

Fly Tying Bench — Little Brown River Clouser *by Paul Sequira*

A couple of years ago on a club outing (it may have been on the Withlacoochie but my memory fails me on that score) Mark Hays noticed that the river was full of small dark colored minnows. He had some success with a streamer but it wasn't as successful as hoped. We spoke about this and that week after thinking about the events of the outing I put together a small brown over tan Deep Clouser Minnow in several sizes. I gave the flies to Mark and promptly forgot about them.

Well, at last month's outing on the Hillsborough River, Mark put those flies to work (at least the ones he had left) and he cleaned upon bass, bream, mudfish and gars. Mark only had two of them left, he cut the beat-up one from his leader and gave it to Ken Hofmeister and hung on to the last unused one in his fly box.

Dubbed the "Little Brown River Clouser" I tie this fly in two configurations, high water with lead barbell eyes and low water with bead chain eyes. Last month, the Hillsborough was in a low water condition and Mark fortunately had the low water, bead chain eye version which sink slowly and not too deep in his fly box. I also use a heavy wire 1X long hook in three sizes; the size of the bead chain and/or lead barbell eyes to match the hook size. The dressing for the "Little Brown River Clouser" is below.



Little Brown River Clouser From top—size 6, 8, 10
Photo and tied by Paul Sequira

Materials:

- **Hook:** Mustad 3906B sizes 6, 8, 10 or any similar heavy wire bronze hook
- **Thread:** 3/0 waxed nylon tan for under wing, dark orange for wing
- **Under wing:** Tan deer tail
- **Wing:** Fiery brown deer tail
- **Flash:** Copper Krystal Flash
- **Eyes:** - Low water: brass bead chain, extra small, small and medium
- **Eyes:** - High water: yellow lead barbells extra small, small and medium

Tying Instructions:

Place hook in vise. Tie in thread with a jam knot approximately 1/4 shank length behind the hook eye. Make a small ball of thread at the rear of the tie-in point. With the hook right side up (point down), tie on bead chain or bar bell eyes directly in front of thread bump using a figure eight wrap. Place a drop of superglue or head cement on the thread after tying on the eyes.

With the hook still right side up (point down), tie in the under wing of the fly with a sparse bunch of tan bucktail. The wing should extend approximately half the length of the hook shank beyond the hook bend. Lash the bucktail down to the hook shank in front of and behind the barbell eyes. Tie off the tan thread with a couple of half hitches.

Turn the fly over so that it is upside down (point up). Attach the dark orange thread with a couple of half hitches. Tie in 6 to 8 strands of copper Krystal Flash using the fold-back method directly behind the hook eye. Trim the ends of this even with or slightly shorter than the bucktail. Do not trim the ends of the Krystal Flash even; you will get more sparkle if the ends are slightly different lengths.

Take a small bunch of brown bucktail and measure it along the hook shank so that it is equal in length to the under wing. Line up the tips up slightly and trim the butt ends even. Tie in the over wing of brown bucktail over the copper Krystal Flash directly behind the hook eye.

Wrap a neat tapered head, whip finish, cut the thread and the fly is finished. Give the head several coats of head cement.