

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Shimmer Fringe Clouser Minnow

While there's nothing new about a Clouser Minnow, you cannot argue its effectiveness as a fish catching baitfish imitation. I have caught everything from trout, bass, and panfish, to gulf redfish, snook, and sea trout on them. What is new, however, is some of the new materials that make an already great fly even better.



On a recent visit to T. Hargrove's, Craig just had to show us a new material – Ice Dub Minnow Back Shimmer Fringe. This product is remarkably different in that it is fused at one end (thus the fringe) so it is easy to work with, is very fine, shimmery, and prismatic, and has a distinct light side and a dark side perfect for baitfish streamers. He showed me the Clousers he tied with them while regaling me with fish stories. Well of course I bought some, ties up some Clousers, and hit the local subdivision ponds. And yes, they do work very well on the local bass and crappie.

Materials:

Hook: Dai-Riki #810 size 2-6

Thread: White Flat Waxed Nylon

Eyes: Painted Lead or your favorite dumbbell eyes

Under Wing: White Bucktail

Center Wing: 3 Strands each Opal Flashabou and UV Pearl Crystal Flash

Top Wing: Ice Dub Minnow Back Shimmer Fringe "Pearl Bronze Herring Back"

1. Secure hook in vise and start thread just behind hook eye. Advance thread to about 1/3 the way down the shank and back to the $\frac{3}{4}$ point on the hook shank.
2. Using figure-8 wraps, secure dumbbell eyes to top of hook at about the $\frac{3}{4}$ point of the hook. (about $\frac{1}{4}$ hook shank from eye of hook)
3. Select a section of bucktail about twice the diameter of the hook shank. Grasp it by the tips and pull out the short hairs. Trim butts to length – about twice the hook shank length.
4. Tie in just neatly on top of the hook shank behind the hook eye. Continue wrapping thread back so that the bucktail goes down between the dumbbell eyes and is secured on top of the hook shank about half-way down the shank.
5. Advance thread to just in front of dumbbell eyes and invert hook in vise.
6. Just in front of the eyes, tie in Flashabou and Crystal Flash at their midpoint using two or three wraps. Fold over and make two or three wraps so that you now have six strands of each extending out just past the end of the bucktail.
7. Select a bunch of Shimmer fringe about the diameter of the hook wire and cut from the core. Remember to keep it properly oriented so the colors do not mix.
8. Tie in on top of hook shank with the white side down and the color side up.
9. Whip finish, and cement head and bottom thread wraps.

This is a fairly easy fly to tie – once you get the proportions down – as well as being very durable. Fish them as you would any minnow imitation. Try varying the dumbbell eye sizes for different water depths as well. Shimmer Fringe comes in several colors to suit a number of situations as well as lending itself well to a number of possible uses. . . . *Better living through modern technology.*