

TYING THE BULLETHEAD DARTER

I generally like to fish a stainless steel # 2/0 hook for almost all my saltwater, a #2 for saltwater panfish and a #1 bronze hook for bass and a #6 for panfish.

MATERIAL:

Hook: Mustad #3366, sizes 6 to 1/0. I like #1/0 for bass.
Saltwater- Mustad # 34007, size 2 & 2/0
Thread: Fire-orange flat waxed nylon
Mono Tail Guard: 20 lb clear monofilament
Tail: Streamer Hair wool, Polar Fiber, Craft or Fly Fur or equivalent. *I prefer Streamer Hair for larger flies and Polar Fiber for small flies.*
Tinsel: Krystal Flash, Flashabou.
Body: Estaz. or Crystal Chenille
Head: Craft or Fly Fur, Polar Fiber, Streamer Hair, wool or equivalent.

SEE SCHEDULE FOR COLORS

TYING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Insert hook in vise and attach tying thread at the head and wind down to hook bend and back up toward the hook eye about half way.



2. Take about 3 inches of mono and fold in half and place it on the top of the hook shank with the head of the loop extending about 1/16" beyond the hook bend. Tie down along the hook shank to a point above hook bend and advance the thread about middle of the body



3. Cut a bundle of fly fur or equivalent about a half a small pencil thickness, pull out the under fur, the tail should be 1 1/2 to 2 times or can be longer than the length of the hook shank, and tie in at this point holding the material on top of the hook shank as you wrap to the above the hook point and advance the thread about half way of the tie down point.



4. Combine 5 to 6 pieces of Krystal Flash and Flashabou and tie in at a point above the hook point. Tinsel should extend about 1/2" beyond the tail



5. Cut a 3 1/2" piece of Crystal chenille and tie in at this point and wind back to a point above the hook point and then wind back and tie off about a 1/4" behind the hook eye. Advance the thread to behind the hook eye.



6. Cut a bundle of fly fur or streamer hair about the size of a very small diameter pencil and remove some of the under fur. I like the collar to veil over the tail about half the length of the tail. Cut and even up the butts with the scissors and slide it over the hook eye. Try to center this bundle as best as you can. Tie down this bundle, wrapping back toward the point the chenille was finished. Now push back the hair as best as you can to evenly cover to make the bullet head. Tie down the material and whip finish the head at this thread point. Getting the hair perfectly around the head is not crucial to the fly's effectiveness. Actually with the fire-orange thread showing underneath lends itself to gills or blood. The pusher illustrated is a 5/16" plastic tube with a 3/16" id, about 4" long. This makes the job of adjusting the collar very easy.



7. If you prefer a more durable head for those toothy fish you can epoxy the head and thread or cover it with head cement.



Multi-collared option

Proceed to tie through step #6.

7. Advance the thread to a about half of the hook shank. Cut a bundle of streamer hair for the first collar about the size of a very small diameter pencil and remove some of the under fur. I like the collar to veil over the tail about half the length of the tail. Cut and even up the butts with the scissors and slide it over the hook eye. Try to center this bundle as best as you can. Tie down this bundle, wrapping back toward the point the chenille was finished. Now push back the hair and evenly distribute the fur around the shank.

8. **Optional:** Take the same amount of tinsel and tie it in at the same place you finished the first collar. Cut the tinsel about 1/2 shorter than the tail tinsel. Advance the thread to behind the hook eye.

9. Prepare the head collar the same way you did the first collar and tie in material and wrap the thread onto the first collar and push the hair back and tie off at this point.

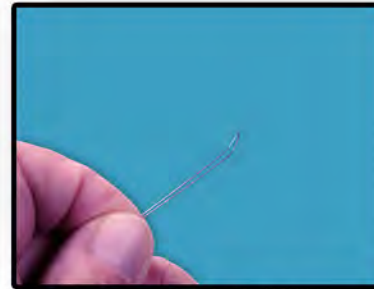
10. Finished the threads with head cement.



OPTION:

The Bullethead can also be tied weedless when the grass or lily pads get in the way.

