

Tying Bench - Green/Gold Bendback by Leigh West, TBFFC

I designed and use this fly as an alternative to a gold spoon. It's very easy to tie. Because it's a bendback, it's virtually weedless and maintenance-free. It doesn't resemble any type of baitfish. It just happens to look right in place over the grass flats and yellow sand "potholes" of Tampa Bay and Florida's Gulf coast flats. The Flashabou sides give the fly a lot of flash and movement even when it's worked slowly. This fly works well on redfish, snook, and trout. Scale down the proportions and use a smaller hook for fall and winter, clear water situations, and for tailing redfish. Leigh West



Materials

Hook: Mustad 34007 or Tiemco TMC 411S, #4 - 2/0

Thread: Brown Kevlar or floss

Body: Gold Flashabou, olive or clear medium vinyl rib (can also use clear or brown monofilament, 30-40 lb, e.g.)

Wing: Natural bucktail (the brown hair near end of tail) or brown-dyed bucktail, gold Flashabou, peacock herl.

Tying Sequence

Step 1: If using the Mustad hook (411S is already bent), bend the hook into a bendback shape by placing the hook in a pair of pliers and bending the hook (starting about 1/8-1/4" behind the eye, depending on hook size) so that the unbent portion by the eye aligns with the barb of the hook.

When the fly is finished, the point will be hidden in the wing of the fly, but there will still be enough exposed point to hook the fish. Secure the hook in the vice so that the point is facing up, but is level with the hook eye.



Step 2: Where the hook starts to bend around towards the point secure about five long strands of Flashabou, followed by a 3 - 4" piece of vinyl rib.

Step 3: Wrap the thread up to the bent area just behind the hook eye.

Step 4: Wrap the Flashabou forward, covering the thread base wrap completely. Secure at the bend.

Step 5: Do the same for the vinyl rib, with the flat side of the material towards the hook. Secure the front of the body, and coat the body with head cement for durability.

Step 6: Wing the fly with alternating layers of Flashabou and brown bucktail, and top that with a generous amount of peacock herl. The wing should be about one and a half times the length of the hook.

Step 7: Finally, place a lateral line of a few strands of gold Flashabou on the sides, between the bucktail and herl.

Step 8: Build up the head and coat with head cement.