

## Tying Bench — Jerk Minnow by Craig Crumbliss

**F**ly Fisherman in Florida really need truly weedless flies, whether you're casting into the mangrove shorelines or fishing through lily pads and hydrilla there are thousands of ways to snag a fly in our Florida waters.

There are several ways to tie weedguards with either a mono loop our double or single mono post that can be effective as weedguards but also unfortunately are "fish guards" as well, often preventing a solid hookset. Popular flies such as the Clouser Minnow which are tied to ride hook point up are also effective in steering clear of the weeds.

My idea when designing the Jerk Minnow was to tie a pattern that was effectively weedless on its own. This is accomplished by using a worm style hook made by Eagle Claw and sold by DOA lures. This hook has a little longer neck than similar worm hooks so it allows the tier to have space to tie the fly. Initially these flies were tied with Enrico Puglisi fibers but I've since changed to Steve Farrar Flash Blend because it's a little stiffer and not as likely to foul.

The Jerk Minnow is true to its name and swims like an unweighted soft plastic jerk bait. The flie's profile can be trimmed to match any size baitfish or thinner for a more wormy profile. I will fish this fly on a floating line to cover the upper 6"-18" or on a sink tip line to get it down a little deeper.

### Materials List

- Hook: DOA Long Neck 3.5/0 or 5/0
- Thread: Mono
- Body: Steve Farrar Flash Blend
- Eyes: EP Solid Plastic Eyes

### Step-by-Step

1. Wrap a base of thread from the eye down to the bend.
2. Tie in the first clump of material on the top of the hook shank near the bend of the hook. You will want to tie down the material right in the middle then fold it back similar to tying an EP minnow.
3. Tie in the second clump of material directly under the first with half of it splayed to either side of the hook.
4. Repeat this two step process twice. When tying on the smaller 3.5/0 hooks I'll cut the material in half for this step.
5. Form a nice head and whip finish.
6. Trim the body to your desired profile and add markings with a sharpie.
7. Glue the eyes on with Zap-A-Dap-A-Goo

Captain Craig Crumbliss  
Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Guide/Instructor  
FFF—Certified Casting Instructor  
Cell: 863-232-9719  
Email: [nomotorguide@yahoo.com](mailto:nomotorguide@yahoo.com)  
Web: [www.nomotorguideservice.com](http://www.nomotorguideservice.com)



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