



Saltwater Patterns

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Objectives

Participating young people and adults will:

1. Practice tying skills on one or more saltwater patterns
2. Explore new skills and materials
3. Explore differences between saltwater and freshwater fly fishing
4. Practice matching fly size to prey size
5. Have fun while learning

Youth Development Objectives

Participating young people will:

1. Enhance fine motor skills
2. Practice observation and problem solving skills
3. Practice hand - eye coordination
4. Enhance self concept and self esteem
5. Explore recreational and vocational skills

Roles for Teen and Junior Leaders

1. Assist in teaching, passing out materials, etc.
2. Evaluate and encourage new tiers
3. Demonstrate patterns
4. Discuss use of patterns

Potential Parental Involvement

1. See "Roles for Teen and Junior Leaders" above
2. Arrange for or provide teaching location
3. Arrange for or provide equipment

Best Time: After basic tying skills are learned

Best Location: Well lighted work surface

Time Required: 60 to 120 minutes

Equipment/Materials

tying vice	hackle pliers
tying bobbin	bobbin threader
dubbing needle	head cement
scissors	5 minute epoxy
tying thread (black, white, chartreuse)	
saddle hackle (white, chartreuse, barred brown, grizzly, cree)	
bucktail (white, chartreuse, scarlet, yellow, blue, green)	
mono eyes	bead chain eyes
dumbbell eyes	molded eyes
silicone cement	cyanoacrylate glue
mylar tinsel	white chenille
rug yarn (olive, tan, cream)	
round rubber leg material	
permanent markers (red, blue, green, brown, black, yellow)	

Evaluation Activities/suggestions

1. Observe and correct use and placement of materials
2. Proportion and construction of flies

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4. Arrange for or provide transportation
5. Arrange for or provide refreshments
6. Discuss personal experience tying and fishing these patterns

3. Attachment of wings, eyes and other parts
4. Growth of tying skills
5. Personal interactions with youth and adults
6. Confidence and enjoyment of participants

Lesson Outline

Presentation

- I. General considerations
 - A. Salty water and corrosion
 1. Stainless steel or plated hooks
 2. Rinsing hooks after use
 - B. Teeth and tough tissue
 1. Epoxy or heavily lacquer heads
 2. Tough materials
 3. Sharpen before tying
 4. Crush barbs if desired
 - C. Higher density water
 1. Weighted flies common
 2. Sinking lines where needed
 - D. Eyes as strike releasers
- II. Basic streamer patterns for saltwater
 - A. General pattern for Brooks' Blondes
 1. Hook: saltwater regular shank
 2. Thread: monocord or 2/0
 3. Tail: bucktail
 4. Body: double wound mylar tinsel
 5. Wing: bucktail
 6. Head: tying thread, lacquered
 7. Variations
 - a. Platinum - white over white
 - b. Strawberry - red over orange
 - c. Honey - yellow over yellow
 - d. Argentine - green over blue wing over white tail
 - B. Tying procedure
 1. Bind in tail material
 - a. Tips 1-2 x shank length beyond bend
 - b. Butts lying along shank to shoulder
 2. Wind thread evenly to shoulder
 3. Bind in tinsel
 4. Wrap tinsel to tail and back to shoulder
 5. Bind off and trim tinsel
 6. Bind in wing material
 - a. Tips reaching to end of tail
 - b. Trim butts at an angle
 7. Wind smooth head
 8. Whip finish and lacquer
 - C. Tying Lefty's Deceiver
 1. General pattern
 - a. Hook: standard length saltwater
 - b. Thread: monocord or 2/0

Application

DISCUSS some of the general considerations in tying saltwater flies. **EMPHASIZE** keeping the hooks free of rust and making flies tough to resist damage from sharp teeth.

NOTE that many saltwater gamefish have sharp, prominent teeth and tough mouths, requiring sharp hooks and well finished flies.

NOTE that eyes, weighted heads or bodies, and sinking lines all find some use in saltwater applications.

NOTE that these patterns are adaptable, durable bucktails that can be adapted to mimic most baitfishes, yet they are simple to tie and use.

PASS OUT the materials for the sample fly while discussing the pattern. If desired, allow the participants to **CHOOSE** which of the variations they would like to tie as an example. [*All of them use the same set of tying skills.*]

DEMONSTRATE a pattern useful in your area, leaving the fly in the vise as a model.

SELECT the hook size for the desired length of the finished fly - shank length about a total fly length. **BIND** in tail materials, leaving the butts of the hair along the hook shank to increase bulk.

WIND smoothly over hair to shoulder area, trim and bind down. **BIND** in tinsel at shoulder and wind to base of tail and back, covering tail tie-down area fully.

BIND in the wing materials, keeping the tips about even with the tips of the tail materials, and trimming the butts angled to the eye.

WIND a smooth head, whip finish the thread and lacquer the head to finish the fly.

DISCUSS the origins and utility of Lefty's Deceiver, noting that it is among the most useful of streamer patterns available.

PASS OUT the materials needed to tie the selected pattern while

- c. Tail: 2-6 saddle hackles
 - d. Tail topping: flashabou
 - e. Body: tying thread wound closely
 - f. Collar: bucktail veiling hook
 - g. Wing: 2-6 saddle hackles
 - h. Topping: peacock herl or flash fiber
 - I. Eyes: painted or adhesive eyes
2. Chartreuse and white deceiver
- a. Hook: saltwater streamer
 - b. Thread: green monocord
 - c. Tail: 2-6 white saddle hackles
 - d. Tail topping: silver flashabou
 - e. Body: tying thread tightly wound
 - f. Collar: white bucktail (sparse)
 - g. Wing: chartreuse grizzly over white saddle hackles
 - h. Topping: peacock flash fiber
 - I. Head: green tying thread
 - j. Eyes: chartreuse or white stick on
3. Tying procedure
- a. Bind in white saddles for tail
 - b. Trim butts of hackles
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- c. Bind in silver flashabou (tail length)
 - d. Wind thread over shank to shoulder
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- e. Veil shank with white bucktail
 - 1) Spread evenly around the shank
 - 2) Tips beyond bend of hook
 - f. Trim butts of bucktail and cover
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- g. Apply white saddles and trim butts
 - h. Apply barred chartreuse saddles
 - I. Apply peacock flash fiber
 - j. Wind smooth head, whip finish
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- k. Apply self-adhesive eyes on head
 - l. Lacquer or epoxy head
- D. Tying bendback bucktails
1. General pattern
- a. Hook: saltwater standard or bent
 - b. Thread: monocord or 2/0
 - c. Body: chenille
 - d. Rib: mylar tinsel if desired
 - e. Wing: bucktail in desired colors
 - f. Topping: flash fiber or peacock herl
 - g. Head: tying thread, lacquered
 - h. Eyes: optional
2. Ghost minnow bendback
- a. Hook: bent shank saltwater
 - b. Thread: white monocord
 - c. Body: silver tinsel

discussing their applications in the pattern and size selected.

NOTE that this pattern is an excellent one for inshore species and for many freshwater applications.

TIE a demonstration fly and leave it in the vise for reference.

PREPARE and **BIND** in 2-6 matched white saddle hackles as a tail, keeping the profile slim and in line with the hook shank.

WIND over the butts of the hackles and **TRIM** them to get rid of the excess materials.

APPLY several strands of silver flashabou or flash fiber about tail length before **WINDING** the thread to the shoulder in tight turns.

VEIL the shank and bases of the hackles with bucktail, either in a single bunch or in several very sparse bunches to divide the colors. **BE SURE** the tips extend well beyond the bend of the hook to prevent the tail hackles from fouling the hook during casting. **TRIM** the butts of the bucktail and wind over them to start the head. If desired, **ADD** a bit of red flash fiber or hackle at the throat.

APPLY the white saddle hackle wings over the collar, then **ADD** the barred chartreuse saddles as a back. **APPLY** a bit of peacock flash fiber as a topping, and **TRIM** all the material closely.

WIND a smoothly tapered head, **WHIP FINISH** and **APPLY** a drop or two of head cement.

If desired, once the head cement has dried, **APPLY** self-adhesive eyes to the head with lacquer or fast-setting epoxy over the head and eyes.

DISCUSS the general history and pattern of the bendback series.

NOTE that it pre-dates keel hooks, but was designed for the same purpose - fishing in weedy or snag filled waters without fouling or getting snagged regularly.

NOTE that the patterns follow a generalized bait fish coloration - light underneath, some flash in the middle, darker above, with a much darker dorsal area if desired.

PASS OUT the materials needed to tie a ghost minnow version of the bendback or **SUBSTITUTE** one that is particularly useful in your area.

