Fly Tying Bench—Whatever Bendback *by Bill Smith*

Whatever Bendback Minnow or Whatever You Have In Your Fly Tying Material Collection

This fly started as a Carl Hanson Bendback Glass Minnow on a Mustad 3407 hook. But because I kept making the wing too large, I was getting a lot of short strikes. So I went to a Mustad 34011 hook in sizes 1 and 2 with 15º bend in the shank about 3/16" behind the hook eye. Through time, I have always used a white bucktail wing but now, depending on how I feel, I will change the topping and the body materials and the fish still eat it. Confidence in a fly is nine tenths of the game.

- Hook: Mustad 34011 sizes 1 and 2 (bend at 15º)
- Thread: Red
- Wing: White bucktail
- Body: Mono over aluminum foil; white chenille: white Estaz; silver sparkle braid; pearl sparkle braid; holographic silver chenille; etc. The choice is yours and the possibilities are endless.
- Over Wing: Green bucktail; peacock herl; dark green Flashabou; dark green holographic Flashabou.

Top: A typical Whatever Bendback Minnow

Bottom: A group of Bill's Whatever Bendback Minnows

Flies tied by Bill Smith

The main thing is, I don't get bored tying the same thing and I still catch fish. ***…...Bill***

Editor's note: I think everyone knows the tying procedure for tying a Bendback Minnow, but if you are new to tying or just need a refresher, go to the SFF website www.suncoastflyfishers.com Click on "Fly Tying" and then select "Carl Hanson's Glass Minnow" or "Bendback" or "Prince Of Tides". They are all bendbacks and will take you through the steps. ***……...Paul***