

Fly Tying Bench — Mighty Myakka Minnow *by Steve Gibson*

This fly appeals to a variety of fish

The mighty Myakka Minnow was born out of desperation. When bluegill and bass are busting tiny minnows and you can't even elicit one hit, your brain begins to go into high gear.

I faced that situation many times on the Myakka River over the years. I knew the bass and bluegill were hungry and actively feeding, but I couldn't get them to hit any lure in my arsenal.

After a particularly frustrating outing, I returned home and immediately sat down at my fly-tying table and began working on a tiny minnow-like fly that might appeal to the fish when they're homed in on small baits.

Voila! I've come up with the Myakka Minnow. The fly is easy to tie, easy to cast, rugged and apparently very appealing to fish.

Many fly-fishers have asked me about the fly.

Here's the recipe:

- **Hook:** Tiemco 5262 No. 12
- **Thread:** Fine mono
- **Tail:** marabou or Krystal Flash
- **Body:** Spirit River Bodi-Braid
- **Eyes:** 3-D prism eyes

Tying instructions: Tie in tail of marabou or Krystal Flash and clip desired length. Tie in Bodi-Braid and wrap length of hook, building up into a minnow shape. Add 3-D eyes, then coat body with Devcon Two-Ton epoxy and allow to dry. I have a fly rotisserie which allows me to dry multiple flies.

For panfish, small flies work well. However, you can tie Myakka Minnows on different size hooks to match the bait on which fish are feeding.

Over the years, I have caught snook, little tunny, redfish, spotted seatrout, jack crevalle, ladyfish, bass, shellcracker, speckled perch, Mayan cichlids, oscars and tilapia on the Myakka Minnow.

I have even caught barramundi on them. For large fish such as little tunny, I use No. 2 Mustad 34011.



Mighty Myakka Minnow tied by Steve Gibson
Photo by Steve Gibson



Mighty Myakka Minnow with Krystal Flash tail
Photo Steve Gibson