NOTE that this pattern uses tinsel to increase the flash without

- d. Wing: sparse bucktail, pearl flash
 - 1) White bucktail on bottom
 - 2) Pearl flash fiber or flashabou
 - 3) Pale yellow bucktail
 - 4) Chartreuse on top - all very sparse
- e. Head: white tying thread, lacquered
- f. Eyes: white or yellow self-adhesive
- g. Finish: clear epoxy

3. Tying procedure

- a. If necessary bend shank to shape
 - 1) Grasp front third of hook in pliers
 - 2) Bend back gently to slight bend
 - 3) Careful not to overdo bending
- b. Bind in tinsel at bend in shank
- c. Apply double wound body
 - d. Bind in sparse white bucktail
 - e. Bind in pearl flash fiber or flashabou
 - f. Bind in very sparse yellow bucktail
 - g. Bind in sparse chartreuse bucktail
 - h. Wind head, whip finish and lacquer
 - I. Apply self-adhesive eyes
 - j. Apply quick setting clear epoxy

III. Weighted patterns

A. Clouser Deep Minnow

1. Pattern

- a. Hook: standard saltwater
- b. Thread: monocord or 2/0
- c. Eyes: dumbbell lead or brass eyes
- d. Wing: dark over light bucktail
- e. Head: tying thread, small

2. Tying procedure - chartreuse/white

- a. Place hook in vise normally
- b. Attach thread 1/3 to 1/2 inch behind eye
- c. Form small ball of thread
- d. Move thread about c inch and repeat
- e. Bind in painted eyes
 - 1) Between thread balls
 - 2) Cross-whipped in place firmly
 - 3) Saturate thread with CA cement
- f. Apply body materials if desired
- g. Bind in white bucktail behind eyes
- h. Carry thread over eyes
- I. Bind in white bucktail in front of eyes
- j. Reverse hook in vise or rotate
- k. Apply silver flashabou
- l. Apply chartreuse bucktail wing
- m. Trim bucktail at an angle to eye

adding bulk, rather than a chenille body.

NOTE that the wing is a three or four part structure, light below, flashy in the middle, dark on top with or without a topping. [*Many types of materials may be used for the wings in these patterns.*]

DEMONSTRATE how to bend a hook to shape, emphasizing that the bend not be overdone. **PROVIDE** pre-bent hooks or specialized hooks to avoid problems with younger tiers.

BIND the tinsel to the shank at the front bend and **APPLY** a double wound body, tying off and trimming the tinsel at the top of the bend.

BIND in the wing materials in distinct layers, trimming each layer before the next one is applied. [*The yellow bucktail should be very pale, not intense, yellow. Chartreuse bucktail from the brown part of the tail is preferred for the top of the wing.*]

WIND, WHIP FINISH and **LACQUER** the head, letting it dry before applying self-adhesive eyes and coating with fast-setting epoxy.

DISCUSS the history of the Clouser Deep Minnow. [*Among the flies that have moved from freshwater to saltwater use, the Clouser Deep Minnow is one of the most prominent. Tied in a wide array of color combinations and sizes, this pattern has become a standard for many saltwater flyfishers - the one they reach for first. It was developed by Bob Clouser, a Susquehanna River smallmouth bass angler, for river fishing. While still useful for its original purpose, it has grown far beyond that.*]

DEMONSTRATE tying a chartreuse and white Clouser deep minnow, leaving the fly in the vise as a model.

NOTE that the distance behind the eye is determined by the size and bulk of the fly being tied. Having enough space to work is the critical factor. **NOTE** that the small balls of thread serve to anchor the eyes in place and that cross-whipping them in place is vital to keeping them where they are set on the hook.

EMPHASIZE the use of CA cement or quick epoxy to strengthen the eye tie-down area and keep them in place during casting and catching fish.

If body materials are desired, **APPLY** them before tying in the bottom wing on the top of the hook. **BIND** the wing down behind the eyes before carrying the thread forward and **BINDING** it down a second time in front of the eyes. After crossing in front of the eyes with the thread, **DO NOT** return to behind the eyes with the thread.

After trimming the wing material, **ROTATE** the fly so the hook point is up.

APPLY silver flashabou or flash fiber (some prefer pearl) above the hook, then **ADD** chartreuse bucktail above it as a back.

TRIM the bucktail at an angle to permit forming a smoothly tapered head, **WHIP FINISH** and **APPLY** lacquer or epoxy.

- n. Wind head, whip finish, lacquer
- 3. Variations
 - a. Limited by observation/imagination
 - b. Generally light underneath
 - 1) White or off-white
 - 2) Yellow, pale to intense
 - 3) Orange, pale to intense
 - c. Darker above
 - 1) Green - pale to peacock
 - 2) Blue - dark to pale
 - 3) Red - pink to scarlet
 - 4) Brown - tan to dark
 - 5) Black - alone or in combinations
 - d. Flashabou or flash fiber
 - e. Body materials
 - 1) Tinsel and tinsel chenille
 - 2) Dubbed fur or yarns
 - 3) Chenille
 - 4) Ribbing materials as desired
 - f. Toppings
 - 1) Peacock herl
 - 2) Flash fiber
 - 3) Barred hackles
 - g. Eye color
 - 1) Yellow with red or black pupil
 - 2) Red with black or yellow pupil
 - 3) Chartreuse with red or black pupil
 - 4) White with red or black pupil

NOTE that variations on the Clouser type are limited only by one's observation skills and imagination. **DISCUSS** some of the variations that are useful in your area. If they are available, **EXHIBIT** a collection of these patterns showing the variations, **PASSING** them around to the group or displaying them where everyone can see easily.

B. Tying Kevin's Poly Minnow

- 1. Pattern
 - a. Hook: 34007 - #6-2
 - b. Thread: white monocord
 - c. Bottom wing: white poly fibers, slightly longer than the bend
 - d. Top wing: white poly fibers about 2x shank length
 - e. Head: tying thread
 - f. Eyes: red or yellow molded eyes
 - 1) Eye color anglers choice
 - 2) Remove stem and attach with silicone cement
 - g. Wing color: permanent marker - angler's choice - original yellow below, olive above - small amount of red at gill area
- 2. Tying procedure
 - a. Mount hook in vise with point up
 - b. Attach thread at throat area
 - c. Bind in under-wing
 - 1) Small bunch of poly fibers
 - 2) Longer than bend of hook
 - 3) Trim butts and form thread base
 - d. Reverse hook in vise
 - e. Bind in upper wing
 - 1) Two small bunches of poly fibers

PASS OUT and **DISCUSS** the use of the materials needed to tie Kevin's Poly Minnow.

START with the hook upside down in the vise, attaching the thread at the throat area.

BIND in the bottom wing of poly fibers, extending beyond the hook bend. [*I use very small bunches and bind them in by their midpoints, bending the second part back on the first and winding over them.*]

REVERSE the hook so it sits point down in the vise and **BIND** in the upper wing material. [*The same bending technique can be used here in layers to build adequate bulk.*] If desired, **INSERT** flash fiber or flashabou between the middle and top layers.

- 2) Middle group longer than belly
- 3) Upper group longer than middle
- f. Trim wing tie downs neatly
- g. Wind head, whip finish and lacquer
- h. Fan wings with brush
- I. Trim wings to minnow shape
- j. Color with permanent markers

- k. Apply eyes
 - 1) Trim off stems of molded eyes
 - 2) Apply silicone cement to eye back
 - 3) Press in place behind head

- l. Draw gills with red marker

C. Tying a woolhead mullet

- 1. Pattern
 - a. Hook: 340007 saltwater
 - b. Thread: white monocord or kevlar
 - c. Tail: white bucktail or streamer wool
 - d. Flanks: barred brown saddles
 - e. Back: rootbeer flash fiber
 - f. Topping: peacock herl
 - g. Head: clipped wool fleece, brown above
 - h. Eyes: molded eyes - silicone glued
- 2. Tying procedure
 - a. Attach thread about a back from eye
 - b. Bind in streamer wool around shank
 - c. Bind in white bucktail
 - d. Bind in root beer flash fiber
 - e. Add barred brown saddles on flanks
 - f. Add peacock herl topping as desired
 - g. Form head of fleece
 - 1) ASpun@ on shank and dyed
 - 2) Stacked in two layers
 - h. Wind, whip finish, lacquer head
 - I. Trim head to shape
 - 1) Rounded at front
 - 2) Thickly flat on sides
 - 3) Rounded above and below
 - 4) Head veiling body tie-down area
 - j. Apply molded eyes

D. Tying a sand eel

- 1. Pattern
 - a. Hook: 2 short shank saltwater
 - b. Thread: white monocord or 2/0
 - c. Underwing: white bucktail, angora goat or artificial hair
 - d. Body: silver mylar piping
 - e. Tail: gray marabou in piping.

TRIM the wing bases carefully to permit winding a neatly tapered head, **WHIP FINISH** and **LACQUER** the windings. **USE** a trimmed toothbrush to comb out the poly fibers, fanning them, and **CUT** them to a tapered, minnow shape. **COLOR** wings with permanent marking pens to desired colors. [Flies may either be dyed now with permanent markers or left all white for treating them in the field.]

APPLY molded eyes by removing the stems, covering the backs of the eyes with silicone cement (e.g. Shoe Goo) and pressing them in place behind the head. [See narrative for gluing methods.] **INDICATE** gills with a thin red line of permanent marker.

NOTE this pattern is related ultimately to patterns like the Muddler Minnow, using bulky materials to simulate a large head.

PASS OUT and **DISCUSS** the materials to be used in tying this pattern.

NOTE that upper flanks can be a mixture of materials to present more flash and apparent movement, e.g. brown, silver, gold flash fiber.

ATTACH thread about one-third back on the shank, binding in streamer fleece so it covers the shank and extends well beyond the bend. **BIND** in white bucktail on the top of the wool.

ADD rootbeer colored flash fiber or a combination of several flash fibers as upper flanks .

APPLY barred brown or cree saddle hackles along the top of the flanks to simulate the barred back, adding peacock herl on top if desired.

