

FLASHTAIL WHISTLER



Recipe

Hook.....Bass Stinger, size 1 - 2/0
Eyes.....Bead Chain or Dumbbell, Large, Color of choice
Thread.....6/0, Color of choice
Undertail.....Bucktail, White
Flash.....Flashabou, Silver or Pearl
Overtail.....Bucktail, Color of choice
Body.....Diamond Braid, Color of choice
Wing.....Grizzly Hackle
Collar.....Schlappen Hackle, Color of choice

1. Place the hook in the vise and tie-in the thread behind the hook eye. Remove any thread tag. Wrap the thread back behind the hook eye about 2 hook eye lengths and let it hang.
2. Cut a segment of bead chain and tie it in using cross wraps where you left the thread hanging (2 hook eye lengths behind the hook eye). Insure that the bead chain is securely fastened. (If necessary, apply a drop of super glue between the bead chain on top of the thread wraps.)
3. Cut a bunch of white bucktail about the thickness of a pencil, clean out any loose fibers, and cut the butts even. Tie this bunch in tightly by the butt end on top of the hook shank over the hook barb. (*Be sure to keep the bucktail on top of the hook shank.*) Be sure to leave about 1/4th inch of open space behind the bead chain eyes. Cover any remaining butts with thread wraps. The tail should extend somewhere between 2" to 3" past the hook bend.
4. Select a batch of flashabou (30-40 strands) and tie them in on top of the hook shank by their **middle** at the same point you tied-in the undertail, then fold the front half of flashabou back over the back half and tie it down, creating a thick bunch of flash on

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top of the undertail. Trim the flash so that their tips extend about 1" past the tips of the undertail.

5. Now cut second bunch of bucktail in your choice of color and measure it so that its tips reach from behind the bead chain eyes back to the tips of the undertail. Trim the butt ends even and tie this bunch in on top of the hook shank right behind the bead chain eyes and on top of the undertail and flash. Cover the butts with tight thread wraps back to the same point you tied-in the undertail and the flash, creating a thread body between the front of the tails and the back of the bead chain eyes. This body should slope downward from the front of the tails to the back of the bead chain eyes.
6. Cut a 4"-5" piece of diamond braid and tie it in by one end tight against the front of the tails, then wrap it forward over the thread body (covering the thread wraps) to slightly behind the bead chain eyes and tie it off. Remove any excess braid and return the thread to the front of the braid body. There should still be a small open area behind the bead chain eyes.
7. Select 2 grizzly hackles of roughly the same size (they should reach from behind the bead chain eyes back to the end of the tails). Remove the fluff from the base of the hackles and tie one in on each side of the fly at the front of the body. Trim off any excess butts. (You should still have a small open space behind the bead chain eyes.)
8. Select a schlappen feather to use as a collar and remove any fluff from its base. Tie it in by the tip tight against the front of wing hackles, then wrap it forward in touching turns to behind the bead chain eyes (see why you need the open space) and tie it off. Remove any excess schlappen. (It is recommended that you stroke back the schlappen fibers with each wrap to avoid binding down too many fibers.) Wrap the thread a few times over the front of the schlappen fibers to make the fibers lay back over the body, then wrap the thread forward to the front of the bead chain eyes and do a whip finish. Cut the thread. You may wish to apply head cement or super glue to the thread wraps.

This fly is great for pike and bass. Its profile is big enough to push a lot of water and attract a lot of attention. It works well with a rapid retrieve. Its name comes from the fact that the bead chain eyes "whistle" when the fly is cast. Enjoy!