

Tying Bench – Sassy Sally Cichlid Fly by Paul Sequira

"Tie a few so you'll be ready for SFF's Glades assault next spring"

"A few months ago, Florida Sportsman magazine featured the Sassy Sally Cichlid Fly (I'll call it the SSCF) designed by Ron Kowalyk. It really got my attention because I had never seen a fly designed specifically to



catch cichlids and the other exotics that we have swimming in the canals along I-75 and the southern end of the Tamiami Trail (US 41). Besides the native large mouth bass, bluegills and stump knockers, etc. that live there, we have Mayan and Midas cichlids, Oscars and Peacock Bass. That's right. Peacocks aren't bass at all; they are cichlids. These exotics are all very aggressive feeders and will eagerly hit flies that represent the juvenile members of their own species as well as any others. I know they haven't been too plentiful these last couple of years because of the two unusually cold winters we've had, but they will be back in strong numbers as our winters normalize. These non-native fish will hit surface lures, but you'll get a lot more action

from them with subsurface flies such as small streamers, Clousers and flies like the SSCF.

"I found this fly very easy to tie although not easy to make pretty; however, I don't believe the fish care how pretty our flies are. I tied the half dozen pictured in about 45 minutes.

Materials

- Hook: Mustad 3906B or any heavy wire hook in sizes 1 to 4
- Thread: 6/0 Unithread - color to match body
- Tail: Bucktail - color your choice
- Overtail: red yarn
- Flash: Few strands of Krystal Flash - color to compliment tail
- Body: wool yarn or medium Ultra Chenille – color your choice
- Hackle: Dyed Grizzly to complement body
- Eyes: small or medium bead chain

Ron recommends combinations of yellow, orange, chartreuse or brown bodies and tails as being very productive for him and suggests that you experiment with whatever color combinations you find pleasing.



Tying Instructions

1. Wrap the hook shank with thread from just behind the eye to the start of the hook bend and back to the starting point.
2. Tie in the bead chain eyes using figure eight wraps just behind the hook eye. Leave some room for a finished head.
3. Tie in a small bunch of bucktail (about 1½ times the hook shank length) just above the hook point and back to the start of the bend. Add a few strands of Krystal flash and a small plume of bright red yarn above the tail extending to about ½ the tail length. Use a black Sharpie permanent marker to add a small vertical stripe to simulate an ocellus (from the Latin oculus (eye), and literally means "little eye").
4. Tie in a dyed grizzly saddle hackle by the tip at the start of the hook bend and leave hanging towards the rear.
5. Tie in a length of Ultra chenille (or wool yarn) where you tied in the hackle tip. Wrap the chenille forward to the bead chain eyes and tie off. Clip the excess chenille. Palmer the grizzly saddle hackle forward evenly spaced for about 5 turns. Clip and discard the excess hackle.
6. Wrap a small neat bullet shaped head, coat with head cement and you are done.