

Fly Tying Bench — Striped Anchovy by *Richard Oldenski*



Striped Anchovy natural
Photo: Richard Oldenski

Before I discovered the wonderful world of fly fishing, I fished with live bait. I would cast a net along the beach and catch an assortment of baitfish. I noticed that the striped anchovies were the bait preferred by most predator fish. As a fly fisherman, I tie this quick and simple fly to "match the hatch" and imitate a striped anchovy.

MATERIALS:

- **Hook:** Your favorite hook in size 1 or 2
- **Tail:** White bucktail and silver Flashabou
- **Body:** Pearl crystal chenille
- **Thread:** Black is best, but any color will do.
- **Optional:** Barbell eyes or cone head to add weight for surf fishing or deeper water



Richard's Striped Anchovy Fly. Photo and fly tied by Richard Oldenski

DIRECTIONS:

1. Wrap the hook with a complete wrap of thread.
2. Cut a match stick size clump of white bucktail, 1 or 2 times the length of the hook, and tie it at the curve of the hook to start the tail.
3. Cut 4 to 6 strands of silver Flashabou, about the same size as the bucktail, and tie them on top of the bucktail at the curve of the hook.
4. Repeat step 2 and tie this piece of bucktail above the Flashabou to finish the tail.
5. Cut a strip of crystal chenille 2 to 3 times the length of the hook. Tie one end of the chenille in front of the tail. Wrap the thread forward on the hook and stop just before the eye of the hook. Palmer the crystal chenille forward to form the body and tie it in just before the eye of the hook. Keep wrapping the thread to form an "eye".
6. Finally, tie the thread with your usual whip finish and apply head cement.
7. Go fishing.