

Fly Tying November 2014 Crazy Charlie



Fly Tying Materials

Hook: Mustad C7OSD “Big Game” hook size 6 (straight eye salt water hook)

Thread: Orange 6/0

Eyes: Dumbbell style (tie with varying weights to vary sink rate)

Body: Pearl tinsel base with clear medium vinyl rib over the top (UTC makes both)

Wing: Orange buck tail with white overlay and opal crystal flash optional

Tail: Pearl crystal flash

Club materials

We will bring the hooks, orange buck tail, opal tinsel, opal crystal flash and vinyl rib (everything required for the Crazy Charlie).

The Crazy Charlie is great for any salt water fish which feed over sand or coral including trevally, flathead, bonefish and so on.

METHOD

- Fly is tied to sink hook upwards to minimise snagging and tied sparsely to sink quickly
- Use any straight eye salt water hook in size 4, 6 or 8



- Start your thread (in this case orange) and wrap a bump about one third of the hook length behind the eye of the hook leaving room between the bump and the hook eye to tie in a wing later in the process



- Tie in dumbbell eyes just forward of the bump with figure eight and reinforcing wraps then add a drop of super glue the wraps. The eyes can be dumb bells, bead chain in silver, black or gold and groups of flies are best tied with varying eye weights for varying sink rates according to the depth of water being fished



- Wrap thread back to the bend in the hook then tie in optional crystal flash tail above the hook barb

- Tie in 12 cm of opal mirage tinsel at the tail. Tie in 12 cm of clear vinyl rib (or alternatively heavy monofilament) to abut the dumbbell eyes then wrap the vinyl rib from behind the eyes to the tail then back to the eyes and tie off with a half hitch. Try to ensure an even body profile



- Using hackle pliers, wind the opal mirage tinsel from the tail to behind the dumbbell eyes, tie off and trim excess tinsel (the tinsel is optional but provides a more opalescent body rather than just plain orange). In the same way contra wind the vinyl wrap with touching turns to create a segmented body effect and tie off

behind the dumbbell eyes before trimming the excess



- Inverting the fly to its correct dumbbell eyes below the hook (the way it will actually fish), prepare a sparse orange bucktail wing long enough to extend from the hook eye to just beyond the hook bend. Be sure to remove the underfur from the bucktail. A hair stacker can be used to even up the bucktail tips but a little randomness also looks natural. Craft

fur or calf tail can be substituted for the wing material



- Tie the wing in forward of the dumbbell eyes with a few wraps. The wing is always better tied sparsely to reduce the amount of trapped air and drag to aid faster sinking. Add four strands of opal crystal flash to the wing (optional). A dab of glue in front of the dumbbell eye is good insurance that

the wing material will not disassemble once the excess is cut off or when it rubs against sharp coral



- Cut the excess wing material at an angle to assist giving a smooth profile to the head before covering with wraps to the hook eye and whip finishing and sealing the head with nail polish or UV glue

OPTIONS

The tail is optional as is more or less flash. Some believe the flash scares fish, others that it is an attractor. Opal mirage tinsel under the vinyl rib is optional and creates a luminescent look. Thick mono can be substituted for the vinyl rib but is not as flexible and more difficult to tie. Vary bead chain or dumbbell eye weights to have a range of sink rates in your fly box.

RESULTS

