

## Tying Bench - Gibby's DT Variation by Steve Gibson

*As so often happens, a good fly spawns other good flies, sometimes better than the original. Steve Gibson developed his Gibby's DT Variation based upon the DT Special which is simply an all white version of the Stu Apte Tarpon Fly, aka Keys Tarpon Fly. In his quest for snook sight fishing on the beach, Steve used an all white Lefty's deceiver with good success for years. Then another guide gave him a DT Special and said this is the only fly you'll ever need. Steve found the fly to be excellent but over the years made modifications to it that suit his style of fishing and work extremely well for him. ....PS*

### **Materials:**

- Hook: Mustad 34007 size # 4 to # 1
- Thread: White flat-waxed monochord
- Tail: Four white neck hackles (facing) tied in at rear of hook
- Collar: One white neck hackle palmered and laid back
- Flash: Two strands of pearl Krystal Flash
- Eyes: 3D Prism Stick-On Eyes
- Coating: Devcon 2-Ton Epoxy.

### **Tying Instructions:**

1. Mash the barb down on a size 2 Mustad 34007 hook and secure in the vise in the normal fashion. Attach the 3/0 white monochord thread at the rear of the hook shank just ahead of the bend with a jam knot.
2. Select 4 white neck hackles and make 2 pairs with the curve facing inward. (Do not splay the feathers outward as in the Keys Tarpon Fly.) Size the feathers appropriately for the hook size you are using by cutting away the excess butt section. For a number 2 hook the tail should be approximately 2 inches long.
3. Cut away the excess feather fibers. Place the butts on top of the hook shank at the thread tie-in point and secure the feather butts to the hook shank with several tight wraps. Be sure that the feathers are laying straight and not tilted to one side. Tilted feathers will result in the fly not tracking straight on the retrieve.
4. Select two or three strands of pearl Krystal Flash and fold them over the thread approximately in the middle of the strands. Secure them to the hook shank directly in front of the tail feathers and separate the flash strands so that you have an equal number of strands on each side of the tail feathers. You may substitute other colors of Krystal Flash to more closely imitate the prevalent baitfish but pearl is an excellent all around color.
5. Select another white neck hackle with fibers slightly longer than the ones used for the tail. Remove the fluff from the base of the feather and tie it in on top of the hook shank by the butt directly in front of the tail feathers. Palmer this feather with approximately 5 or 6 close wraps and tie it off with several wraps of thread. Cut away the excess feather and take several more wraps of thread laying the fibers back.
6. Make a substantial head with thread wraps large enough to secure a 3D prism Eyes. Tie off and cut away the white thread.
7. Attach the 3D Prism Eyes, one to each side of the head.
8. Attach red thread to the hook shank in front of the head and wrap a band of thread about 1/8th of an inch long.
9. Coat the head, eyes and red band with Devcon 2-ton epoxy. *(Avoid the quick setting [5 minute, 12 minute etc] varieties, they will just turn brown in a very short time. The 2 hour cure will stay clear much longer. I personally use rod wrapping epoxy finish; this stays clear permanently and will never discolor. ....PS.)*



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