Either “**SPIN**” fleece around the shank by positioning it covering the shank and binding it down in the middle or **STACK** brown or tan fleece above the shank and creamy fleece below it to form a two-tone head. **WHIP FINISH** the thread in front of the head. **TRIM** the head to shape making it deeper above the shank and rounding the thick, flat sides into the top and bottom and leaving natural tips to veil the tie-down area on the body materials.

COLOR the top of the head, wait for it to dry thoroughly, and **APPLY** molded eyes using silicone cement, pressing them in well.

PASS OUT the materials needed to tie the sand eel and **DISCUSS** their use.

- f. Connector: 30 pound monofilament
 - g. Top wing: pale tan or greenish bucktail
 - h. Head: epoxy over body to bend
 - 1) Apply in layers
 - 2) Cure thoroughly between coats
 - I. Eyes: self-adhesive
 - j. Gills: red marker under final epoxy coat
2. Tying procedure
- a. Attach connector mono to tail hook
 - 1) Snell hook leaving excess mono
 - 2) Cinch down tightly
 - b. Bind gray marabou feather to trailer
 - c. Whip finish thread and lacquer
 - d. Prepare mylar tubing
 - 1) Trim to length
 - 2) Slide mylar tubing over mono and trailer hook
 - e. Bind mylar down at tail of hook

 - f. Thread mono and tail hook through mylar piping
 - g. Push piping back over mono
 - h. Bind mono to shank from bend to shoulder
 - I. Bend mono back and wind back over it to end of shank
 - j. Trim and lacquer all wrappings
 - k. Insert hook into piping so piping lies straight.
 - l. Secure thread near the shoulder area
 - m Bind down piping at shoulder and trim excess
 - n. Bind in small clump of white bucktail at throat
 - 1) Sparse bucktail lying close
 - 2) Stop short of second hook
 - o. Bind in green bucktail over piping
 - 1) Extend to tail
 - 2) Sparse and straight
 - p. Wind generous head
 - q. Whip finish and lacquer
 - r. Apply stick-on eyes
 - s. Wrap rubber band around rear of front hook
 - 1) Hold hair straight and flat to hook
 - 2) Hold down with rubber band
 - t. Cover eyes and head with epoxy
 - u. Apply red gills with marker
 - v. Cover entire area with epoxy

USE a snell knot to attach the mono connector to the tail hook and **TRIM** away the excess material.

ATTACH the thread near the rear of the shank on the trailer hook and **BIND** in a gray marabou feather to serve as a tail.

MEASURE and **CUT** a length of mylar piping, remove the core, and slide the piping over the connector monofilament and the tail hook.

BIND the mylar down at the rear of the hook, allowing a small amount to **FLARE** around the base of marabou feather. **WHIP** finish the thread and apply lacquer.

Carefully **THREAD** the monofilament connector through the mylar piping. **MEASURE** the piping against the front hook and **PUSH** it back to **EXPOSE** the monofilament.

BIND the monofilament to the shank of the front hook from rear to front, **BEND** it back and **WIND** over it again. If desired, **REPEAT** once more ending near the head area.

TRIM the mono and **LACQUER** the windings heavily. Carefully **INSERT** the hook into the piping, so the piping lies straight.

SECURE the thread at the shoulder area and **BIND** down the piping at the shoulder, trimming away the excess material.

BIND in a small clump of white hair under the hook, extending to just short of the point on the trailer hook.

BIND in a clump of green bucktail over the piping extending to the tail.

WIND a generous, conical head, **WHIP** finish and **LACQUER**.

After the lacquer has dried completely, **APPLY** self-adhesive eyes, **HOLD** the hair in place and flattened along the piping, and **APPLY** a rubber band to hold it in place.

COVER front of fly to near rubber band with epoxy, continuing until the area is smooth. **INSERT** curved gill about midway on hook using permanent red marker. After marker is dry, **APPLY** a final coat of epoxy and **REMOVE** rubber band.

DISCUSS the general pattern for Scate's Shrimp.

III. Crab and shrimp patterns

A. Scate's Shrimp

1. Hook: sproat or Pate style saltwater
 2. Thread: matching body and back
 3. Tail: bucktail, sparse flash fiber above
 4. Back: flash fiber
 5. Eyes: black or olive mono eyes
 6. Legs: long, soft hackle
 7. Body: heavy chenille
 8. Rib: oval gold tinsel (optional)
 9. Head: tying thread
- B. Scate's Shrimp Red
1. Pattern
 - a. Hook: Pate saltwater, #6-1/0
 - b. Thread: red monocord
 - c. Tail: brown part of red bucktail, sparse red flash fiber over
 - d. Back: red flash fiber
 - e. Eyes: black mono eyes
 - f. Legs: long, soft black hackle
 - g. Body: heavy red chenille
 - h. Rib: oval gold tinsel
 - I. Head: red tying thread
 2. Tying instructions
 - a. Bind thread to upper bend of hook
 - b. Bind in small clump of bucktail
 - c. Top with sparse red flash fiber
 - d. Bind in heavy clump of flash fiber
 - e. Bind in heavy red chenille
 - f. Bind in ribbing tinsel
 - g. Carry thread to middle of hook
 - h. Bind in hackle feather
 - I. Wind chenille to hackle and bind off
 - j. Pull back material forward
 - k. Rib to chenille and bind off
 - l. Carry thread to throat area
 - m. Bind in mono eyes
 - n. Wind chenille to head area, bind off
 - o. Wind hackle to eyes and bind off
 - p. Pull back forward and bind off at head
 - q. Trim slightly long and fold under
 - r. Wind head, whip finish, lacquer
 3. Variations in pattern
 - a. White, pearl back
 - b. Yellow, yellow back
 - c. Pink, pink or pearl back
 - d. Chartreuse, green pearl back
 - e. Amber, tan back
 - f. Gold, gold back
- C. Grass shrimp
1. Pattern
 - a. Hook: standard saltwater
 - b. Thread: white monocord
 - c. Tail: tan poly yarn with tinsel marabou over

PASS OUT and **DISCUSS** the use of the materials for a red Scate's Shrimp.

BIND in the thread on the upper part of the bend of a Pate style hook. **SELECT** and **CUT** a small bunch of red bucktail from the brown part of the bucktail. **BIND** it in and top with some red flash fiber.

BIND in a heavy clump of flash fiber over the tail tie-down area, followed by a piece of heavy red chenille and ribbing tinsel.

CARRY the thread to the middle of the hook and **BIND** in a black or barred black hackle feather.

WIND the chenille to the hackle and bind it off, then **PULL** the back material forward and bind it down at the middle of the hook.

RIB the body and **BIND** off the ribbing material.

CARRY the thread to the throat and **BIND** in the monofilament eyes. **WIND** the chenille to the rear of the head and **BIND** it off.

WIND the hackle to the rear of the eyes, **BIND** it off and **TRIM** the excess. **CARRY** the thread forward of the eyes.

COMPLETE winding the chenille, **PULL** the back material forward, and **BIND** both of them off sequentially at the head.

TRIM the flash fiber a bit long and **BEND** it back toward the hook point before binding it down.

WIND the head, **WHIP** finish the thread and **LACQUER**.

DISCUSS some of the variations of the pattern that may be useful in your area.

PASS out the materials for the grass shrimp and **DISCUSS** their use in tying the pattern.

- d. Rib: fine gold oval tinsel
 - e. Body: tan poly dubbing, tapered
 - f. Back: pink marabou tinsel
 - g. Legs: light dun or ginger hackle
 - h. Thorax: tan poly dubbing
 - I. Back: pink marabou tinsel
 - j. Antennae: long pink marabou tinsel or flash fiber
 - k. Head: tying thread
2. Tying procedure
- a. Bind in mono eyes behind head
 - b. Carry thread onto bend
 - c. Bind in piece of poly yarn
 - d. Bind in mylar marabou
 - e. Bind in ribbing tinsel
 - f. Wind poly dubbing to middle of hook
 - g. Pull mylar marabou forward
 - h. Wind ribbing over abdomen
 - I. Bind off ribbing material
 - j. Tie in leg hackles
 - k. Dub cephalothorax including around eyes
 - l. Wind hackle over cephalothorax and bind off
 - m. Pull mylar marabou forward and bind off
 - n. Bend material back and bind off, leaving 2-4 strands as antennae
 - o. Wind head, whip finish, lacquer
- D. Crazy Charlie
1. General pattern
- a. Hook: 34007 or short shank stainless
 - b. Thread: monocord
 - c. Eyes: bead chain or lead dumbbell
 - d. Body: floss or tinsel
 - e. Wing: bucktail or calf tail
 - f. Head: tying thread
2. Pink Crazy Charlie
- a. #6 short shank saltwater
 - b. Eyes: gold bead chain
 - c. Body: pink floss
 - d. Ribbing: silver mylar tinsel
 - e. Wing: pink or white calf tail
 - f. Head: tying thread
3. Tying procedure
- a. Bind in bead chain eyes atop shank
 - b. Carry thread to rear of shank
 - c. Bind in ribbing tinsel
 - d. Bind in pink floss
 - e. Wind pink floss to shoulder, bind off
 - f. Apply ribbing tinsel, bind off
 - g. Apply wing to cover hook point
 - h. Wind pink floss over wing tie down
 - I. Wind head, whip finish, lacquer

TIE a demonstration fly and **LEAVE** it in the vise as a model for the participants.

BIND in the mono eyes, cross whipping them in place and securing them with a drop or two of CA cement.

