

Tying Bench - DNA Minnow by TOM JONES

This little fly has become my go-to fly, especially for lighted dock fishing. Over the past year I have consistently caught more fish, larger fish, and more varied fish than with any other fly in my arsenal. One night, all on the same fly, I caught a couple of legal trout, a slot size redfish, a grouper, and a large sheepshead. It's a small fly (only 1 3/4-inches long) on a small hook but it has an offset point so it will dig into lips where other flies miss. Mash the barb down, of course. That's easier on the fish and easier on you. Or, you could call 911. Also read Dr. Oldenski's detailed instructions in a previous issue about how to rescue yourself.



Materials

Hook: Eagle Claw 066NF-6 2X Long

Thread: White

Body: DNA Holo Fusion, White

Eyes: Self-adhesive mirage eyes

Epoxy: Clear. I like Z-Poxy because it doesn't turn yellow.



Tying Instructions

1. Start with the right hook. This is a small hook but the offset point gives it a hook-set advantage that other small hooks do not have.
2. Tie on about 4-inches of DNA Holo Fusion (white) -- it has its own flash, built-in -- just before the bend of the hook, leaving half of the material forward.
3. Fold back the forward half of the DNA and wrap a small head of thread to force it straight back. I don't really think it makes much difference how you trim the tail as I have caught plenty of fish with a squarely bobbed tail. But I like to trim them at an angle as shown in the photo. Finished size is about 1 3/4-inches.
4. Stick on the smallest, flat self-adhesive mirage eyes you have just between the head and the DNA material.
5. Drop a small amount of clear epoxy (or whatever clear coating you prefer) on the top, bottom and sides. Rotate it until the epoxy sets up, about 3-5 minutes. I rushed the epoxy-drying in the pictured fly and you can tell that it's sagging.

