

Fly Tying Bench - Predator by Paul Sequeira

What is your favorite bream fly? Currently mine happens to be the Foam Spider with the 1st runner-up being a #10 white or yellow popper. “Smitty” votes for his Crystal Beetle, and with good reason. All top water flies, where bream catching is the most fun, but did you ever hear of fishing a top water fly underwater?

Such a fly – the Morrisfoam Predator was originated by Skip Morris, a well-known custom rod builder, author, fly tyer and fly fisher from Portland, Oregon. Morris designed this fly for trout and bass. Fished on a full sinking line with a short leader, it rides just above the lake bottom on the retrieve and it catches trout and bass very effectively. To view step-by-step tying instruction pictures for the Morrisfoam Predator, go to:

<http://www.flyfishohio.com/predator.htm> The floating version described here, is tied much the same way.

As we all know, fly tyers are always seeing other possibilities with well-established flies. Chris Helms, a master creator of deer hair bass bugs, recognized that with a few material modifications, the Predator would make an excellent top water bream and bass fly. Chris was right; his top water version is an extremely effective fly.

Materials:

- **Hook:** Best tied on an extra long hook i.e. the 2x1 Mustad 9671
- **Thread:** 3/0 to match body color – very fine thread i.e. 6/0 tends to cut the foam
- **Tail:** (optional) a few very short pieces (about ½”) of Krystal Flash to compliment body color
- **Body:** Wapsi SLF (synthetic living fibers) dubbing in white, yellow, orange or fluorescent lime green
- **Shellback:** 2 mm thick closed cell foam to match body color
- **Eyes:** large plastic bead chain
- **Legs:** medium rubber, color to compliment body

Instructions:

1. Attach the thread with a jam knot about ¼” behind the hook eye and continue slightly down the hook bend in close even wraps. Return the thread to the starting point.
2. If you wish to use an optional tail, tie in 3 or 4 short pieces of Krystal Flash at the point on the bend before you make your return wrap to the starting point.
3. Tie a strip of closed cell foam to the top of the hook shank and wrap down the end of your thread wraps.
4. Spin some SLF dubbing on the thread and wrap forward to the original tie-in point. You want a fairly full body. Fold the foam over the top to make the shellback and tie off at your original tie-in point. Wrap the foam down tightly to just behind the hook eye. Do not cut off the excess foam.
5. Move the thread back slightly and tie in the plastic bead chain eyes with figure eight wraps.
6. Tie in at the mid-point, a pair of rubber legs (about 2” long each) on each side of the hook behind the eyes.
7. Spin on more SLF dubbing and wrap the head, covering the area where the eyes and legs are tied in.
8. Fold the foam back over the eyes and tie in behind the eyes.
9. Cut the excess foam to create a short tag on top of the fly.
10. Tie off the thread.



Paul Sequeira photo



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Foam Predators tied by Charlie Most