BIND in a 1/4 inch piece of tan poly yarn on the upper bend of the hook and **BIND** the tag ends of pearl-pink mylar marabou.

BIND in the ribbing tinsel or wire and **DUB** a tapered body to about the midpoint of the hook.

PULL the mylar marabou forward and bind it down with the ribbing material to the front of the abdomen.

SECURE the ribbing tinsel with several turns of thread and **BIND** in a hackle feather for legs.

DUB the remainder of the body rather heavily including between the eyes and around them.

WIND the hackle in open spirals, tying them off at the head and trimming the excess away.

TRIM the hackle fibers off the top of the back, and **PULL** the back materials forward, binding it off at the head.

BEND the material back over the eyes and **BIND** it off closely, leaving 2-4 strands as antennae. [*Alternatively include a few strands of flash fiber as antennae.*]

WHIP finish the head, and **APPLY** lacquer.

DISCUSS the generalized pattern for crazy Charlies.

PASS out the materials to tie a pink crazy Charlie and **DISCUSS** their use.

BIND in a pair of bead chain eyes atop the shank and **SECURE** them with CA cement before carrying the thread to the rear of the shank.

BIND in ribbing tinsel and pink floss and carry the thread to the head area.

WIND a tapered floss body to the back of the head, then **APPLY** the ribbing tinsel.

APPLY a pink calf tail or bucktail wing about twice the length of the shank under the shank and covering the hook, **TRIM** the butts of the wing material and **WIND** a compact head, **WHIP** finish and **APPLY** a drop of lacquer.

- k. Paint eyes desired color
- 4. Variations
 - a. Tan wing, silver body
 - b. Yellow wing, yellow and gold body
 - c. White wing, silver body
 - d. Chartreuse wing, gold body
 - e. Gotchas
 - 1) Pink wing and tail, pink body
 - 2) Brown tail, chartreuse wing, chartreuse body
 - 3) Tan wing, silver body, white tail
 - 4) Red tail, silver body, white wing
 - f. Bearded Charlies
 - 1) Eyes under rear of shank
 - 2) Short tail and wing
 - 3) Dubbed fur bodies
 - 4) Mylar tinsel ribbing
- E. Del's merkin
 - 1. Pattern
 - a. Hook: 34007 or similar saltwater
 - b. Thread: yellow monocord
 - c. Claws: splayed cree hackles
 - d. Body: rug yarn, bound at the middle, frayed and trimmed to shape
 - e. Legs: 4 pairs white round rubber legs
 - f. Eyes: lead dumbbell eyes
 - g. Colors: tan, gray, brown, olive - mottled lightly with marking pen
 - 2. Tying procedure
 - a. Bind in lead dumbbell eyes
 - 1) On top of shank
 - 2) Close to hook eye
 - 3) Cement in place with CA cement
 - b. Carry thread to end of shank
 - c. Bind in splayed cree hackle claws
 - d. Bind in one or two pieces of rug yarn
 - 1) Cross lash in place
 - 2) Pack yarn bases tightly together
 - e. Alternate white rubber leg material and rug yarn for four legs per side
 - f. Finish to dumbbell eyes with yarn
 - g. Flare out yarn with dubbing needle and brush
 - h. Hold legs out of the way
 - i. Trim body to crab shape and feather edges
 - j. Trim legs to appropriate length
 - k. Apply CA cement to mid rib and head
 - l. Color tips of legs with permanent marker (usually red or blue)
 - m. Mottle body with a few marks from marking pen (not too much)

PAINT the eyes if desired.

DISCUSS some of the variations on the crazy Charlie theme and allow the participants to **TIE** some if desired and time permits.

DISCUSS the components required to tie Del's merkin, **PASSING** out the materials needed to tie the pattern.

Place the hook upright in the vise and **APPLY** a set of lead or brass dumbbell eyes, anchoring them with figure 8 wraps and a drop or two of CA cement.

CARRY the thread to the far end of the shank and **BIND IN** a pair of cree hackle tips splayed to represent claws. **USING** the figure 8 technique, **BIND** in one or two pieces of rug yarn perpendicular to the plane of the bend. **PACK** the yarn pieces tightly together after each addition. **ALTERNATE** rubber leg material and rug yarn until 4 sets of legs have been applied. **CONTINUE** applying rug yarn until reaching the eyes. **WHIP** finish in front of the eyes and **LACQUER** head. **FLARE** the yarn by picking it out with a dubbing needle and brush.

HOLDING the legs out of the way, **TRIM** the body materials to a crab shape and **FEATHER** the edges. **TRIM** legs to the appropriate length. **ANCHOR** the mid-rib windings with CA cement.

COLOR the tips of the legs with permanent markers.

MOTTLE the body if desired with a few marks of dark marker.

PASS out the materials used to tie a jetty bug and **DISCUSS** the

F. Tying a jetty bug

1. Pattern

- a. Hook: #6 to #8 -3x long
- b. Tread: brown, black, or olive
- c. Tail: two goose biots matching thread
- d. Rib: gold oval mylar tinsel
- e. Back: goose quill strip matching thread
- f. Underbody: lead wire, lacquered
- g. Body: gray, olive or tan chenille
- h. Legs: grizzly hackle, palmered and clipped to length, projecting at sides
- i. Antennae: goose biots matching tail
- j. Head: generous, tying thread

2. Tying procedure

- a. Apply lead wire to body
- b. Bind with thread and lacquer

- c. Bind goose biot tails
- d. Bind in back material, hackle and rib
- e. Bind in chenille
- f. Wind chenille to head area and tie off
- g. Palmer hackle to head and tie off
- h. Trim hackle top and bottom
- i. Pull back material forward and bind down
- j. Apply rib to segment body
- k. Bind in antennae
- l. Wind, whip finish and lacquer head
- m. Trim hackle to one clump per segment

pattern and their use.

If weighting is desired, **WIND** lead wire around the shank, **BIND** it down with thread leaving tapers at each end, and **LACQUER** the lead heavily.

BIND in tail materials and **DIVIDE** them.

BIND in goose quill strip, hackle, ribbing material and chenille.

WIND chenille to head area, **TIE** it off and **TRIM** away excess.

PALMER hackle to the head in open turns and **BIND** off.

TRIM hackle fibers away top and bottom.

PULL back material forward and **BIND** down at the head.

WIND rib to segment the body and **BIND** off at the head.

BIND in a pair of divided antennae.

WIND the head, **WHIP** finish and **LACQUER**.

TRIM the hackle to one clump per segment.

V. Other saltwater patterns

A. Tying the Golden Fleece - pattern

1. Hook: 34007 #2-4
2. Thread: white monocord
3. Eyes: medium lead dumbbell eyes
4. Tail: 4 pieces gold medium mylar tubing about 2 1/2 times shank length - (cores removed)
5. Body: Orange cactus chenille
6. White tying thread

B. Tying procedure

1. Attach eyes on top of hook shank about 1/4 of the shank back
2. Prepare 4 pieces of gold mylar piping about 2 1/2 times the shank length
3. Stack piping and trim ends flush
4. Attach piping behind eyes and continue down the shank
5. Attach cactus chenille at bend.
6. Carry thread to hook eye
7. Palmer cactus chenille forward
 - a. Make one figure 8 over eyes
 - b. Carry to head, one turn in front of eyes

DISCUSS the golden fleece and **PASS** out the materials needed to tie the pattern.

Start by **ATTACHING** the eyes atop the hook as for a Clouser, but about 1/4 of the way back on the shank.

PREPARE the mylar piping by cutting 4 sections, removing the cores, and stacking them to trim to the same length.

Start **ATTACHING** the piping behind the eyes, and continue down the shank.

ATTACH the cactus chenille at the bend and wind it to the eye, making sure at least one figure 8 is taken over the eyes and taking one turn in front of them.

WHIP finish and **LACQUER** the head, then fray all the piping tails using a bodkin.

8. Whip finish and lacquer head
 9. Fray tails of piping with bodkin
- C. Tying a squid
1. Sea arrow squid pattern
 - a. Hook: 34007 3/0 or equivalent
 - b. Tail: splayed saddle hackles
 - 1) 8 2 1/2 inches long
 - 2) 2 4 1/2 inches long
 - c. Cheeks: purple flash fiber or mylar marabou and white marabou
 - d. Eyes: 8 mm amber eyes
 - e. Underbody: curon foam over lead wire
 - f. Body: large chenille
 - g. Fin: 4 one-inch acrylic yarn pieces tied in flat, shaped, lacquered, squeezed flat
 - h. Color options: white, yellow, red, pink, brown, blue, purple
 2. Tying procedure
 - a. Prepare and bind in 8 short saddles
 - b. Bind in 2 long saddle hackles
 - c. Bind in a few strands of purple flash fiber or mylar marabou about length of hackles
 - d. Wind short marabou around base of hackle to hood tie-down area
 - e. Wind underbody or curon foam over lead wire
 - f. Wind heavy white chenille for body
 - g. Bind in white poly yarn for fin
 - h. Shape, lacquer and flatten fin

PASS out materials for the sea arrow squid, discussing their use.

DEMONSTRATE a squid pattern in your choice of colors, leaving it in the vise as a model.

PREPARE and **BIND** in 8 short saddle hackles splayed outward in all directions. **BIND** in 2 longer ones as tentacles.

ADD a few strands of purple flash fiber or mylar marabou about as long as the arms.

