

# Fly Tying Bench — The Looking Good Shrimp *by Al Pitcher*

In the August Fly Tying Bench column, Al Pitcher gave us the terrific Grass Shrimp pattern. This month Al has submitted another excellent shrimp pattern — “The Looking Good Shrimp”. If you missed Al’s recent tying demonstration of this pattern, the top and side view pictures will give you a better idea of what the finished fly looks like.

## **Materials:**

**Hook:** Mustad 3407 size #1

**Weight:** Black or gold brass Dumb Bell eyes; small to medium

**Thread:** Bronze Danville’s Flat Waxed Nylon or equivalent

**Carapace:** Shrimp Colored Craft Fur and two large grizzly neck hackles; you will only use the front part of the hackle

**Shell:** Shrimp Colored Craft Fur

**Body:** Medium Olive Pearl Chenille

**Antennae:** Root Beer/Pearl Flashabou Accent

**Eyes:** Two pieces of 40# monofilament with the tips burned and colored with permanent marker or purchased mono eyes, your choice

**Glue:** Head cement, Hard as Hull, and Softex

## **Tying Instructions:**

**Step 1:** Tie a good base of thread back to the hook bend and then back towards the eye until just short of the hook eye. Turn the hook over and tie in the dumb bell eyes using figure-eight-wraps. Add a drop of Zap-a-Gap on the figure-eight-wrap.

**Step 2:** Tie in a small bunch of the craft fur slightly before the hook bend making sure it stays on top of the hook shank. Allow about ½” to extend beyond the hook bend and 1½” to extend beyond the hook eye. Secure the craft fur to the remainder of the hook shank back to the hook eye. Trim the tip ends of the craft fur that extends beyond the hook bend at an angle.

**Step 3:** Tie in the mono eyes adding a drop of Zap-a-Gap to the thread that secures the eyes.

**Step 4:** Tie in one grizzly neck hackle on either side of the eyes splayed outward being careful not to draw the thread too tight because you can easily cut the quill.

**Step 5:** Tie in the chenille and wrap it back to the point you tied in the dumb bell eye.

**Step 6:** Pull the remaining craft fur down over the top of the chenille, towards the hook bend, forming a shell and tie off at the eye of the hook. Tie in about three strands of the Flashabou Accent doubled over at the hook eye.

**Step 7:** Now take a few more wraps to secure the material and form a head; whip finish, cut the thread, and apply Hard as Hull to the head.

**Step 8:** Pull the craft fur and the Flashabou Accent forward, and apply a thin coat of Softex on top of the material at the hook eye to ½” forward of the hook eye.



Above: Looking Good Shrimp — side view

Below: Looking Good Shrimp — top view

Tied and photographed by Al Pitcher

