

Fly Tying Bench— Polarfibre Greenback Minnow by Tom Jones

If you are new to fly tying, this is a great first project because it is quick and easy. My first fly fishing success in salt water was with the Polafibre Greenback Minnow which I first learned to tie at Bill Jackson's. (I know this is virtual blasphemy but, in my experience, it beats the socks off Carl Hansen's Glass Minnow. To this day I still haven't caught a fish on any of the Glass Minnows that I tied and Carl, himself, approved.) Jackson's taught us to tie the Polafiber Greenback with a short shank hook with the point down. I have caught speckled trout at the edge of the grass flats with that model which you can find at this web page - http://www.illawarraflyfishers.com.au/flytying/polafibre_minnow.htm

This is my effort to make this fly more weedless and, while I have not yet tried it out, it looks very good in the water, as some of you noticed at the last meeting.

Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 3407 size 1 (custom bent)
- Thread: Black Nylon
- Eyes: Plastic eyes from Bill Jackson's, yellow-orange with a black pupil (This eye has a post on the back for inserting into a hole in a plug or popper body. Cut this post off.)
- Body: White & green Polafibre with Crystal Flash between



Polarfibre Greenback Minnow tied by Tom Jones.
Bill AuCoin photo

Tying Instructions:

1. Pinch the barb down and bend the shank by holding the eye end with pliers and pushing down on the hook with your finger (*Editor's note ...see photo No. 1 on page 10*). Secure the hook in the vise with the hook point up. This would be the best time to wrap the shank with lead wire if you want it to sink fast.
2. Attach the thread to the hook shank near the eye.
3. Tie on enough white Polafibre (on top of the hook shank just behind the eye) to represent the body of the size greenback you want. Secure with a couple of half hitches and a drop or two of thinned head cement.
4. Now, tie in about 4 strands of Crystal Flash and let them extend just beyond the Polafibre.
5. On top of that, tie on enough green Polafibre to represent the back of the size greenback you want. Secure with a couple of half hitches and a drop or two of thinned head cement followed by a whip finish.
6. Glue an eye on each side of the greenback and you're finished.

Eye Tips:

1. Sand or otherwise rough up the finish on the back side of the plastic eyes so that the glue will have something to stick to.
2. Make an eye holder to keep your clumsy fingers from getting into the glue and all over the fly. You can use a short dowel rod with a repositionable glue on one end for holding the eye to apply the glue and position the eye on the fly. (Use *Zig Memory System's 2 Way Glue*, available at Office Depot. After it dries it forms a soft, repositionable adhesive.)
3. Comb the Polafibre straight back on both sides until it looks the way you want. Lay the greenback down on the table. Position the first eye and press it in to make the glue mingle with the Polafibre. Then you'll need a pair of tweezers or drafting dividers to hold down the eye while you pull the sticky push pin off. Turn the greenback over onto several layers of something soft to accommodate the first eye and stick the other eye on.

Now, go fish! (*Editor's note: ...See more notes and pictures on page 10*)