
FLY OF THE MONTH

Holiday Edition

SANTA RECIPE -- by Scott Sanchez

Hook:	Gold Eagle Claw Aberdeen 202 EL, sz 1/0. (Gold hooks)
Thread:	White Gudebrod, sz 6., or 3/0
Beard:	White crosscut magnum rabbit strip or cut from a hide.
Nose:	An oval-cut piece of pink 2 mm foam.
Eyes:	1/4-inch plastic pearl beads with pupils painted on them.
Hair:	White deer belly hair.
Hat:	White and red deer belly hair flared on hook.
Pipe:	Small black Rainey's cylinder foam with a tooth pick inserted in it.

Smash barb, cut off the point or super glue a glass or metal bead on the point for safety. Make a rather full beard from pure white rabbit skin. Scott's recipe calls for the beard to be cut from a magnum cross-cut rabbit strip. It needs to be at least $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide. I cut mine directly from a rabbit skin. Start with a square, about 5/8-inch by 5/8 inch. You should taper one side to make a smaller tie in point on the rabbit skin. I tried to make a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch flat area and took off about 1/8 inch of hide from each corner.



You do not want to have a long thread base on a hook that you want to spin deer hair on. Attach the thread with a jam knot on the shank at the bend of the hook. Make about 6 wraps of thread almost on top of each other and add some super glue. Attach the tapered section of the beard on top of the thread, press the leather around the hook and tie down securely with 6 or 7 wraps of thread. Keep the tie in point as small as possible. Make a half hitch or two and then super glue the thread wraps. Now think about the proportions of Santa's head and where the red hat should start. Santa's beard will hide the chin. You'll have to spin 5 to 7 small clumps of white deer hair

for the face and brim of the hat. Cut sections of deer hair about the size of a #2 pencil and make sure clean to out the under-fur with a comb. Stacking is optional. Leave the pointed tips on the clumps and start wrapping them with the tips toward the beard. You will want the long pointed tips to blend in with the beard on the sides and back of the head. The hat must be fairly long, so you will have to start spinning the red deer hair just past the mid-shank position. Mark the gold hook shank with a black Sharpe pen at the mid point to let you know when to stop. If you do not leave enough room, the

hat will look like a beanie. It might take 5 or 6 clumps of red deer hair to make the hat, depending on the size and how tight you pack the deer hair. When you get about 3/16-inch from the eye you will add two medium clumps of white deer hair for the ball at the end of the hat. Whip finish and trim off the thread.

Trimming - The difficult part of this pattern is the trimming of the face and the hat without cutting off the brim of the hat. Start by using your scissors to rough cut the fly into a large cylinder to get rid of the wild hairs and see clearly where the red begins. The brim of the hat needs to be almost 3/16 inch

continued on page 6

