Fly Tying Bench— The Closer Minnow *by Al Pitcher*

(Original Design by
Bob Clouser, Middletown, Pa.)

The Clouser Minnow, Al Pitcher photo

The original Clouser was developed in 1984 when Tom Schmucker of Waspsi Fly Co. sent Bob some metallic, "dumb-bell" shaped eyes, which he used to produce a weighted fly which gave the action of an escaping baitfish; and as they say, the rest is history. There are many variations of the original Clouser, but they are all essentially Clousers. This particular pattern was taken from "Saltwater Fly Patterns" by Lefty Kreh. I modified the pattern using Krystal Flash sandwiched between two deer hair layers. Also, I covered the hook shank with Lateral Scale to give it the appearance of a minnow body. This fly will sink fairly rapidly and is intended for deeper water use and around the docks at night for snook. You could alter the size of the hook and the hour glass eyes.

Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 34011 size #1
- Thread: Danville's Flat Waxed Nylon; white
- Body: Hedron's Lateral Scale, #1703
- Tail: Deer Hair; white and Krystal Flash; Black/Pearl
- Eyes: Hour Glass Brass Eyes; Small, 3/16 diameter. or Medium, 7/32"; your choice
- Glue: Fly Head cement, Hard as Hull head cement with acrylic polymers, Zap-a-Gap

Tying Instructions

Step 1: Mash the barb down and place the hook in vice, hook point down.

Step 2: Starting at the hook eye, lay down a base of thread back to the hook bend and back up to within approximately 1/2" of the hook eye. Tie in the eye using the figure eight wraps. Apply a small amount of Zap-a-Gap.

Step 3: Tie in a sparse amount of deer hair placing it along top of the hook shank, extending from just behind the hour glass eyes to approximately 2" behind the hook bend.

Step 4: Cut two or three strands of Krystal Flash and tie it, at its midpoint, just in front of the hook bend extending the length of the tail. Double back the Krystal Flash and tie off. Trim so that the flash is the same length.

Step 5: Repeat step 3.

Step 5: Lay down a good thread base ending up at the hook bend. Cut a length of Lateral Scale and tie in at the end of hook shank. Wrap the Lateral Scale up to just behind the hour glass eyes. Tie off the Lateral Scale and move the thread in front of the hour glass eyes.

Step 6: Make a nice clean head and whip finish. Take several wraps of red thread right in front of the hour glass eyes; whip finish. Complete the fly by adding several successive coats of Hard as Hull. This will give the Clouser Minnow a tough exterior for that big snook that will inhale it on your first cast.