WIND a few turns of short marabou around the base of the tie-down area for the saddle hackles.

WIND a few turns of lead wire around the shank, binding it in place with tying thread and lacquering over it. **WIND** a narrow strip of curon foam over the lead to form a soft body core.

WIND heavy white chenille to within about 1/4 inch of the eye. **BIND** in 4 or more pieces of white yarn perpendicular to the plane of the bend on the hook. **SHAPE** the fin with scissors, **LACQUER** the yarn and **FLATTEN** the fin with pliers.

Summary Activity

Exhibit the flies tied in this session, discussing their uses and the fishes that will be taken by them. Hold an open discussion of the patterns and techniques. If possible, host a field-testing event for the flies.

Lesson Narrative

Saltwater fly-fishing presents a few extra considerations for the angler. The salty water results in greatly increased corrosion, requiring the angler to rinse flies after they are used, and to use either stainless steel or plated hooks (usually tin, cadmium or nickel) to resist damage from salt exposure.

In addition, many saltwater game fishes have an abundance of sharp teeth or crushing plates that can damage flies tied of delicate materials or with inadequate finishes. To counter this, many tiers use a fast-acting epoxy as a final coat on the heads of their flies to “toughen” them. Hooks should be sharpened before the flies are tied. Not only is it more convenient at that point, but it is also easier to do without damaging the pattern. This is also a good time to squeeze the barbs down on the hooks if you elect to do so. This can be accomplished by aligning a pair of smooth-jawed pliers with the shank and simply squeezing the barb down. Do not grip the hook perpendicular to the shank, since that can weaken it significantly, possibly causing the hook to break at the barb.

Saltwater is denser than freshwater, so heavier flies are needed to get to the same depths. Many saltwater patterns rely on heavy hooks to get them to the proper depth, but many others are weighted or fished on sinking lines to get down to the depth where they are most effective.

Finally, most saltwater gamefishes eat other fishes, crustaceans like crabs or shrimp, or squid. All of these species have prominent eyes that may serve as targets or releasers for predators. Eyes may be painted on, glued in place, stuck on and covered with epoxy, or tied in place. All of these can be effective, but eyes seem to be important in increasing the number of strikes on your flies. (See fact sheet: *Eyes on Flies*).

Basic Streamer and Bucktail Patterns

This group of flies contains proven patterns that are simple to tie and attractive to fish. They are actually classes of flies rather than individual patterns, capable of being tied in a wide variety of color patterns that can be used on a wide variety of fish species under many conditions in both salt water and fresh water. For example, the Argentine blonde in sizes up to 4/0 has been one of my favorite flies for northern pike for many years, although it was originally tied for coastal striped bass fishing. Three basic pattern types were selected - Brooks Blondes (Joe Brooks), Lefty's Deceiver (Lefty Kreh) and bendbacks (popularized by Chico Fernandez).

Tying Brooks Blondes

Blondes are simple patterns with a bucktail tail, tinsel body and bucktail wing. Both wing and tail should be about the same length, and the length should be adjusted to the hook size and the size of the baitfish being taken. The large patterns listed above suggested spawning smelt 6-9 inches long. The pattern and some of its variations follow.

Platinum Blonde

Hook: saltwater streamer
Thread: monocord or 2/0
Tail: white bucktail
Body: silver tinsel
Wing: white bucktail
Head: tying thread

Honey Blonde

Hook: saltwater streamer
Thread: monocord or 2/0
Tail: yellow bucktail
Body: silver tinsel
Wing: yellow bucktail
Head: tying thread

Strawberry Blonde

Hook: saltwater streamer
Thread: monocord or 2/0
Tail: orange or yellow bucktail
Body: silver tinsel
Wing: scarlet bucktail
Head: tying thread

Argentine Blonde

Hook: saltwater streamer
Thread: monocord or 2/0
Tail: white bucktail
Body: silver tinsel
Wing: green over blue bucktail
Head: tying thread

Start tying the blondes by attaching the thread at the rear of the shank. Clip, even and bind in a suitable clump of bucktail leaving about 1-2 times the shank length of hair behind the hook (longer bucktail produces a more lively fly with more movement in the water). Wind over the hair closely to the shoulder, forming an even base for the tinsel body. Attach the tinsel at the shoulder and wind back to cover the tail tie-down area then forward to the shoulder in turns that touch but do not overlap. Bind off the tinsel and trim it closely. Select a similar sized bunch of bucktail for the wing, clipping it from the tail and evening the tips a bit. Hold the wing firmly in place with the tips of the wing and the tips of the tail about even. Bind the wing in place securely, then clip the butts of the bucktail to allow formation of a nicely tapered, neat head. If the wing does not stand up to your satisfaction, take a turn or two around the base of the wing to stand it up a bit. Form a fairly robust head of tying thread, whip finish and lacquer. A thin lacquer will penetrate the thread and hair better, and several coats will make a very hard and durable head. If desired, coat the head with a few drops of quick setting, clear epoxy after the lacquer has dried. These flies are quite durable, even when toothy critters are working on them.

Tying Lefty's Deceiver

The Deceiver is about the same age as the Blonde, old enough to have shown its worth all over the world in both fresh and saltwater. It also is a relatively simple tying style that is adaptable to all sorts of color combinations. The one selected here is a chartreuse and white version with a bit of silver flash added to provide some sparkle and movement during the retrieve. Like the Blondes, Deceivers should be tied to match the size of the baitfish present, and the amount of material used should match the size of the fly. Sparse is still a virtue with this pattern.

Chartreuse and White Deceiver

Hook: stainless saltwater streamer

Thread: green monocord
 Tail: 4 white saddle hackles about 1-2 times shank length long
 Tail topping: 6-8 strands of silver flashabou
 Body: smoothly wound and lacquered tying thread
 Collar: white bucktail surrounding the hook, tips beyond the bend
 Wing: 2-4 white saddle hackles reaching to end of tail
 Over wing: 2 barred chartreuse saddles of same length
 Topping: peacock flash fiber
 Head: green tying thread
 Eyes: Self-adhesive eyes - silver or chartreuse

Start the tying process by attaching the thread at the rear of the shank. Prepare and match 4 white saddle hackles, leaving about one to two times the shank-length of the hook beyond the tie-down area. Add a few strands of silver flashabou, flash fiber, or similar material as a topping for the tail and wind over the shank in tightly spaced turns to the shoulder area. Snip a small bunch of bucktail from the hide and apply it as a sparse collar, veiling the hook shank to slightly beyond the tail tie-down area and the bend of the hook. This should give the appearance of substance, yet be translucent and mobile in the water. It also keeps the hackles from getting fouled on the hook, ruining their action in the water. Prepare, match and bind in another pair or two of white saddle hackles as a wing, allowing them to extend back nearly to the end of the tail. Bind them in place firmly before applying in similarly matched pair of barred chartreuse saddles to suggest a darker back on the "bait fish." Top the saddle hackles with a few strands of flash fiber in peacock (or another color of your choice) before trimming all the ends and winding a smooth head. Once the head is whip finished, lacquered and dry, apply a pair of self-adhesive eyes (silver or chartreuse show up well against the green head). After they have been smoothed into place, cover the head with either several coats of head cement or a few drops of clear, fast setting epoxy.

Deceivers in all variations work well. Among the more imitative patterns are those with green or blue barred backs (suggesting mackerel or similar species), all white with a bit of peacock herl at the top, and all black ones for use at night (yes, black is easier for fish to see after dark, because it contrasts with the light sky).

Tying Bendback Bucktails

Bendback bucktails were developed in the early 1900s for use on bass in weedy lakes and ponds. Saltwater fly fisherman, Chico Fernandez popularized their use in shallow saltwater flats and weedy areas. Like the others in this section, these flies are general patterns that can be adapted to the colors and sizes of baitfish currently available. The design causes the fly to ride with the hook point up and shielded by the wings. This makes the fly relatively weedless and somewhat snag proof. While they are among the simplest of all saltwater patterns, bendbacks are effective and useful. They deserve a place in any saltwater fly fisherman's box. The general pattern and two sample patterns tied to suggest a ghost minnow and a small menhaden are included here.

General Bendback	Ghost Minnow Bendback	Menhaden Bendback
Hook: bent shank saltwater	Hook: bent shank saltwater	Hook: bent shank saltwater
Thread: monocord or 2/0	Thread: white monocord	Thread: white or blue monocord
Body: chenille	Body: silver mylar tinsel	Body: white chenille
Rib: silver tinsel	Underwing: white bucktail under pearl	Rib: silver tinsel
Wing: bucktail	flash fiber or flashabou	Underwing: white bucktail
Topping: flash fiber	Midwing: pale yellow bucktail	Overwing: blue bucktail
Head: lacquered thread	Top wing: chartreuse bucktail	Head: lacquered thread
Eyes: optional	Head: lacquered tying thread	Eyes: white or yellow self-adhesive
	Eyes: white or yellow self-adhesive	

The secret of the bendback's effectiveness is its hook shape. Special hooks can be purchased, or they can be formed from standard length, saltwater hooks. To do so, simply grasp the front third of the hook in a pair of smooth-jawed pliers, and push the hook downward by its bend slightly. This allows the point to ride behind the straight part of the shank. Be careful not to bend the shank too much, and exercise caution around the point of the hook. Once the hook is bent, place it in the vise with the point up and the straight part of the shank more or less parallel with the tying surface. At the normal bend in the hook's shank, bind in a piece of tinsel as a rib, if desired, and a piece of chenille as body material. Carry the thread forward onto the straight part of the shank, leaving a short shoulder area.

