

Tying Bench - Dana Griffin's LA Freeway Fly by Paul Sequira

The LA Freeway Fly is one of those flies that came into existence by using up some materials that happened to be on Dana's tying bench one day. It turned out however, to be a very productive fly for bream, bass and many other warm water fish. What does it imitate you ask, well some say a wasp, others say a dragonfly. I say it represents any one of the larger insects we find around our warm water fisheries. What counts is that it looks like something good to eat to the fish. You can watch Dana tie this fly on You Tube, go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/FlyFishVideo#p/a/u/2/11FUv5AID-o>

Materials:

- Hook: any 3 X long hook such as Mustad 7672 - size your choice
- Thread: black 6/0 waxed
- Weight: thin lead wire (i.e. .015)
- Tail: two grizzly hackle tips dyed olive
- Body hackle: grizzly saddle hackle dyed brown, palmered
- Body: Ice Dub – golden brown
- Wing: two grizzly hackle tips dyed brown in down wing position
- Collar: grizzly hen hackle dyed dark red (burgundy)

Tying Instructions:

1. Mash down the barb and secure the hook in the vise in the normal upright position. Attach tying thread about ¼" behind the hook eye (for a size 8 hook) and lay in a thread base to the start of the hook bend.
2. Wrap the lead wire on the hook shank starting about 1/8" from the bend to the tie-in point. Be sure to leave the front of the shank bare. Now wrap several layers of thread covering the wire wraps to help secure them.
3. Select two olive dyed grizzly hackles of the same size and pair them up with the concave sides facing in for a tail. The tail should be equal to the length of the hook shank. Cut away the excess and tie them in by the butts on top of the hook shank in front of the bend.
4. Select one brown dyed grizzly hackle and tie it in by the tip (shiny side forward) to the side of the hook facing you and let it extend out the back. Match this feather to the size of the hook you're using, barb lengths should be approximately 1½ times the hook gape.
5. Starting at the tie in point of the tail, dub the golden brown Ice Dub to the thread in small batches. Waxing the thread helps the dubbing process. Now wrap the dubbing over the lead wire covered portion of the hook. Leave the front of the hook bare; do not go beyond the place where the lead wire ends.
6. Select two brown dyed grizzly hackles of the same size and pair them up at the tips with the concave sides facing in for the wing. The wing should be equal to the length of the hook shank. Cut off the excess butts and tie in where the dubbing ends in a down wing position; tips extending towards the tail.
7. Palmer the body with the brown dyed grizzly hackle from step #6, wrapping forward about 5 turns. Lift the wing out of the way for the final wrap and tie off the hackle under the hook, in front of the wing. Cut and discard the excess palmering hackle. *Note: With today's excellent saddle hackle, you can probably use the excess hackle to tie several more flies.*
8. Select a dark red (burgundy) dyed grizzly hen hackle, remove the fluff at the butt and tie it in by the stem in front of the wing. Take 4 or 5 turns to form a collar and tie it off.
9. Make a neat small bullet shaped head, whip finish and apply several coats of head cement.

