

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Randy Hanner's Laser Minnow

Randy Hanner, a member of the US Fly Fishing Team and now a rep for Umpqua, is one Missouri's own fly fishing elite. It's been said that "he can catch fish in this coffee cup before you're even rigged up" - and that's coming from some other great Missouri fly fishers. This fly is one of his simple but productive creations that should be remarkably easy tie and effective for everything from crappie and bass to white bass and stripers.



Hook: Owner Mosquito Hook #4
Thread: White Monocord
Tail: White & Black Barred Craft Fur
Flash: Two strands of Pearl Flashabou
Body: Pearl Estaz or Polar Chenille
Bottom Wing: White Senyo Laser Dub
Top Wing: Minnow Belly Senyo Laser Dub
Eyes: Red Jurassic Eyes

- 1) Secure hook in vise and start thread behind hook eye.
- 2) Advance thread to about 2/3 down the hook shank.
- 3) Tie in a small tapered hank of craft fur on top of the hook shank extending about two hook shanks.
- 4) Tie in two strands of pearl flashabou over tail extending just to the end of the tail.
- 5) Tie in Estaz on top of the tail tie-in-point and advance thread to about two eye-lengths from the eye.
- 6) Wrap a body of the chenille brushing the fibers back as you go. Tie off and trim excess.
- 7) Pull out a small hank of White LaserDub and pull out to a taper.
- 8) Tie in material at its middle on the bottom of the hook just behind the eye and leave sticking out both directions.
- 9) Tie in Minnow Belly LaserDub on top in the same manner.
- 10) Now brush the laser dub that sticks out the front back toward the hook bend and make several wraps at the hook eye. Whip finish and trim thread. Lay the fly flat on the table and brush the top and bottom wing toward the tail using a tooth brush.
- 11) Finally, glue on the eyes using either Zap a Gap, Goop, or some new Clear Cure Goo.
- 12) Using a sharpie, make a small "false eye" just behind the glued on eyes.

Remember not to make it too bulky. I should look somewhat transparent like a real minnow. Randy likes to fish this on a full sinking line around whatever structure is available – wood, weeds, stream banks, etc. Let it sink, then strip it back in short quick bursts. Should be great for spring bass, crappie, and bluegill.