Wind the chenille forward in tight turns to that point, and bind it off with several wraps of thread before trimming the tag ends closely. Apply the ribbing tinsel evenly and tightly, binding it off and trimming it carefully as well. In the most simple scenario, a single clump of bucktail can be applied, leaving the natural tips about half the shank length behind the bend and the fly can be finished. The wing can be doctored to fit the local bait species, by using multiple colors, flash fiber, flashabou, or similar materials to suggest the shape and coloration of the prey species. Once the wings have been applied, the bucktail can be trimmed to a tapered end, and a head can be formed. If desired, eyes may be added to the head after it has been whip finished and lacquered. Cover the eyes with a coating of head cement, nail polish or quick setting epoxy if they are used.

Eyed Streamers and Bucktails

Most saltwater game species feed primarily on fish and crustaceans, like shrimp and crabs, or on squid. Nearly all of these prey items feature prominent eyes, and the eyes are often releasers for those game species when the feed. Experience has shown saltwater anglers, that eyes can be the difference between a slow day and one where the action was furious. While the previous patterns rely on action and form as their attractors, these patterns feature prominent eyes which add both weight and attraction to the flies.

Tying the Clouser Deep Minnow

The first pattern considered in this section has migrated to the salt from freshwater beginnings. It was developed by Susquehanna River guide and fly shop owner Bob Clouser, who designed it for smallmouth bass. They are still very effective on their intended quarry, but the genre of flies produced has been used all over the world to catch nearly all species of freshwater and saltwater fishes. It has grown from its original size and pattern to include flies from about an inch long to some that reach lengths of over a foot. While the original Clouser Deep Minnow was a pattern, the group is presented here as a general one that can be modified to the locality and the baitfish found there. Lots of color combinations and materials are useful in this pattern type, and the choices are left primarily to the individual tier. Nearly any natural or artificial hair of adequate length can be incorporated into Clouser ties. Two excellent combinations for general saltwater use are tied with chartreuse over white bucktail and silver flash fiber in the middle or with blue over green bottom and pearl flash fiber in the middle.

These patterns use lead, brass or tungsten dumbbell eyes. Some of them are machined to allow application of molded plastic or self-adhesive foil eyes, but most of them are painted. Eyes can be painted with jig paints, epoxy, model lacquer, or powder paints. All of them but the powder paint should be coated with clear epoxy to protect the finish, and most of them will yield more brilliant colors if they are painted over a white base. The most commonly used colors are yellow or red with black pupils. Some anglers make use of white or chartreuse eyes as well. On white eyes, some like to put a red iris and a black pupil. Suit yourself in the painting process.

The pattern for our sample follows.

Hook: 34007 or similar saltwater
Thread: white or green monocord
Body: none
Eyes: lead dumbbell eyes, color to suit
Bottom wing: white bucktail
Flash: silver tinsel marabou
Top wing: chartreuse bucktail

Start with the hook in the vise in the conventional position with the point down. Attach the thread about 1/3 inch or so behind the eye (varies with hook size and bulk of materials), and form a small ball of thread. Move back about 1/4 inch and form a second ball of thread on the shank. The gap between them should be just large enough to allow the center portion of the eye to rest between them. Place a set of lead dumbbell eyes of the appropriate size on top of the hook shank between the balls of thread and cross-whip it in place with figure 8 wraps. Snug the eyes in place by frapping (winding around the wraps between the hook and the dumbbell) the thread if necessary, and apply a drop of two of thin CA cement to secure the eyes. Cut a small clump of white bucktail from the skin and even the tips slightly. Hold them in place firmly, and bind them to the shank immediately behind the eyes. Pull the butt ends forward and bind them off in front of the eyes, trimming the ends and winding over them to form the base of the head. **Tip:** Now that you are in front of the eyes, do not cross back over them to secure any materials. Keep all tying operations in front of the eye.

Now, reverse the hook in the vise so the point is upward, keeping the bucktail out of the way of the jaws. Bind in a few strands (6-10) of silver tinsel marabou (e.g. flashabou) or flash fiber (e.g. crystal flash), leaving the tips about even with the tips of the belly bucktail. Trim the excess neatly, winding over the ends to the eye and back. Select a small clump of chartreuse bucktail and apply it as a top wing, binding it down securely, trimming it as usual, and winding a nicely tapered head. Whip finish the thread and apply head cement to the thread as usual. If the eyes were not painted prior to this time, paint them now in your preferred color. Once they are dry, apply a drop or two of clear, quick-setting epoxy to the head and the eyes.

Tying Kevin's Poly Minnow

This pattern was developed from waste materials by Texas angler; fly tier and 4-H Sportfishing instructor, Kevin Hutchinson. Removing the core material from some holographic piping, he noticed a glossy fiber that looked useful. The result, which can be tied to suggest a menhaden, has proven effective on specks (Gulf Coastal for spotted seatrout) on its initial trip to the salt. I suspect that it will work on lots of others once they are exposed to it. Since that time I have tried a number of other fibers with success B Dacron rope, parachute cord (both woven exterior and internal fibers), and many others. All of them have been successful in making a tough, durable, and attractive pattern. For those of you put off by scavenging, several commercially available fibers can be used successfully. One of the beauties of this pattern is that it can be left all white and colored to meet your needs once you are on the water. All you need is a few permanent markers in the colors of your choice, and a few minutes to let the colors dry before they are applied to their real purpose. The molded plastic eyes add a bit of weight, helping to keep the pattern down, but the pattern is a slow sinker. If you need to use it deep, a mini lead head, sink tip, or sinking line is advised. The pattern follows.

Hook: 34007 #2 -- 4

Thread: white monocord

Body: none

Underwing: white polypropylene slightly longer than bend*

Overwing: white polypropylene**

Throat: red marker to simulate gills

Eyes: molded eyes - yellow or red iris with black pupil, attached with Shoe-goo***

* Original pattern was pale yellow below the hook, white along the shank, pale yellow above, and olive on the back.

** Fan the wings and taper them with scissors to about 2x shank length and a natural "minnow" taper.

*** If dyed at the vise, let markers dry completely before attaching eyes.

Start the pattern with the fly upside down in the vise, i.e. with the point upward. Attach the thread at the throat area, and bind in a piece of the poly filament material. Binding it in the middle and then back on itself makes a very strong tie and provides a base for a rather substantial head. The belly fibers should reach beyond the bend in the hook or stop short of it to prevent fouling. Wind over the tie-down area to create a base, then turn the hook over in the vise and start on the upper layer. Bind in another small bunch of poly fiber as the mid-wing, mixing in some flash fiber or tinsel marabou if desired. Top that with a third small bunch of fibers. Each layer of fiber should be a bit longer than the ones underneath it. Trim away any excess material at the shoulder, and wind a substantial, but well proportioned head. Whip finish and apply head cement, lacquer or thin, quick-setting epoxy to the windings. Once the head is dry and hard, brush out the fibers in a fanned shape using a cut-down toothbrush or dubbing brush. Holding the materials in a fanned shape with one hand, trim them to a tapered, minnow-like shape with the other. Test your work by slicking them down again to observe the shape of the fly. If you plan to color the flies before heading for the water, apply the desired colors to the various layers of poly material and allow it to dry. (I like to brush it out again after the colors have set.) Then set the eyes in place.

Attaching eyes with silicone glues can be a messy challenge. Glue on the rounded portion of the eyes tends to dull them, decreasing their effectiveness. Excess glue on the tying materials may re-shape the fly. Several methods of handling the process help. One is simply to apply the glue to a piece of waste paper, then to transfer some to the back of the eye with a toothpick while holding the eye with tweezers or forceps.

The glue-backed eye can then be positioned on the cheek of the fly easily. A second method is to simply grasp the fly in the forceps or tweezers, press it into the silicone glue, then press it onto the cheek of the fly. Both methods minimize mess and give good adhesion. The secret is to get enough material on the eye to hold it in place without getting so much that it creates a raised ridge around the eye. The eyes can be moved for a short period after they have been applied. Take that time to position them symmetrically and to press them firmly into the underlying materials.

Tying the Woolhead Mullet

Ultimately, this pattern and many others owe some affinity to the Muddler Minnow, Don Gapen's creation designed to suggest a sculpin. The use of materials like fleece (or deer hair in the muddler) allows the tier to create a fly with a large head without adding large amounts of weight. The resulting fly presents the shape of the baitfish being imitated, casts well, and sinks readily once it is wet. Finger mullet (or even large ones) are prime forage for game fish for much of the year on the Gulf Coast and in the southern parts of the Atlantic. Other patterns certainly could be tied using the techniques involved for use in freshwater or in saltwater areas where mullet are not on the menu. The pattern follows.

Hook: 34007 or similar saltwater
Thread: white monocord or kevlar
Belly: white bucktail or streamer wool
Flanks: barred brown saddles
Back: rootbeer flash fiber
Topping: peacock herl
Head: clipped wool - brown above, white or cream below
Eyes: molded eyes applied with silicone glue

Start the pattern about one-third of the way back on the hook, binding in bucktail or streamer wool so it surrounds the hook and extends well beyond the bend. Trim the ends of the material and wind over it to provide a good tie-down area for the rest of the materials. Apply root beer flash fiber as a back. Note that mixing gold, pearl and root beer flash fibers as a layer immediately over the streamer wool can add sparkle and a bit of life to the pattern. Top the back with one or more pairs of barred brown saddle hackles to suggest the top of the baitfish's back and bind in a few strands of peacock herl if desired.

