

Fly Tying Bench — Pat's Bead Butt Baitfish *by Paul Sequira*

Pat's Bead Butt Baitfish (BBBF)

Capt. Pat Damico's BBBF is a fly he developed some time ago and has proven to be a very effective baitfish pattern that is easy to tie, cast and fish. It is constructed with a few modern synthetic materials, that are available wherever fly tying products are sold. This basically is a "high-tie" pattern using weight in the form of a bead located in an unusual position, the butt – hence the name Bead Butt. You're in for a treat with this installment of the "Tying Bench", you'll actually be able to see Pat tie this fly (and several others) by going to a very



Pat's Bead Butt Baitfish Fly tied and photo by Pat Damico

interesting website, <http://fishbuzz.tv.com> Once on the page, click on "Fly Fishing", then click on "Flies" then click on "Bead Butt Baitfish" and any others that you'd like to see demonstrated. Watch it as often as you need to get all of Pat's tying techniques and produce a fly that will work for you as it works for Pat.

Materials

- **Hook:** Mustad 34007 size #1 or equivalent
- **Thread:** Flat-waxed nylon 3/0 any color and clear ultra fine monofilament
- **Wing:** EP fibers or equivalent
- **Flash:** Fire Fly Tye or other fine flash material
- **Eyes:** stick-on prismatic eyes secured with Goop

Tying Instructions

1. Pinch the barb down and slide a brass bead onto the hook. Temporarily place the bead just behind the hook eye. Attach the flat-waxed nylon thread to the hook and wrap a bump of thread just ahead of the hook bend. Cut off the thread and coat the bump with a liberal amount of head cement

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(Dave's Fleximent is recommended) to secure the bead in place. Slide the bead back onto the thread bump.

2. Secure the mono thread on the hook just ahead of the bead.
3. Select a small bunch of white EP fibers. With your fingers, pinch out the fibers from the cut end to make the end taper. Fold the fibers over the mono thread at the mid-point and secure them to the hook with several wraps of mono.
4. Move the thread forward slightly and secure a 2nd bunch of EP fibers as in the previous step.
5. Select the flash material of your choice (i.e. Fire Fly Tye) remove a few fibers and tie in front of the last batch of EP fibers. Do not use too much flash material, a few strands is enough.
6. Select another color of EP fibers and separate a small bunch. Yellow is a good color to chose as you will find yellow in many baitfish. Move the thread forward slightly and tie in as before.
7. Now select a contrasting color of EP fibers for the back of the baitfish. If you are imitating back-country baitfish, a medium tan is a good choice, or chartreuse if you are creating a greenback imitation.
8. Throughout the wing building process, you should size your wing material to imitate the baitfish you are targeting. Also, you should use a small mustache comb to blend the fibers in. Finalize the shape of the wing by trimming the EP fibers with a scissors.
9. Wrap a nice tapered head and secure with a whip-finish, coat with head cement. Turn the fly over in your vise and run a bead of head cement on the mono thread wraps on the bottom of the hook to secure them.
10. With your dubbing needle, take a bead of Goop and place it on the backside of a stick-on prismatic eye. Press the eye onto the EP fibers just behind the head. Repeat on the other side of the fly.

Now go to fishbuzz.tv and watch Capt Pat's video. This is a simple and effective fly; Pat's demo will have you tying it in no time. Also check out his crab imitations as described in Pat's excellent "Reds, Shallow Water, Fly Rod." article on page 7.PS