

Smitty's Fly Box: Redheaded Step-Minnow



Layne (Smitty) Smith

This is a simple-to-tie fly pattern to imitate small minnows. It is tied in proven fish-catching colors-- **RED & WHITE**-- with a little eye-catching flash. Why is it called the "red-headed step-minnow?" I named it after the old expression about the "red headed step-child" who was the ugly duckling of the family, always shunned in place of the more popular of the children, but ends up being the beautiful "Swan" that saves the day! Fish it. I



Redheaded Step-Minnow

think this fly will save the day for you.

Materials

Hook: Gamakatsu SC15 #1/0
Thread: Danville Flatwaxed Nylon Red
Body: White or pale gray Senyo Laser Dub
Flash: Pearl Emulator Flash
Wing: Tan Senyo Laser Dub
Eyes: 3/32" silver
Glues: Solarez Thick and "Bone Dry" UV Resin

Tying sequence

1. Prepare laser dubbing by taking a small clump then separate out a little more than you need and roll and pull apart from both ends continually repositioning so both ends match up. You should be left with a piece with both ends tapered and aligned.
2. Wrap prepared laser dub around standing thread and align ends. Tie down and secure by tying back to bend of hook then returning to tie-in point.
3. Add emulator flash so it extends just past the tail-end of laser dub. Tie down with a few wraps of thread. Fold back tag end of emulator flash and tie down with a few forward thread wraps then trim off butt ends.
4. Repeat steps 1&2 with tan laser dub.
5. With your thread create a smooth cone shaped head (try to not advance thread forward past original tie-in point). When satisfied, whip finish and cut.
6. Attach eyes on each side at the rear portion of the head (make sure they are even). Add a drop of thick resin on top touching both eyes then cure to secure. Repeat on bottom.
7. Coat head, smoothing resin with bodkin and cure. Overcoat with Bone-Dry and cure.

Smitty