

Tying Inshore Flies - Where Do I Start.... Jerry Aldridge

Northwest Florida has been blessed with a great variety of inshore fish species, some abundant year around such as the speckled trout, some more seasonal such as bull reds marauding our bays and beaches in the fall and winter. Ladyfish, blues, Spanish or king mackerel, pompano, flounder and jack crevalle are always a possibility. So....what flies does a newcomer buy or tie to have a good chance to partake of this bounty? Salt water inshore anglers are just as opinionated as their fresh water counterparts so you won't be troubled with a shortage of recommendations. Once again, I will jump into the fray with my short list of flies to tie. These work for me and others and will serve well as a starting point. For around \$125 you can fill your inshore box with flies proven to catch just about species likely to be encountered. You should have flies in your inshore box that will cover the water column from the surface to as deep as you can reasonably expect to fish with a fly.

The fly I choose to cover the deeps is the **Clouser deep minnow**.

This is a proven fly that has probably caught more salt water fish than any other. It is easy to tie and is very durable if properly tied. Clousers can be tied in any size from huge to miniscule but sizes 2 and 4 hooks will be enough to begin with. Some of my favorite color combos are pale orange and brown (especially in autumn and winter), smoke and black, tan and olive, chartreuse and white, and tan and yellow. Lots of other colors work but we will start with these to keep costs of materials down.



Lefty's Deceiver is a fine fly to work the water column from just below the surface to 3 or 4 feet down (more if you weight the hook). This is probably the second most popular salt water fly and has caught just about anything that swims. A little more difficult to tie than the Clouser but a must have fly. Start with all white (Lefty's original), chartreuse and white, yellow and orange(a good color for redfish), and red/white/grizzly. Deceivers can be tied with artificial wing material but bucktail makes a more eye-appealing fly.



Jack Gartside's Gurgler is my first choice for a noisy fly on the surface. Poppers of many sorts will work well also but the gurgler is easy to tie with readily available materials; \$5 worth of foam at Hobby Lobby will make your gurgler bodies for the next 10 years. We will start with white, red, yellow and orange.



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Material List. The materials required to tie our flies is listed below. Substitute materials are sometimes used to keep costs down For example, flashabou is used in place of spooled mylar for the bodies of our deceivers. You can certainly use original material if you want to spend a little more. Total Material cost is about \$125,. Costs were taken from the catalogue of a single supplier except for the foam (locally available at Hobby Lobby for around \$1 per sheet). Other suppliers might be cheaper on individual items.

1. Hooks, Mustad 34007, sizes 2 and 4, 2 boxes of 50 at \$6.25 per box, \$12.50.
2. Thread, Danville 3/0 waxed, white, red, orange, beige, \$0.95 per 100 yard spool, \$3.80.
3. Spirit River Dazl-eyes, nickel, 5/32/ 3/16, \$2.75 per 25 pack, \$5.50.
4. Unique Hair, tan, olive, chartreuse, white, smoke, black, yellow, \$2.50 each, \$17.50.
5. Flashabou, copper, gold, silver, pearlescent, \$2.95 each, \$11.80.
6. Krystal flash, orange, root beer, chartreuse, pearl, yellow, \$3.50 each, \$17.50.
7. Bucktail, pale orange, brown, white, yellow, red, chartreuse, \$4.50 each, \$27.00.
8. Saddle hackle, white, yellow, grizzly, red, \$2.95 each, 11.80.
9. Marabou, white yellow, orange, \$1.50 each, \$4.50.
10. Foam, white, yellow, orange, red, \$1 per sheet, \$4.00.
11. Ice Chenille, pearl, yellow, orange, red, \$2.50 each, \$10.00.

Total Material Cost = \$125.90

A box or two filled with these flies, a few of each size and color listed will catch a lot of inshore fish. You will add other kinds and colors and sizes as you gain experience but these are a helluva start!

Red and Yellow Unique Hair Clouser

Kevin Cohenour

HOOK Mustad 34007 or equivalent, sizes 2 to 6
THREAD Red 3/0 or size "G" thread
EYES Dumbbells
BODY Red and yellow "Unique Hair" (or substitute "super hair")
FLASH Pearl krystal flash and silver or gold flashabou



1. Secure hook in vise and wrap thread to the 1/3 hook shank point. Not wrapping back far enough causes many tiers to crowd the eye and not get a nice cone shaped head.

