

Tying Bench - Tap's Bass Bug *by Paul Sequira*

H. G. Tapply was a featured columnist for Field and Stream magazine for over 35 years. Each month he wrote "how-to" articles and his "Taps Tips" column consisting of a handful of tips about the outdoors. He also wrote hunting and fishing books, feature articles and presented outdoor seminars. "Tap" Tapply was one of my favorite outdoor writers. Tap's Bass Bug presented here is a simple to tie deer hair bug that casts easily and is as effective today as it was when he developed it.



Materials

- Hook – Mustad 3366, Size 6 to 1/0
- Thread – Danville Flatwaxed Nylon or Uni Thread 3/0 - white or yellow
- Tail – Bucktail - twice the hook shank. length
- Body – Spun and trimmed deer body hair, color your choice. This example uses white and yellow. Natural deer hair with a red band at the head is also a good choice.

Tying Instructions

1. Tie in the thread with a jam knot above the hook barb keeping most of the hook shank bare. Deer hair spins easier on a bare shank
2. Select a small bunch of bucktail that is fine & straight from the end of the tail up towards the tip. Trim the butt ends and tie in by the butts with tight wraps right above the hook point. The bucktail should be about twice the length of the hook shank.
3. Select a batch of deer body hair and remove any under fur. The white fur from the belly spins best Tie in a bunch of deer hair about the thickness of a pencil. Clip the fine ends off the hair before you spin it - they don't flare or float and need to be cut.
4. Hold a "pencil sized" bunch of cleaned deer body hair at a 45° angle to the side of the hook shank facing you. Take two or three loose wraps of thread around the center of the bunch of hair. Pull the thread down slowly while releasing the hair from your left hand. The deer hair will spin around the hook shank and flare under the pressure. Work a couple of thread wraps to the front of the flared hair.
5. Repeat the steps 3 & 4 above until you've covered the shank leaving space for the front band - about ¼ inch. Half hitch the thread and use a drop of head cement to secure the materials.
6. Select a contrasting color of deer body hair; yellow or red is a good choice. Spin on the contrasting deer body hair at the head of the bug as described above.
7. Pack the hair tightly and tie a neat small head behind the hook eye. The next step is to trim the body shape. Work slowly while you trim, you can always take some more hair off, but you can't put any back on. You may use scissors or a razor blade (a double edge blade broken lengthwise works best) to trim the body.
8. The first cut is flat on the underside of the hook. Cut away enough material to open the hook gap to allow enough room to hook the fish. Continue to work the fly in the round, making small and fine cuts with your scissors or razor blade. Trim the body to a conical shape as seen in the picture and use your scissors to trim around the tail and face of the bug. Secure the thread wraps at the head with head cement and the bug is finished.
9. Coat the face of the fly with a little Flexement to stiffen it a bit. This will let you pop the bug on the surface.