

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Bob Clouser's Foxee Minnow

Smallmouth and saltwater guru, Bob Clouser, created an entire line of Clouser Minnows designed to catch everything from trout and panfish to saltwater species like redfish and snook. The lead eyes tied on the top of the hook inverts the fly so that it rides hook-up, and the sparse style mimics what a true baitfish looks like on the water – lighter on the belly, shiny and sparkly across their mid-line, and darker across the back. His Foxee Minnow looks like just about any minnow or sucker we find in our Ozark streams as well as crayfish and other prey.



Fly Materials

Hook: Standard Streamer Hook – I like Gamakatsu B10S Size 4 or 6
Thread: 8/0 Veevus Tan
Eyes: Painted Lead Eyes – Red or Gold
Belly: Lighter section of Red Fox Tail
Flash: Gold Crystal Flash, Gold Flashabou, and Bronze Flashabou
Top Wing: Darker section of Red Fox Tail

Tying Steps

1. Secure Hook in vise and start thread about 1/3rd of the hook shank behind the eye.
2. Secure eyes to hook by making several crossing wraps then wrap horizontally around the eyes to tighten the thread. Use your favorite cement or super glue to secure them
3. Advance the thread to behind the hook eye.
4. Cut a section of red fox tail from the lighter side and brush out all the under fur – There's a lot of it.
5. Tie in front of the eyes and then between the eyes and wrap down the hook shank to about the hook point. Return thread back to in front of eyes. Invert the hook so that the eyes are on the bottom.
6. Cut 2 Gold Flashabou, 2 Gold Crystal Flash, and 3 Bronze Flashabou from their ties. Fold around the thread, position on top of the hook and wrap down to just in front of the eyes.
7. Cut a section of darker black-tipped fox tail and brush out all the under fur.
8. Tie in just behind the eye secure down about half way to the eyes.
9. Form a neat head with thread wraps, whip finish, and trim thread.
10. Finish the head with your favorite cement or UV cure goop.

Our own Bill Armon has a quality video on YouTube on tying this fly, or check out Bob Clouser's book. I fish it with a floating line to give it a jigging motion, but I'm sure a sink-tip line would get you deeper. Make sure to fish it deep with steady strips. I fish it for smallmouth, largemouth, trout, redfish, and everything in between. I will cast it slightly up and across stream, let the belly pull it downstream as I strip it, then let it swing across and downstream.