

Tying Bench — Shrimpf Fly Smitty's Variation by Layne Smith

Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 3407, S71S, C70S or equivalent stainless saltwater hook, size 2 - 8.
- Thread: Flat waxed nylon (choice of colors).
- Maxilla: Pink, Pearl or UV Krystal Flash.
- Back & hackle: Nylon paint brush bristles approximately 2½ to 4 inches long (size to hook).
- Body: Wide pearlescent Flashabou.
- Eyes: Silver bead chain. For less weight I use pearl craft beads in the small sizes.
- Cement: Sally Hanson's Hard as Nails and some form of CA cement like Locktite, Fletchtite or Zap-a-Gap.



Shrimpf Fly tied by Layne (Smitty) Smith
Sequira photo

Tying Steps:

1. Lay down a thread base. Tie a small cluster of crystal flash fibers to the hook securing the fibers slightly past the beginning of the hook bend (12 to 24 strands depending on hook size and how bulky you want the fly to be). Trim the Krystal Flash to extend 1/3 to 1/2 the hook shank length past the bend of the hook. Advance thread to 1/4 inch back from hook eye. Lay down a bead of your favorite CA cement to cover thread wraps.
2. Select a small cluster of paint brush bristles (25 to 40 depending on hook size and desired bulk). These bristles should be approximately 2½ times your hook shank length. Tie the bristles to the hook, butt ends first, securing it in place about 1/4 inch behind hook eye then back to hook bend with fairly tight wraps (nylon is slippery).
3. Tie in a strand of wide, flat pearlescent tinsel, securing it to the same place on the hook bend.
4. Tie in the bead chain eyes on top of the tinsel using figure-8 wraps to secure them to the hook. Advance thread to front of bristle butt ends.
5. Pull the bristles over the top of the hook, between the bead chain eyes and secure it tightly in front of bristle butt ends. Continue wrapping to hook eye allowing bristles to encircle hook shank. "Important": Return thread to butt ends. It will make it easier to tie down bristles without sliding off end of "slick" bristles.
6. Start wrapping the tinsel. Your first wrap should pass between the eyes then under the hook and eyes covering the thread used to secure the eyes. Continue for a couple of figure eight wraps around the eyes then wrap a smooth tinsel body all the way to the thread wraps at the eye of the hook. When you have the body finished, tie the tinsel off and trim.
7. Pull the bristles back toward the tail (it should extend half the distance from the hook bend to the tail).
8. Flare the bristles into an evenly shaped circle around hook shank (adjust bristles if needed with fingers to form the circle).
9. I use a wide mouthed half hitch tool like a hair packer to fold bristles back toward hook bend and to hold the bristles in place while you secure it to the hook building an even head as you tie it down. If done properly the butt ends will help to flare bristles out like "a palmered hackle".
10. Whip finish and cement the body and head. Your finished fly will swim with the hook point up.