



FLY OF THE MONTH - January, 1998 - Clouser Deep Minnow By Jim Abbs

The Clouser Minnow is one of the most famous American-designed flies. Bob Clouser of Middletown, PA tied this fly originally in the middle 1980's to catch smallmouth bass on the Susquehanna River and it does that job very well. Like some other very popular streamers, this fly has been adopted for many other species and fishing situations. From personal experience I can attest to its ability to also catch largemouth bass in small lakes, steelhead in Great Lakes rivers and brown trout in Lake Michigan.

John Kumiski, in his book, ***Saltwater Fly Fishing*** says that he has caught seatrout, redfish, snook, tarpon black drum, bonefish, cavelle jacks, and ladyfish on the Clouser Deep Minnows. Flip Pallot calls it the best bonefish fly he has ever used. It is said that Lefty Kreh has caught over 50 species of fish on Clouser Deep Minnows, including permit and king mackerel.

The design of this fly causes it to simulate the swimming action of a baitfish heading for cover.. The lead barbell eyes toward the front of the fly cause it to sink in between stripping actions of the retrieve, like a baitfish heading for the safety of the bottom. Another valuable feature of the Clouser Minnow is that because the barbell eyes are on top of the hook shank, it rides with the hook pointing up and thus does not get snagged very often.

MATERIALS

- **Hook:** 1X or 2X long, heavy wire, although Mustad 3407 is recommended for saltwater
- **TAIL:** None
- **BODY:** None
- **WING:** Layered - White bucktail on top, Krystal flash in between and bucktail dyed chartreuse on bottom (colors may be varied to imitate different baitfish)
- **EYES:** Barbell lead eyes, matched to the hook size. For a #4 hook, use 1/100 ounce (4/32) ounce eyes. If you are fishing shallow water, use smaller eyes and with deeper water increase the size. Painting the eyes (red and black) is said to make this fly more effective.

TYING INSTRUCTIONS

Step One: Lay down a base of tying thread to about ¹ the length of the hook shank behind the eye. Attach the barbell eyes to the top of the hook shank about ¹ the distance along the hook shank with repeated figure 8's over and around the barbells. Cover these wrappings with some nail. Turn the fly over in your vise so it is upside down.

Step Two: Lay down a stable foundation of thread, stopping at point on the hook shank opposite from the hook point.

Step Three: Cut some white bucktail from the upper part of the tail and pull out the smaller fibers. This fly should be tied sparse, so start with a bunch of hair about half the size of a pencil. If you cut the butts of the bucktail on a taper, it will give a smoother transition to the hook shank between the eyes.

The bucktail should be long enough to extend beyond the bend of the hook about the distance of one hook shank. Tie the white bucktail in between the lead eyes and coat with nail polish.

Step Four: Select 6-12 strands of Krystal Flash that will extend from the front of the eyes to the tip of belly hair. Tie the flash in directly in front of the eyes on top of the white bucktail.

Step Five: For the upper wing, cut some chartreuse bucktail equal in length to the white belly hair. Use only a small amount, equal to or less than the white bucktail.. Cut the butts on a taper for a smooth transition..

Step Six: Wrap the thread forward to the eye and apply a whip finish. Coat the head and the wraps over the butts of the bucktail with a couple of coats of nail polish.

****A line illustration of this fly can be obtained in a downloadable, high resolution format as noted above.**

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