

## CREASE FLY



By Bob Bates

The Crease Fly is a well known salt water fish catcher. Striped bass, albacore, bluefish, roosterfish, grouper, redfish/drum and many other game fish have fallen to its charms. As Randy Stonebreaker of Green River, WY demonstrated this pattern at the 2009 FFF Fly Fishing Conclave in Loveland, Colorado it screamed I catch fresh water bass too. Indeed, Randy has caught smallmouth bass, kokanee and trout with it. An internet search indicates it also catches largemouth bass, pike and muskie.

Created by Capt. Joe Blados of Greenport, Long Island, NY it quickly became a favorite for many anglers. If the fish are on top use a floating line, it is always a thrill to see a fish hit a fly on the surface. If they are not on top, go down with a sinking line. Let the line sink to the bottom, and strip it back with pauses to let the fly float up.

Randy uses a number 3 full sinking line on a six weight rod to chase smallmouth bass. If larger patterns are used a larger rod might need. For kokanee he ties it pink and orange and puts it on a downrigger.

There are several drying times during the construction of a Crease Fly so rather than wait, we switched to a fly that was already dry. So you will see different flies as we go through the steps.

### Material List

**Hook:** Daiichi 2461 big gap 2/0 lay thread base

**Thread:** Fairly heavy thread any color

**Tail:** Brahma hen from Whiting farms, buck tail, lama and chickabou

**Body:** White foam, 2 mm sheet

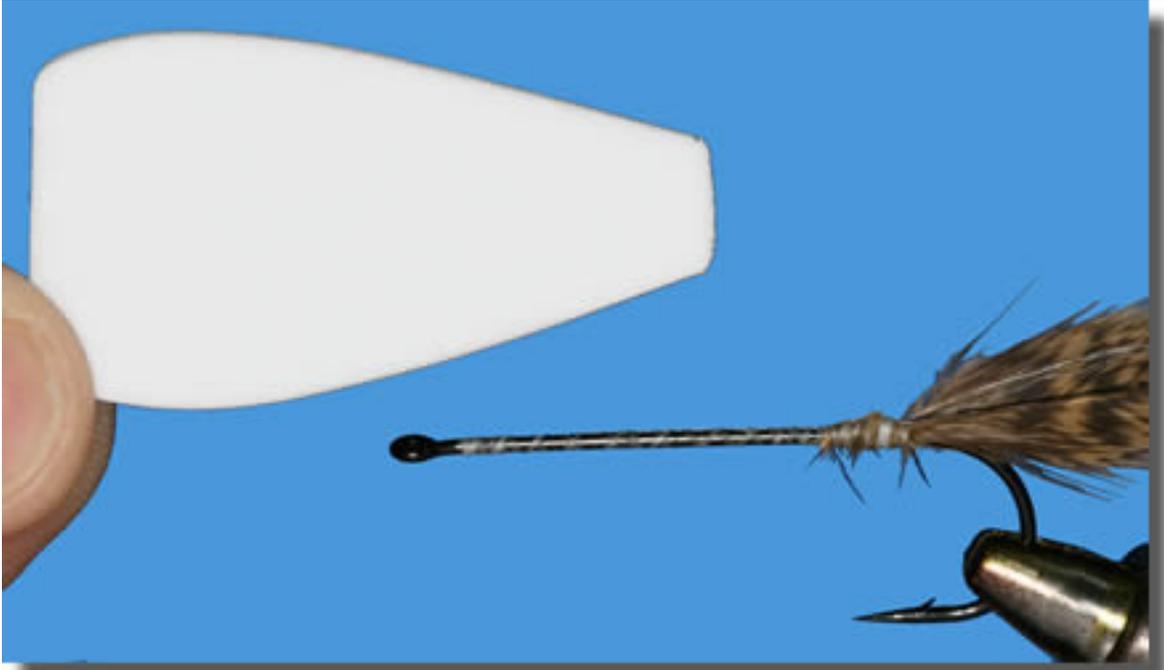
**Tying steps:**



1. Lay a thread base all the way down to bend.



2. Take one hen feather, cut it to get the fluff out of the way, tie it on hook, lift up and wrap underneath.



3. Add a little polar flash maybe 3 strands on each side. Now you are “done with tying.” Have the body foam pre-cut, and you are ready to start building the rest of the fly.



4. Fold foam over the hook to form the body and cut the rear section off on top and bottom to taper it a little. When you squeeze it around the hook it splays out the tail a little especially with llama or bucktail. Use a red permanent marker to paint the front, “put lips on it.” Put Zap-A-Gap on the edge of the foam. Do not put Zap-A-Gap near top of foam because you want keep the front open. Use a golf tee or something similar and stick it in to make sure the body is open. Next use Sally Hanson’s as a primer. Coat it thoroughly, but don’t touch the red marker because it will color the finger nail coating. The one he used had glitter in it, so it gives a sparkly undercoat. Randy has used all kinds of sparkle nail polish. Set it aside to dry.



