

SHRIMP



By Bob Bates

There are many food sources for fish that swim from fresh water to the salt. About three years ago Scott Kinney, Eugene, OR started fishing for steelhead with flies that were tied to represent shrimp. In Oregon there are 60 some varieties of shrimp (300 species worldwide). Scott tied this pattern at the 2008 Northwest Fly Tier Expo in Albany, OR. As he tied it, many pictures of shrimp species were shown on his computer. He fishes bays, estuaries and fresh water for steelhead, coho, Chinook, sea run cuts and other fish that might be interested in his shrimp pattern. It works quite well for him.

Fish probably start feeding on shrimp in the bays and estuaries before they head out to sea. At sea there are many more opportunities to feed on nourishing shrimp. So Scott feels he is offering the returning fish something to remind them of home.

Materials list:

Hook: For this tie he used a Daiichi hook, size 6, but he uses many other hooks and sizes

Thread: Red 6/0

Antenna*: Crystal flash, pinkish

Legs and other front portions of shrimp: Marabou, fleshy pink

Weight: Lead eyes (Additional lead wire optional)

Shellback: Magic shrimp foil, 1/8th inch wide

Rib: Ultra wire red brassy

Body: Medium Krystal hackle shrimp, pink

* Apparently the shrimp don't have a real antenna, but many drawings show long fine appendages.

Tying steps:



1. Tipping the hook downward makes attaching the lead eyes easier. Attach thread at rear of hook and for this hook size attach four 2-inch pieces of Crystal Flash.



2. Attach pink marabou to simulate legs over bend of hook



3. Attach lead eyes roughly over point of hook. Use little black eyes on the smaller patterns. Always keep the size of eyes proportional to hook size.



4. Tie on shellback Magic shrimp foil and red Ultra wire behind the eyes. Also, rotate hook in vise to level the shank



5. Sometimes Scott adds lead wire all the way to the hook eye for extra weight. Occasionally he will even put on two layers of lead. Do it before tying on the Krystal hackle. Tie in medium Krystal hackle behind the lead eyes, and wind thread forward to about one eye width behind the hook's eye.



6. Put two wraps of Krystal hackle behind the lead eyes while stroking the fibers back to prevent winding them down. Wrap Krystal hackle around one lead eye, pass it to other side of hook, once around the other lead eye then wrap in front of the lead eyes. This gives full body at back of hook. Now start wrapping forward while stroking the fibers back. Secure behind the eye, and trim excess.



7. Trim top fibers about even with the lead eyes and tapering to the front.



8. Pull shellback forward.



9. Secure the shellback with a couple of thread wraps. Wrap the wire forward, can be counter wrapped or not. The first wrap is over the shellback behind the eyes, then under the eyes to just in front of the eyes. Spiral wire forward to hook eye, secure under the shellback, and trim wire with old scissors. Trim shellback a little more than two eye widths ahead of tie down point



10. Hold up shellback and wind thread over wire to cover it for small head. Pick out sides a little then trim sides and front of body a little. Concentrate on tapering down the Krystal hackle toward the tail of the shrimp (eye of the hook). Apply a little head cement on the thread winds under the shellback.

There are also some bigger shrimp to imitate so Scott ties some flies up to size 1/0. These flies usually have extra weight. Please be careful when you cast one of these heavily weighted flies. It hurts when one hits you in the back of the head.

Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.
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