In step #6, after you apply the collar, take a 3 1/2" piece of #4 stainless steel wire and bend it in half. Next, put a 3/16" bend at the loop as shown, take the wire and pass it through the hook eye, taking care that the bent portion of the wire is facing down and tie it on top of the hook shank. Now continue with the tying steps and pull the collar back, working the material around the wire. After the collar is tied down the wire can be bent around the hook barb as shown and spread out some to give more surface areas to ward off the weeds. I usually leave the wire as I tied it in until I'm ready to fish, than I bend the wire into place.



Bent #4 stainless steel wire



Wire through hook eye, ready to tie down



Collar pulled back and ready to finish tying down collar.



Wire in place for fishing. Shown here without the barb being bent down.

FRESHWATER BULLETHEAD DARTER COLOR SCHEDULE

TYPE	TAIL	TINSEL*	BODY	1st COLLAR	HEAD COLLAR
fw#6	white	SKF/RF	pearl	-	white
fw#6	white	SKF/RF	pearl	-	red
fw#6	chartreuse	GKF/CF	chartreuse	-	chartreuse
fw#6	black	SKF/RF	peacock	-	black
fw1/0	white	SKF/RF	pearl	-	white
fw1/0	chartreuse	GKF/CF	chartreuse	-	chartreuse
fw1/0	black	SKF/RF	peacock	-	black
fw1/0	white	SKF/RF	pearl	-	red
fw10	yellow	SKF/RF	pearl	-	yellow
shad	white	SKF/RF	pearl	lt olive	shad gray
crab/crawfish					
	tan	GKF/CF/bl	olive	orange	brown/olive
sunfish	foxtail	GRK/CF/bl	tan	yellow	Lt olive
fw1/0	orange	SKF/RF	peacock	-	black
Leech	black	GRK/CF/ Red Flash	peacock	lt olive	brown/olive

CLASSIC STREAMERS

Little Rainbow Trout	white	SKF/RF/PK	pearl	pink	lt olive
Little Brown Trout	yellow	GKF/CF	chartreuse	orange	brown
Mickey Finn	yellow	GKF/CF	pearl	red	yellow
Black Nosed Dace	white	SKF/RF	peacock	black	brown

Tinsels* GKF/CF- gold krystal Flash/ copper flashabou
 SHF/RF- silver krystal Flash/ rainbow flashabou
 GKF/CF/bl- gold krystal Flash/ copper flashabou/blue flashabou
 GRK/CF/bl- green krystal Flash/ copper flashabou/blue flashabou
 SKF/RF/PK- silver krystal Flash/ rainbow flashabou/pink flashabou



A 3 1/2 lb pickerel couldn't stand a white Bullethead in its face.

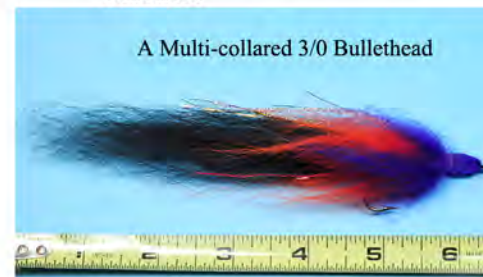


SALTWATER BULLETHEAD DARTER COLOR SCHEDULE

TYPE	TAIL	TINSEL*	BODY	1st COLLAR	HEAD COLLAR
SW	Chartreuse	GKF/CF	chartreuse	-	chartreuse
Foxtail	foxtail	GKF/CF	tan	orange	foxtail
SW LSU	chartreuse	GKF/CF	chartreuse	-	purple
SW	white	SKF/RF	pearl	-	white
el chicken	chartreuse	GKF/CF	chartreuse	-	pink
SW	black	SKF/RF	peacock	-	black
crab/crawfish			SEE FRESHWATER CRAB/CRAWFISH		
halloween	black	SKF/RF	peacock	-	orange
shrimp/ mullet	tan	SKF/RF	pearl	-	gray
SW	white	SKF/RF	chartreuse	-	chartreuse
Cocahoe	chartreuse	SKF/RF	peacock	purple	black
SW	black	SKF/RF	peacock	-	purple
sw#2	white	SKF/RF	pearl	-	white
sw#2	white	SKF/RF	pearl	-	red
sw#2	chartreuse	GKF/CF	chartreuse	-	chartreuse
sw#2	black	SKF/RF	peacock	-	black
Mummichog					
	brown/olive	GRF/CF Pearl Flash	olive	yellow	olive



A twenty pound red on a chartreuse Bullethead



A Multi-collared 3/0 Bullethead

