

FLY OF THE MONTH

Alberto Salvini's Squid

I learned this squid pattern from Italian fly tier, Alberto Salvini, at the 2002 Marriott's Fly Fishing Show. Alberto says it is a good pattern for tuna and blue water fish that like squid. It looks like a good pattern for a shadow box or a desktop display. It can be tied in white or tans and browns. Notes by Lucky Ketcham, San Diego Fly Fishers, 2/11/2006.

Hook: Long shank salt water hook. I used a Wapsi Pencil Popper hook, Size #1 with a 2 ½ inch long hook shank. I size 1/0 or 2/0 would have been better.

Thread: White heavy thread 3/0 or 210 denier, flat waxed nylon

Tentacles: Long white hackles, pearl Krystal Flash, silver flat Flashabou

Weight: Flat end dumbbell eyes and lead wire on shank, cover with white or tan yarn.

Eyes: Large ½ inch or larger, 3/D epoxy eyes, stick-on.

Underbody: Pearl or tan Cactus Chenille, medium or large

Mantle: White polyester fibers. Alberto says he looks for inexpensive white poly macramé cord and separates it into ¼ inch strands. Brush out with heavy bodkin and then a wire dog hair brush. I used Aunt Lydia's poly yarn for the above fly. It would be easier with standard EP Fibers.

Extras: Wire dog hair brush, Super Glue, Softex (or Silicone, or Goop), Black Sharpe Pen, silver and pearl glitter or Fish Candy Glitter. Add silicon or Softex in a well vented room.



Smash the barb and mount the hook in a study vise. Apply some head cement to the hook shank, attach the thread behind the eye and wrap to the bend of the hook. Alberto did not use a lead dumbbell for his pattern and just used many wraps of thread to build the head and get a graceful splay of the long white hackles. (Since I was only using a size 1 hook, I decided to use the dumbbells for weight and also to keep the bulk of the head on top of the hook without reducing the hook gap.) Wrap the thread back to above the point of the hook and make a small saddle of thread to hold the dumbbell eyes. About 23 wraps of thread on each bump will make a nice cradle or saddle. Place the eyes on top of the hook and secure with figure 8 and lashing wraps. Apply some Super glue to the thread wraps. Wrap some lead wire on the middle of the hook shank to balance and add weight to the fly. Stop about ¾ inch behind the eye. Wrap a cocoon of thread and apply head cement to seal the

lead. Bring thread back to the eyes. Attach a 3-ply strand of white or tan poly yarn and wrap over the hook shank, stopping at the ¾ inch mark. Wrap thread back to the bend to prepare for the head.

Select some nicely shaped curved white hackle and trim them to about 4 ½ inches, removing some of the fluff for a good tie down. Take three long hackles and attach them at the bend of the hook with 8 or 10 wraps of thread. Add some super glue and make a few more wraps of thread. Add three or four more curved hackles, taking the time to position them to sides and up from the others. Add four or five strands of Silver Holographic Flashabou to each side of the hackle head, trim to about 4 inches. Build the head a little more with thread. I did not want to use up all my thread on a head so I added a small amount of scrap EP fibers as a dubbing before adding the last pair of hackles. For those of you that actually fish with your flies, it might not be important, but

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for a display fly, the hackles need to be separated to get the curve of the hackles to look like Alberto's. I even attached the last two hackles in front of the dumbbell eyes to use them to splay the hackles even more. Add 4 or 5 pearl Krystal Flash stands to each top side of the head. I like to use some crinkled flash and some flat type flash on streamer patterns.

Body - Cut a 5 or 6 inch piece of pearl or tan cactus chenille and clean out $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of one end. Attach the bare thread in front of the eyes. Wrap once in front of the eyes and then lift the two hackles and wrap once or twice behind the eyes. Then wrap the cactus chenille forward in touching turns, stopping at the $\frac{3}{4}$ inch mark. Secure, trim excess, whip finish, and add head cement to the threads.

Mantle - To make the body of a squid you will be using white polyester fibers tied with the butt ends tied behind the eye of the hook with the long ends sticking out in front of the hook. Alberto said he used $\frac{1}{2}$ inch macramé cord separated into the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch plies. I used Aunt Lydia's Poly Yarn. The first step is to cut the 3-ply yarn into 4 inch pieces. I used about 14 sections. Working around the hook shank attach the short yarn sections, three on the top, three on the bottom three on each side, then add another three on the top. Secure with tight thread wraps and add thin head cement or super glue to the thread wraps. If you finish with Super Glue you do not need to whip finish. Trim off thread. If you use white EP fibers you can save some time here. Next you have to sit and take a heavy needle, bodkin or dental pick and separate each of the pieces of yarn into straight sections. Don't worry if some of the yarn tears out, just keep working. When the fibers are fairly parallel, take a wire dog brush or strong comb and start brushing out the yarn. Within a few minutes the white fi-

bers will look great. Put the hook back in the vise and start folding the fibers back over the hook shank. Use the brush to smooth and distribute the fibers evenly around the chenille body.

I used Softex, a thinned silicone gel, to coat the outside of the mantle. Get the silver and pearl Fish Candy glitter read as you will want to sprinkle it on before the Softex sets. I applied the Softex sparingly with a thin $\frac{1}{4}$ inch flat tooth pick. Start at the hook eye and stroke the Softex into the fibers while holding and keeping the fibers straight. Make a very thin coat on the top half of the mantle. While the silicon is still wet, sprinkle on a small amount of pearl and silver glitter. Turn the hook over and coat the bottom half of the fly. Add some glitter if desired. See how little Softex you can use and still get the shape, you can always add a second coat. Let dry for 10 minutes in a vented area.

The large eye is important on this fly, especially for display patterns. The mantle will be cut on a curving angle to expose the bright eye, yet keep the top of the mantle as long as possible. Make a rough cut first trimming the mantle to the approximate shape. Add a little Softex to some of the areas if needed. Attach the large 3-D eyes to the flat ends of the dumbbell eyes. Use Goop or Super Glue to the back of the eye before placing on the dumbbell. Now that the eyes are in place you can determine the final trim of the mantle. Let dry. The final step is to add any accent colors with a Sharpe black pen. Add small black dots about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch apart on each of the white hackles. Add some spots on the top and sides of the mantle.

Be creative and have fun. The squid can be tied in tans with yellow and black spots. 

SDFF at Day at the Docks, Sunday, April 23, 2006

Once again the San Diego Fly Fishers will participate in the festivities at the annual Day at the Docks at Fisherman's Landing. Club member **Jim Castelluzzo** is

heading up a group to man the SDFF booth with fly tying demonstrations and a collection of photos of salt water fishing.

Please attend if you can as this is a great opportunity to spread the word about our Club, as well as have a great time out on the bay.

