

Tying Bench - Dayle's Devil by Dayle Mazzarella

A discussion of the history of this fly will be found on page 8.

Materials:

- Hook: 2/0 to 6 1X to 3X long. Make sure the hook is sharp! For longer heads you need a
- longer hook
- Thread: Danville's 210 Denim Flat Nylon
- Body: The materials vary to suit the fly as described in the tying instructions below

Tying Instructions:

1. Tie a full stem of strung Maribou on to the bend of the hook. I use white, cream, or tan, depending on the type of bait being imitated. For sculpins I use cream or tan. Leave the first half of the hook bare. For smaller hooks less Maribou will be needed. On smaller hooks I now use raccoon. For large flies, 2 stems may be required.
2. Place Flashabou either on each side or on top of the maribou. I prefer it on top for sculpins as they don't have a lot of Flash on the sides. For whitebait, mullet, etc., flash on the sides is okay dependent on water clarity, etc.
3. Place two schlappen feathers on each side of the maribou - marry them. Colors range from olive, brown or even black depending on the river. I also use hen feathers for smaller flies.
4. Place 1 schlappen feather on top. Make sure it sits flat. I use the same or slightly darker feather as it is placed on the sides - for greenbacks, I use olive, for mullet I use grey or brown. For sculpins, I often use brown or black.
5. Put some head cement on what you have done so far. Wrap a few wraps of RUMF white or beige body fur or rabbit crosscut fur to about 1/2 of the way to the front. Make sure the fibers lay back as you palmer forward.
6. Pick a big, juicy schlappen feather (note: soft hen hackles can be used for this and steps 3 and 4. They just don't undulate as well.) I use white or cream. Palmer the feather with the curve to the back. Tie it off, pull it back and create a soft hackle look that extends over the bend of the hook. (Note: This hackle can be tied with a red feather, one of my favorite variations is an all white fly with a red soft hackle behind the head.)
7. Spin your deer hair to close to the eye of the hook. I use a beached white for greenbacks, and natural for everything else. (An all Black Devil has caught a few Cobia.)
8. Trim the hair. The bottom must be totally flat. You can use a razor or a pair of scissors. Trim the top back at a 45 degree angle and trim and angle the sides to match the creature you are imitating. For greenbacks, the head is trimmed to be as streamlined and narrow as possible. Mullet are left somewhat wider and sculpins 2 X as wide as the body of the fly. The fat, flat head and prominent dorsal fins need to be imitated.
9. Put head cement into the hair on top and below. This ensures the fly doesn't lose its shape after repeated use.
10. Add eyes and a weed guard if desired. I use holographic eyes that are fairly large. I put them on with epoxy or liquid fusion, which I find considerably easier to use than epoxy.

Editor's Note: If you are unfamiliar with the term schlappen, these are the feathers that grow on the backs of roosters. They reside between the end of the saddle hackles and the start of the tail. These feathers are very soft and webby, generally with hackle fibers that are much wider than the feathers we refer to as saddle hackle.



A typical Dayle's Devil, tied by the author.

Sequira photo