Two techniques are useful in building the head. One is to form clumps of fleece around the shank then bind it in the middle, standing it up between clumps. A second is to stack clumps of fleece, brown above the hook and cream under it, standing up the fibers and keeping them separated until the front of the hook is covered. Once the head is attached, wind a small head with the tying thread and finish in the usual fashion. Carefully trim the head to a rounded shape, allowing the wool tips to form a collar over the body materials. Trim the bottom rather closely, rounding it into flat sides, and rounding them into a rounded top surface. If a single color of fleece is used and the material must be colored, apply a bit of permanent brown or brown-olive to the top half of the head and allow it to dry thoroughly. Once the head is dry, apply the molded eyes using the techniques discussed above with Kevin's Poly Minnow. Be sure to press the eyes firmly into the fleece to get a good bond. Mark the gill area and the throat with a small amount of red permanent marker to suggest gills.

Tying a Sand Eel

Sand eels are an abundant and easily accessible forage fish for most predators on the Atlantic Coast of North America. A modification of an old sand eel pattern follows. The original upon which it was based is attributed to Bob Church. It was a 4-inch streamer using furnace hackles with peacock sword at the throat, used for striped bass.

Hook: 2 short shank saltwater
Thread: white monocord or 2/0
Underwing: white bucktail, angora goat or artificial hair
Body: silver mylar piping
Tail: gray marabou in piping.

Connector: 30-pound monofilament
Top wing: pale tan or greenish bucktail
Head: epoxy over body to bend of front hook
Eyes: self-adhesive under last epoxy coat
Gills: red marker under final epoxy coat

Attach the connector monofilament to the tail hook using a snell knot and allowing at least 3 inches more monofilament than required to reach the front hook. Cinch the knot down tightly. Select a short piece of gray marabou and bind it to the rear of the shank on the trailer hook as a tail. Thread the monofilament and trailer hook into the mylar piping, sliding the piping over the hook and tail base. Bind it in place over the tail, allowing a bit of excess piping flaring over the base of the tail. Remove the trailer hook from the vise and clamp the front hook in it. Lay the piping along the shank of the front hook to measure the length of the piping body. Push the piping back on the monofilament a bit, and bind the monofilament to the shank of the forward hook from the rear of the shank to about 1/4 inch behind the eye. Fold the excess monofilament back toward the rear of the hook and continue winding over it with the tying thread. For an even stronger bond, repeat the process, leaving the excess monofilament hanging over the eye of the forward hook. Trim the monofilament to length and whip finish the thread. Saturate the wraps with quick-drying epoxy or CA cement, and allow it to dry. Remove the hook from the vise and thread it on the forward hook, pushing the point of the hook through the piping so the monofilament lies straight, and the piping gives a smooth, rounded appearance. Replace the forward hook in the vise and tie on a sparse white bucktail (or other hair or imitation) wing under the shank of the forward hook extending nearly to the point of the trailer. Trim the butt ends and wind over them. Repeat this process with tan or greenish hair or its imitation, with the hair reaching beyond the bend of the trailer. Trim the butts of the hair, wind a generous, conical head, whip finish the thread and apply a drop of two of lacquer to the head. Gently pull the wings back along the mylar piping and apply a rubber band near the end of the shank on the forward hook. Apply quick-setting epoxy to the entire shank area of the forward hook, stopping short of the band. Allow the epoxy to dry and repeat until a smooth and even head is built up. Apply self-adhesive eyes near the head and paint a red arc on each side of the head with permanent marker. Allow the marker to dry thoroughly. Finally, apply one more coat of epoxy. Remove the rubber band. The material should lie smoothly along the mylar piping, giving the fly a sleek, nearly cylindrical appearance.

Tying Crab, Shrimp and Crustacean Patterns

Crabs and shrimp and other crustaceans are abundant prey in many saltwater habitats, and they are actively sought by fish. From the tiny mole crab to big blue or calico crabs and from the smallest grass shrimp and jetty bugs to large prawns, they are attractive fish catchers. While many of the larger game fishes are nearly entirely piscivorous, many of them feed opportunistically on crabs and shrimp. Big crab imitations are a bit outside the realm of most fly casters, but smaller ones are effective on many inshore species, like red drum, bonefish or permit and on some offshore or reef species like cobia. Shrimp patterns can be effective on a wide range of species as well.

Tying Scate's Shrimp

This pattern is a mainstay of fly fishers on the Louisiana coast. It is a relatively simple tie adaptable to many color combinations, and suggestive enough of small shrimp to take most inshore species that feed on them. The pattern and some variations follow.

Red Scate's Shrimp
Hook: sproat or Pate style saltwater
Thread: red monocord
Tail: red bucktail with sparse flash fiber above
Back: red flash fiber
Eyes: mono eyes or bead chain eyes
Legs: long, soft black hackle
Body: heavy red chenille
Head: red thread

This pattern can also be tied in yellow, chartreuse, pink, amber, gray, white, orange, olive, or tan just by changing the color of the thread, chenille, bucktail, flash fiber, and hackle.

This pattern is tied with the head to the rear, starting on the upper part of the bend in the hook. This gives the fly a slightly curved appearance. Clip a small bunch of red bucktail from the brown part of the tail and bind it in pointing slightly downward at the rear of the shank. Add a few long strands of flash fiber on top of the bucktail, then bind in a clump of flash fiber that will serve as the back of the fly. Leaving it attached makes handling easier and wastes less material. Bind in a piece of heavy red chenille and carry the thread toward the eye to about the top of the shank. Bind in a pair of monofilament or bead chain eyes, cross whipping them in place and securing them with a drop of CA cement. Just forward of the eyes (toward the eye of the hook), bind in a long, soft black hackle feather. Carry the thread toward the eye of the hook and let the bobbin hang. Wind the chenille toward the eye, leaving the hackle feather in place. Leave enough space to allow about 4 open turns of hackle, catch the chenille, and apply the hackle. Bind it off and trim the excess material away, then carry the thread forward to the eye and finish winding the chenille to the head area. Pull the back material forward and bind it down at the base of the head with several turns of thread. Trim it leaving a short tuft of flash fiber beyond the eye of the hook. Split the shank with those fibers, pulling them down and back as a beard, and wrap over them to secure them in place. Wind a neat head, whip finish, and lacquer the head to complete the fly.

Tying a Grass Shrimp

Smaller shrimp, either juveniles or small species are common forage for many saltwater game fish. This pattern is intended for Gulf Coast waters with a touch of pink in the pattern. Others tied similarly can be tailored to the species found in local waters, from nearly white or gray to brownish or reddish brown specimens. The pattern follows.

Hook: standard saltwater
Thread: white monocord
Eyes: olive, gold or black mono eyes
Tail: tan poly yarn with pink-pearl tinsel marabou over
Rib: fine gold oval tinsel
Body: tan poly dubbing, tapered
Back: pink marabou tinsel
Legs: light dun or ginger hackle
Thorax: tan poly dubbing
Back: pink marabou tinsel
Antennae: long pink marabou tinsel or flash fiber
Head: tying thread

Start the pattern by binding in the monofilament eyes about 1/3 to 1/4 inch behind the eye of the hook. Carry the thread to the upper part of the bend, and bind in a short piece of tan poly yarn. Pick out the yarn and brush it to form the telson of the shrimp. Bind in a small clump of pink-pearl tinsel marabou over the yarn, with a short end covering the telson. Bind in a piece of very fine oval gold tinsel and begin dubbing a tan poly body to just forward of the middle of the shank. Pull the tinsel marabou forward, and bind it down over the back of the abdomen with several turns of ribbing, tying the ribbing material off at the front of the abdomen. Bind in a soft pale dun or light ginger hackle for legs, and dub a slightly more generous body to the head, making sure the area between and around the eyes is covered. Wind the hackle in open turns toward the head and bind it off, trimming away any excess hackle. Trim the hackle over the back, and pull the hackle down before bringing the tinsel marabou forward over the cephalothorax and binding it in place. Bend the material back toward the tail and repeat the binding process to hold it in place. Leave 2-4 strands trailing over the hook as antennae or bind in a couple pieces of flash fiber to suggest antennae. Wind a well-proportioned head of tying thread, whip finish, and lacquer the head well.

Tying Crazy Charlies and Relatives

Crazy Charlies represent a group of patterns designed for bonefish and similar bottom feeding species, these flies can be tied in a variety of patterns and used for fishes feeding on smaller prey items, including jetty bugs, small fry, glass minnows, grass shrimp and small crabs. Closely related to these patterns are bearded Charlies, and gotchas as well as many unnamed patterns designed by local anglers for their fishing conditions.

Gotchas differ slightly from Charlies in having a short tail and a wing, as well as dubbed bodies. They also include a bit of flash fiber in the wing. Like the Charlies, they show a strong affinity to the Frankie Belle Bonefish fly, being tied “upside down” with the wing covering and shielding the hook. Color combinations seem to be a matter of choice for the angler and the fish, but popular ones include a chartreuse pattern with gold tinsel marabou tail, green body, chartreuse wing and pearl flash fiber, a ‘spawning’ version with red tail, tan wing, and silver-pearl sparkle braid body, as well as the usual pink on pink, and tan and white versions. Bearded Charlies are somewhat reverse tied with the lead dumbbell eyes tied in near the rear of the shank, wing and tail of about the same length, and dubbed fur or clipped hackle bodies with tinsel ribbing.

