

FLY OF THE MONTH

Bob Clouser's Deep Minnow

- Hook:** Small standard saltwater, TMC 800S, (Try a Gamakatsu B102 stinger) size 6
Thread: White, 3/0 or 210 denier flat waxed nylon or Kevlar (strong thread)
Eyes: Lead or Nickle dumb bell eyes, heavy for the hook size.
Zap A Gap: Glue to hold the eyes with minimal thread base.
Wing: 2 strands of silver holographic Flashabou - folded to make 4
2 strands of pearl Krystal Flash - folded to make 4
15 to 20 fibers of white buck tail, or long calf tail fibers - 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch to 2 inch long.
Weed Guards: Two segments of 25 to 30 pound hard monofilament fishing line. Flatten tips. (Opt)

Suzy LaHitte has been having good luck in the SD Bay with this little 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch bait fish pattern. She reports that she has been catching a variety of species including: mackerel, croaker, bass and baby halibut. It is not surprising because it has everything Louie Zimm likes in his little baby anchovy patterns. Note the large heavy lead eyes and the very sparse body that just gives the impression of those almost clear bodied bait fish. It sinks very rapidly through the water column. Note it does not have a tail or even thread on the bare hook. Louie likes to bounce his bay patterns in the palm of his hand. If the weight to body material ratio is not correct, he will discard the bulky fly. Another mentor, Tom Smith, would count the number of bucktail fibers for the sparse trout clousers. 15 fibers were used for the tail and 15 for the wing. This fly has about 20 buck tail fibers, 4 strands of silver Flashabou and 4 strands of pearl Krystal Flash in the single wing. Tom would like it for trout, bass or salt water species.



Steve Piper suggests the club should purchase Bob Clouser's new book, Fly Fishing for Small Mouth Bass. It has many recipes and the background stories of many great Clouser patterns. Steve also recommends we tie some Clousers on the Gammie B10S stinger. "The Sweetest Hook Out There Right Now."

Since this fly does not have a full tight thread base, I would add a drop of head cement on the hook shank $\frac{1}{4}$ inch behind the hook eye, the location where the dumbbell eyes will be placed. Start the very tight thread base with a jam knot and wrap back to about the 2/3 hook shank mark. Leave the back of the hook bare and shiny silver. The heavy dumb bell eyes are now attached on top of the hook shank with figure 8 thread wraps followed by some U shaped lashing wraps. The weight will invert the fly and make it run hook point up. Leave enough room between the hook eye and the dumb bells for attaching the wing. Leave a little extra room if you decide to add two heavy mono weed guards. I would make these

continued on next page



Fly of the Month

continued from previous page

flies like an assembly line. Add the eyes to 6 to 10 hooks and Zap-a-Gap the thread connections. Let the glue dry before putting them back in the vise to add the wings. The wings are simple. Take two 4" strands of silver flat flashabou and hold them by each end. While the heavy thread bobbin is hanging in front of the lead eyes, slide the middle of the flash up against the thread and pull it up and over the hook shank. The tight thread should trap it without the mess of trying to tie down flimsy, electro-static prone material. (I love that trick.) Make one or two thread wraps over the material fold while pulling the fibers to the rear and between the lead eyes. Do the same trick for the two strands of krinkled pearl Krystal Flash. (Many people like to use both flat flash and the krinkled flash to give the impression of the lateral line and scales.) Now for the sparse wing, pick 15 to 20 long white buck tail fibers. Clean and stack them to even the pointed tips. The total fly length is only $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch on the size 6 hook. I like to trim the buck tail to length before I tie it down. Some trim it after. Manipulate the hair into a tight bundle and cut it at a slight angle to give you that desired taper in the head. If the angle is too tapered you will not have enough thread wraps on some of the fibers and the middle of your tails will pull out. Bob Clouser only ties down the front half of the buck tail head, leaving room for the epoxy to flow under and around the wing and into the base of the lead eyes. He laughs when he sees someone teaching his fly patterns and wrapping the entire area in front of the eyes, like I do. Someone

told him "he" was tying the Clouser Minnow incorrectly. If you tie the buck tail all the way up to the hard dumbbell eyes you sometimes bend the hair up. I don't usually epoxy my clouser minnows, unless I am dredging the sand in the surf or bouncing them off rocky bottoms on the Delaware. Zap-A-Gap and head cement seem to work for flies in the bays.

Weed guards should be added to some of these patterns for use near the eel grass. When half way through making the tapered thread head add two sections of heavy clear hard mono, like Mason's Leader material. Take your flat nosed pliers and pinch down the tips to flatten and make an L shaped connection plate. Place the mono at about a 60 degree angles like you were adding wings to a dry fly. Clip them to length, just longer than the point of the hook. Fine piano or guitar wire can also be used.



"Gammie" Stinger B10S Hook - a sharp hook with a wide gap, might help.

Labeled a "stinger" design, this awesome Gamakatsu B10S Hook handles any job you can dream up for a wide-gap sproat design. Outstanding for deer hair bass bugs, Clouser Minnow variations, Steelhead Skaters, Bunny

Sculpins, extended body hoppers, stoneflies and more. Super-sharp point with a black nickel finish. 25 per pack. \$5.99 to 7.99 per pack.

