

Fly Tying Bench — McVay's Gotcha *by Paul Sequira*

Several years ago I was preparing for a week in the Keys and looking forward to fishing for bonefish and permit on the flats in the Grassy Key area. Lefty Kreh was visiting John Homer's Salt Water Fly Fisherman shop in Clearwater and I had the opportunity to talk with Lefty about my upcoming trip. When asked what his favorite flies would be for the fishing I was planning, he recommended four flies: McVay's Gotcha, Brown Snapping Shrimp, Tan Clouser and Chartreuse Clouser. Those flies worked well in the Keys and I discovered that along with the others, the McVay Gotcha also worked very well for redfish right here in Tampa Bay.



Materials:

- **Hook:** Mustad 34007 size 2, 4
- **Thread:** Fluorescent or Gotcha Pink Danville Flat Waxed Nylon
- **Eyes:** silver bead chain 1/8" on size 4 or 5/32" on size 2 or 1/50th oz. lead barbells for fast sink
- **Tail:** Pearl mylar tubing combed out
- **Body:** Pearl diamond braid
- **Wing:** Yellow Krystal Flash over blond craft fur Note: The proper color is Mystic Bay Flies' "Light Gold" or Heritage Textiles "Blonde". When fishing dark bottoms, a red tinted orange wing can be used and when fishing mangrove shore lines a red tinted brown wing is useful.

Tying Instructions

1. Pinch the barb down and secure the hook in the vise in the normal fashion.
2. Attach the thread to the hook shank near the eye but leaving enough room to create an oversized pink nose. Make a small bump of thread and attach the eyes with a figure eight wrap. Bind all the wraps tight and apply a drop of head cement or super glue to lock in.
3. Attach a flattened piece of pearlescent mylar tubing onto the top of the hook shank behind the eyes, wrapping the thread all the way to the hook bend. Cut the excess off leaving a tail the same length as the hook shank. Brush out the frayed ends of the mylar. Wrap the thread back up to the bead chain.
4. Tie in the pearlescent diamond braid on top of the mylar tubing, binding it down to the shank with close wraps all the way to the hook bend, then wrap the thread back to the bead chain eyes again with close wraps to create a pink underbody so that it will show through after the body is wrapped. Wind the diamond braid forward to the bead chain eyes to complete the body.
5. Turn the hook over so that the point is now up. Select a medium sized bunch of craft fur and tie in the wing directly in front of the bead chain eyes. The wing should extend to the end of the tail. Select six strands of yellow Krystal Flash and tie in at the mid point folding the flash over to double them and secure with several wraps of thread. Cut off excess to match the length of the wing.
6. Form a longer than normal nose with the pink thread. Coat with several applications of head cement.