook in the vise in the normal fashion.
2. Attach the thread approximately 1/3 of the length of the hook shank behind the eye.
3. Select 6 grizzly saddle hackles for the tail and arrange them into two sets. Attach one set on the near side of the hook at the tie-in point with the feathers splayed out. Attach the other pair on the far side of the hook once again with the feathers splayed out away from the hook shank. Cut and discard the excess hackle butts. The tail feathers should extend approximately twice the length of the hook beyond the bend.
4. Select 3 or 4 strands of pearl Flashabou and tie in at the mid-point with several wraps then fold the Flashabou over itself and secure with thread. Cut the Flashabou tips slightly shorter than the tail.
5. Move the thread forward just ahead of the tie in point. Select a brown marabou feather and holding it by the tip, strip the fibers off the stem towards the butt, from the point where the stem becomes very narrow. Tie the marabou feather in just ahead of the tail tie-in point, at the spot where you started stripping the stem. Cut the excess stem butt off and discard.
6. Grasp the tip of the marabou with your hackle pliers with your right hand and with your left hand; stroke the marabou fibers backwards towards the tail as you wrap the marabou around the hook shank. Take several turns until you create a nice full collar.
7. Wrap a neat bullet shaped head with the tying thread securing it with a whip finish. Coat the head with several applications of head cement.