2. Using 8-10 diagonal wraps each direction, secure the eyes at this point. Make 4-5 horizontal wraps around the base of the eyes to lock in. Place a small drop of super glue on bottom of wraps. This helps to better secure the eyes.



3. Cut a fat matchstick's diameter of yellow "unique hair" (for a size 2, less for smaller sizes). I pre-cut the butts. Secure immediately in front of the dumbbell eyes with 3 or 4 wraps. Wrap over the butts towards the hook eye and make a small cone. Wing length should extend at least a hook shank's length past the bend. Pull wing over the eyes and make 5-6 wraps immediately behind the eyes. Move thread to in front of eyes.



4. Secure 8-10 fibers of krystal flash on top of and slightly longer than the bucktail. Repeat with 8-10 strands of flashabou.



5. Cut a slightly fatter bunch of red "unique hair". Again I pre-cut the butt ends to make the red wing the same length as the yellow. Attach on top of flashabou. Wrap and make a neat, tapered head. Whip and cement. If desired, coat head and eyes with epoxy.

Lefty's Deceiver Fly Tying Instructions

Lefty's Deceiver Fly Materials

Hook:	Scud Hook size 2-6
Thread:	Black 6/0.
Hook Shank:	Pearl Braid
Flash:	Crystal, your choice of color
Flash:	Flashabou, your choice of color
Body:	White and chartreuse buck tail
Underside:	Red crystal flash

This fly is great for bass in rivers, streams or still water. In larger sizes it can be used for Stripers and even False Albacore. The fly is a relatively easy tie which should produce some great action on the water.

Tying Steps

1. De-barb the hook using your vice.
2. Start your thread about a hook eye down the shank and take open spiral wraps down the hook to the bend, make a small thread bump which will help you secure the tail.
3. Use 3 or 4 saddle hackle feathers about 3 times the length of the hook shank. Align the tips and secure to the hook shank just in front of the thread bump.
4. Add 3 or 4 strands of crystal flash to the far side of the fly then repeat on the near side of the fly and cut them to the length of the tail.
5. Repeat the process outlined in with flash-a-bou but cut these slightly longer than the tail
6. Cover the hook shank by wrapping a piece of pearl braid and advance to where you start your thread.
7. Add a small amount of white buck tail to the far side of the hook. Length should be about half the length of the tail. Repeat on the near side of the hook. Spread the bucktail with your fingers to encompass the hook.
8. Add a small amount of chartreuse bucktail on top of the hook. This clump should be slightly longer than the white.
9. Select a few stands of red crystal flash, double them over then double them over again around the thread cutting to a length of the hook shank.
10. Finish up the head with a whip finish or with half hitches



Feather Tail Gurgler Based on the Original Recipe by Jack Gartside

HOOK Mustad 34007, size to suit prey
THREAD Red 3/0 or flat waxed mono
TAIL 4 or 6 hackles, concave side out, crystal flash
BODY Ice chenille over 3 mm foam
THROAT 2 wraps of red hackle
BACK/LIP 3 mm foam (second layer optional)



1. Place de-barbed hook in vise. Lay thread base from eye to bend. Select 2 or 3 pairs of hackle. Cut and trim so they are equal in length and about 1 1/2 times the length of hook. All feathers can be tied in at once using the pinch method or you may choose to tie half the feathers on one side first and the second half in the next step. You may even choose to tie the feathers in one at a time. Tie in so feathers bow outward. Top tail with 10 or so strands of crystal flash.



2. Cut a section of 3mm foam two hooks long and the width of the hook gape. Trim one end of the foam into the form of a stake. Tie in the sharpened end just behind the hook eye and then wrap the thread over the foam in 6 or 7 equally spaced turns back to the bend.



3. Tie in a length of ice chenille at the bend. Wrap the thread forward over the foam in the tracks of the previous thread wraps stopping an eye length behind the eye. Then wrap the ice chenille forward in the thread tracks, tie in and trim excess. Tie in a red hackle, wrap two turns to simulate gills, secure and trim excess.



4. Bring the foam forward and tie in just behind the hook eye with several firm wraps. Cut a second piece of foam and tie in directly over the first. Whip finish over the tie-in point and then lift the foam and whip finish again just behind the hook eye. Coat all thread wraps liberally with head cement