

## Double Duty

This month starts what hopefully will be a monthly section of our newsletter we'll label as the "Monthly Fly". Each article will start with the name of the fly, if it has one (if not we'll make one up), a bit of its history and use, and a formula. That will be followed by photos of each stage of tying and a brief description of that process.

We encourage members to submit fly suggestions and help with the production of the pages.

This month's entry is a very basic and extremely successful saltwater fly I'll label the "Double Duty" which is really modification of a surf candy. The name reflects the fact that it is tied as a go to from April through October on the waters of the mid and lower cape for fly fishermen and spin fishermen alike. A core group of plug and lure casters request this fly and use it as a dropper all summer long.

One of the best aspects of this particular pattern is its ability to adapt to so many situations and it'll get by as an imitation for a lot of different bait fish depending on what size and colors are employed. It best represents a sand eel, which are a Cape Cod staple and can duplicate juveniles up to adults simply by altering the length, but in addition it will also imitate silversides, anchovies and smelt. The representative version in this article is olive over yellow over white, but other popular versions include all white, chartreuse over white, blue over white and even all black. The body from the eye of the hook to the bend of the hook is covered in E-Z Body material with stick on eyes, coated with either epoxy or one of the newer UV materials. And a little flash material of some sort is always part of the wing.

This pattern is easy to tie and you can bang out a bunch of them in just a short time and with some color and size variations you'll be ready to fish anywhere on the Cape or anywhere else small, thin bait fish are present.

### Double Duty Pattern

Hook: Owner 5370-111 or similar

Sizes 4—2/0

Thread: Olive (anything strong)

Belly: White Bucktail

Wing: Olive over Yellow Bucktail with a few strands of crystal flash on each side.

Body: E-Z Body (sized for the fly)

Eyes: Stick on Black on Silver

Body Cover: Epoxy or UV coating

# Double Duty



Start by debarbing the hook with a pair of pliers to facilitate removing the hook from flopping fish or the back of my head. Using olive thread, start at the eye of the hook and wrap back about 1/3 of the way on the shank or 3/8 to 1/2 an inch. The hooks you select should be strong, saltwater hooks anywhere from size 4 to 2/0, depending on the overall size of the hook you plan on tying to resemble the bait your imitating.



The first material in the layers to be applied is tied in as a throat of bucktail which is equal in length of the overall fly being tied. As noted before, generally this fly can be tied from two to six inches long to imitate whatever bait is present. I traditionally have this fly in my box in a variety of sizes and colors to match the hatch.



The next layer or two will obviously be determined by what color you've chosen to tie. In general I tie with the lightest color on the bottom to the darkest on the top. The colors I most commonly use are the olive over yellow over white as shown here, chartreuse over white, and black for my night fishing adventures.



I almost always tie some flash in every fly I tie. I'm not sure if it actually makes a difference or its just an idiosyncrasy, but I like the flash. Either way, at this stage I tie in four to six strands of crystal flash on each side as shown. Once the flash is tied in either do a quick whip finish or do a couple of half hitches and snip off the thread



The next step in the design of this fly is to apply a piece of E-Z Body to cover the materials back to the bend of the hook. Cut the tubing to fit and slide it on. Then tie the thread back on at the eye of the hook, tie the braid in and complete with a whip finish. This is primarily to prevent the materials from wrapping around the bend of the hook. I've found this to be an annoying issue, particularly on windy days, and whereas this fly is designed to catch saltwater species that are found where the wind seems to always blow, this step helps.



At this point stick on a couple of eyes appropriate to the size of the fly. I strongly believe adding eyes to any streamer like pattern, weather salt or freshwater adds significant catchability to the fly.



The final step is to coat the fly from the eye of the hook to the end of the body braid. Either epoxy or any of the new ultraviolet materials will work just fine. I'm still using the 5 minute epoxy and just keep turning the fly until the material has set. I actually have a rotary device which does it for me. I know epoxy eventually yellows, but I usually burn through these like crazy and rarely have any left at the end of the season.



The final fly should look something like the one on the left here. Anything resembling it will work just fine. Use your imagination and tie it in any color combination you think will work and give it a shot.