The pattern for a pink Crazy Charlie follows.

Pink Crazy Charlie

Hook: short shank or standard saltwater #6

Thread: white monocord

Body: pink floss

Rib: fine silver mylar tinsel

Wing: pink calf tail to hook point

Eye: gold bead chain section

Variations

Yellow - yellow wing, gold mylar tinsel body

White - white wing, silver mylar tinsel body

Tan - tan wing, cream dubbing body, silver rib

Gray - pale dun wing, amber body, silver rib

Start the pattern by binding in a pair of bead chain eyes about 1/4 to 1/3 inch behind the eye of the hook. Cross whip them in place and make the secure with a drop or two of CA cement. Carry the thread smoothly to the rear of the shank, laying a foundation for the for the body. Bind in a piece of fine silver mylar tinsel and a piece of four strand pink floss. Wind a tapered body to the eyes with the floss, and spiral the ribbing material to the rear of the eyes. Trim all excess materials and apply a fairly sparse calf tail or bucktail wing about 1 1/2 to 2 times the length of the shank. Trim the butts of the hair at an angle, wind a smooth head, whip finish and lacquer the head. To make the fly more durable, coat the eyes and head area with quick-setting epoxy after the lacquer is thoroughly dry.

Tying Del’s Merkin

Del’s merkin was designed as a permit fly for Florida flats fly fishers, but it is useful for many other crab eating species as well, including bonefish and red drum. It is a relatively easy pattern to tie, it casts well (at least in smaller sizes), and fish like it. It can be tied in a variety of base colors and modified by using permanent markers to apply mottling or to tint portions of the body or legs different colors. The pattern follows.

Hook: 34007 or similar saltwater, # 2-#6

Thread: yellow or chartreuse monocord

Claws: splayed cree hackles

Body: rug yarn, bound at the middle, frayed and trimmed to shape

Legs: 4 pairs of white round rubber legs

Keel eyes: lead or brass dumbbell eyes

Begin the pattern by applying the lead dumbbell eyes as you would for a Clouser Deep Minnow but closer to the eye. Nothing but the head will be beyond them, so you can crowd the eye a bit without experiencing problems later. After binding the eyes in place on the top of the hook and applying CA cement to fix them in place, carry the thread to the rear of the shank and apply a pair (or two) of splayed cree neck hackles as claws. Attach one or two short pieces of rug yarn (several tiers recommend a poly rug yarn available inexpensively from most craft stores), one at a time at the rear of the hook, then alternate round rubber leg material and yarn until four sets of legs have been attached. Finish the fly by filling the remainder of the shank with yarn to right behind the lead eyes. You will need to determine how to center the four sets of legs as you are tying or to apply them after the pattern is tied and shaped. Both methods are acceptable. Run a bead of CA cement down the hook shank to secure the tie-down areas of all the body parts, and allow it to cure. Using a dubbing needle, pick out the fibers on the yarn until the body looks somewhat uniform. Grasp the legs to hold them out of the way, and trim the body to a crab shape, tapering the edge

of the body a bit in the process. Pull the legs back into place, and trim them to length. Apply a spot of permanent marker to the tips of each leg. Red or blue are used most often, but suit yourself on the choice of colors. The body can be mottled using permanent markers (careful not to overdo it.) The merkin is ready to go and visit the crab-eating fish in your area.

Tying a Jetty Bug

This pattern was designed for several jetty species in California, but it should be useful in many other areas as well. Jetty bugs are common over much of the coastal area, and they are readily eaten by fishes when they are washed into the water by wave action. This pattern differs slightly from the original by John F. McKim who used it for sand and spotted bass, surf perch and bonito.

Hook: #6 to #8 -3x long
Tread: brown, black, or olive
Tail: two goose biots matching thread
Rib: gold oval mylar tinsel
Back: goose quill strip matching thread
Underbody: lead wire, lacquered
Body: gray, olive or tan chenille
Legs: grizzly hackle, palmered and clipped to length, projecting at sides
Antennae: goose biots matching tail
Head: generous, tying thread

If a weighted jetty bug is desired, start by winding tight turns of lead wire on the shank of the hook. Build up transition areas of tying thread on both ends, and cross whip the lead wire to keep it in place. Apply a drop of two of lacquer to the lead and windings to prevent the lead from staining the pattern. Bind in a pair of black, brown or olive goose biots or wing quill slips as tails. Over the tails add a strip of goose quill of the same color as a back. Bind in a piece of gold wire or fine gold oval tinsel to serve as a rib. Bind in a long grizzly hackle feather to serve as legs. (I prefer to attach the hackle by its base and wind toward the tip for strength). Attach a piece of gray, pale olive or tan chenille, and carry the thread to the head area. Wind the chenille to the head, bind it off and trim away the excess material. Apply the grizzly hackle in open turns to the head, binding it in and trimming away the tip. Trim the hackle from the back and belly of the fly. Pull the back material forward and bind it down at the head, keeping it snug. Wind the gold wire or oval tinsel over the back to create the illusion of segmentation, tying the rib off at the head and trimming away the excess. Bind in a pair of goose biots or wing quill fibers for antennae, wind a generous head, whip finish and lacquer the thread. Trim the hackles to leave a tuft on each side for each segment.

Other Patterns

Tying the Golden Fleece

This pattern was also advanced by Kevin Hutchinson as a “killer” on the Gulf Coast for many species. Developed by a friend from Tallahassee, FL, this fly is simple, flashy and might be considered the salt water equivalent of an “attractor” pattern. Or is it a flashy golden squid? The pattern follows.

Golden Fleece
Hook: 34007 #2-4
Thread: white monocord
Eyes: medium lead dumbbell eyes
Tail: 4 pieces gold medium mylar tubing about 2 1/2 times shank length - (cores removed)
Body: Orange cactus chenille

Start the pattern by attaching a set of medium lead dumbbell eyes on the shank as usual. Cross whip them in place and secure them by placing a drop or two of CA cement on the thread. Cut four sections of gold mylar piping about 2 1/2 times the length of the shank, and remove their thread cores. Stack the piping to trim the ends flush with each other. Start tying them in one at a time right behind the eye and continue down the shank, securing each one over the previous section, and winding the thread to the bend. Bind in a section of orange cactus chenille at the bend, and carry the thread back forward the front of the eyes. Wind the cactus chenille forward over the gold piping, making at least one figure 8 over the eyes and one turn in

front of them. Tie off the cactus chenille and whip finish the head. Fray the piping projecting beyond the chenille with a bodkin. Once the head cement is dry, add a drop or two of clear, quick-setting epoxy to increase the fly's durability.

Tying the Sea Arrow Squid

Many fishes feed on squid, particularly when the mollusks are gathering in numbers to spawn. This pattern was developed on the West Coast for a wide variety of game fish. In smaller sizes, it might be useful for other species as well. It may be tied in many colors (remember that squid are very adept at changing colors), including white, red, pink, purple, blue, and brown.

Hook: long shank saltwater streamer

Thread: white monocord

Arms: 8 saddle hackles

Tentacles: 2 saddle hackles about twice as long

Cheeks: purple flash fiber or mylar marabou with short marabou over

Underbody: lead wire (lacquered) over-wrapped with curon foam

Body: heavy chenille

Fin: 4-6 strands of yarn, picked out, shaped, lacquered and squeezed flat

Eyes: 6 - 8 mm amber molded eyes

Start at the rear of the hook, binding in a splayed bunch of 8 saddle hackles about shank length with two longer saddles on the sides. Top these with purple mylar marabou or flash fiber with a collar of wound short marabou over the tie down area. Build a padded underbody of lead wire and curon foam, lacquering the lead wire and winding over the underbody with thread. Add a body of heavy chenille to the fin area. Bind in 4-6 pieces of poly or antron yarn to form the foundation for the fin, shaping, lacquering, and flattening the fin.

Exhibit or Sharing Suggestions

1. Prepare an exhibit of flies to be used in a particular area or for a particular species of fish. Display it in a suitable location.
2. Prepare a photographic story of tying a particular fly from beginning to use.
3. Keep a journal of saltwater fly fishing, sharing all or parts of it with an appropriate group.
4. Prepare a demonstration or illustrated talk and present it in your group or another appropriate setting.
5. Study the food habits of a particular species or the growth of a forage species over a season, recording your results in your fishing journal. Design a series of flies to match the forage being used with seasonal recommendations on their use.

Community Service Suggestions

1. Prepare a set of flies to be used in a community or club fundraiser.
2. Share your tying skills with another youth group or 4-H club.
3. Join a fly tying group and share your experiences and interests with them.
4. Participate in a National Hunting and Fishing Day program or in a similar one where you can share your skills and interests with others.
5. Become a teen leader for your group, assisting your leader in presenting materials to others.

Extensions or Ways of Learning More

Marine biology holds a wide array of opportunities for expanding both biological and fly tying knowledge. Study the fishes in your area as well as the things they eat. Capture forage species throughout the year, determining not only their occurrence, but also their sizes and abundance. These experiences can lead to the wider exploration of the sciences. Fly tying can also get one involved in art, entrepreneurship, history, the relationship between people and fisheries, and much more. Let your imagination guide you.