

CLOUSER MINNOW



Recipe

Hook.....Wet or saltwater, size 10 – 2/0
Thread.....Color to match bucktail, 6/0 or 3/0
Eyes.....Dumbbell or large bead chain
Belly.....White bucktail
Lateral line..Flashabou, assorted colors
Back.....Bucktail, assorted colors
Head.....Thread

1. Tie-in the thread two hook eye lengths behind the hook eye and wrap a tight thread base down to the bend, then loosely wrap it back toward the tie-in point about 2/3d's of the hook shank and form a small ball of thread. Then wrap the thread back toward the bend about one hook eye length and form another small ball of thread. This will serve as a base for the dumbbell eyes.
2. Take the dumbbell eyes and lay their shank between the balls of thread. Lightly wrap the thread in one direction over the shank for 3-4 turns, then reverse your direction and make 3-4 turns of thread in that direction. Then make several tight figure eight wraps over the eyes to secure them, making sure that you position them properly as you do this. The eyes should now be tightly in position. It is recommended that you then coat the thread wraps with some form of superglue to ensure that the eyes do not shift position. Make sure the thread is in front of the eyes at least one hook eye length behind the hook eye. Let the thread hang.
3. Now select and cut a small bunch of white bucktail and remove the short hairs by pulling from the butt end. The hair should be at least 2 ½ times the length of the hook shank. Trim the butt ends of the bucktail to make them square.
4. Place the butt end of the bucktail up against the back of the hook eye and secure with tight thread wraps up to the front of eye, then take the thread under the eyes and again secure the bucktail behind the eyes. Then take the thread and wrap it over the bucktail, tying it to the top of the hook shank down to the hook point. Now wrap the thread back to behind the dumbbell eyes and tie a half-hitch.
5. Remove the hook from the vise, turn it upside down, and replace it in the vise with the hook point up.
6. Select 8-10 strands of flashabou and tie them in on top of the hook shank directly in front of the dumbbell eyes with several wraps of thread. Then wrap the thread under the eyes and again secure the flashabou directly behind the eyes. Then return the thread to in front of the eyes. Trim the flashabou slightly longer than the white belly hair.

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7. Now select and cut a slightly larger bunch of a colored bucktail. Hold it by the tips and remove short hairs by pulling on the butt ends. Tie-in this bunch of hair in front of the eyes. Trim the butt ends of this hair at an angle back toward the eyes to avoid crowding the hook eye.
8. Wrap the thread tightly over the butt ends of the hair between the dumbbell eyes and the hook eye forming a thread head.
9. Whip finish, cut the thread and apply head cement.

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