5. Decide what kind of eyes you want and glue them on the dry body. Randy likes to use oversize eyes.



6. The next steps involve painting the fly to look like the baitfish the big fish you want are eating. Randy uses a Copic sprayer and pens. It is more convenient than an air brush. The sprayer needs a source of 50 psi compressed air. This might come from compressed air cans or a compressor. Some tying instructions I found on the internet recommended waterproof pens to color the flies. The results were simple light belly and grading darker on the back.



7. Randy started painting lighter colors on the bottom and darker on top. The pens have a fine point on one end and a dull point on the other. He also likes to put a red gill on each side.



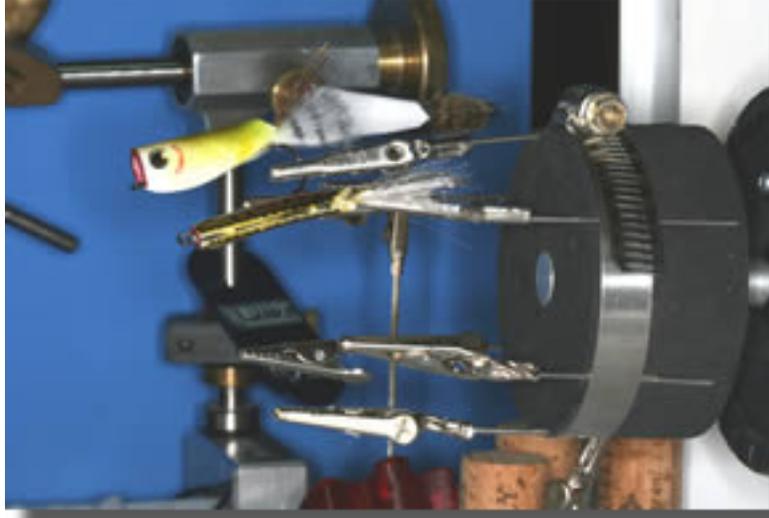
8. Use 30 min epoxy, sometimes get bubbles in it. Randy hasn't tried to flame out the bubbles. He was told to never mix epoxy with wood, but he used wooden tooth picks anyway. If you want to put glitter in it wait until epoxy is mixed. Cloudy at first then clears up, put on liberally and get it all over. Stick a little bit inside to keep body open.



9. Make sure the eyes are well covered.

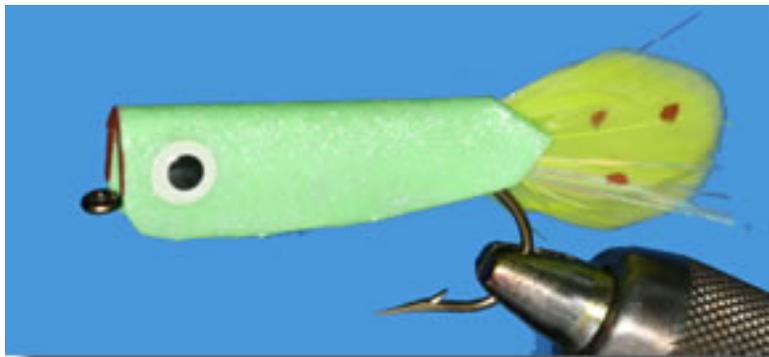


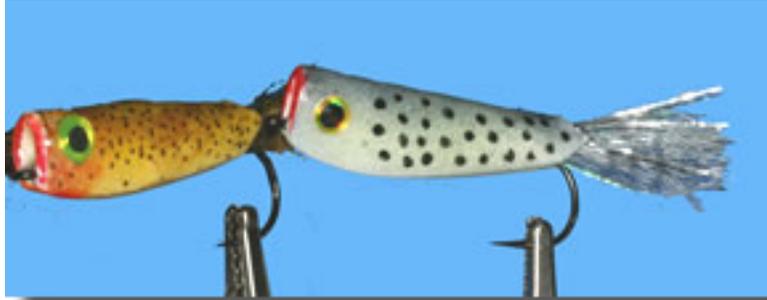
10. Let epoxy flow off.



11. Put on turner to let the epoxy cure.

**Closing comments:** There is almost an unlimited variety of patterns that can be produced. He has painted some light gray and put dots on them to look like shad. The chartreuse versions also work on kokanee. He has put scales on them, but he is still experimenting with techniques. He mentioned several stores where he can find Copic pens etc., but I didn't recognize any of them, so look around. A few more Crease Fly examples are shown below.





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You can direct any questions or comments to FOM at [flyofthefmonth@fedflyfishers.org](mailto:flyofthefmonth@fedflyfishers.org)