

Lake Erie Shiner is a Killing Bucktail from the vise of Floyd Franke

Bob Petti



A good combination of colors and a subtle use of flash make the Lake Erie Shiner a deadly fishing pattern.

Proof that you don't need a lot of fancy materials to tie a very effective fishing fly.

A word about materials. The flies I saw in NJ were tied with a fluorescent floss underneath the pearl tinsel. If you want to go that route, Gordon Griffith's makes a very bright floss called "Super Glo" which is available in white as well as the more traditional fluorescent colors. I tie mine with white uni-stretch which I hold in a bobbin and use as thread for the initial tying procedures. For me, it greatly simplifies and quickens the tying procedure. After I wrap the pearl mylar over the body, I cover it with a coat of clear nail polish to help protect it from fish teeth. I tie up a batch of bodies in a sitting, usually rotating through them all when I'm done adding a second coat of nail polish. Typically when I've finished the last, the first is dry enough to begin tying the remainder of the fly.

As far as belly and wing materials, if you are blessed with a very fine bucktail that is not too crinkly, then count yourself lucky. I opt to use white "kid goat" for the belly hair since it's fine and fairly straight and, unlike bucktail, fairly uniform from patch to patch. I am blessed with a good olive bucktail with fine hairs. I am so taken with this fly that I reserve the bucktail for this pattern alone. It supplies both the olive portion of the wing as well as the olive brown portion, which is taken from the middle (brown) portion of the tail. It will be a sad day when I tie the last fly with hairs from that piece, as I know a replacement will be most difficult to find.



Painted eyes might not make a bit of difference to the fish, but they make a world of difference to my confidence in the fly. I think they are worth the effort.

If you don't believe in painted eyes, by all means leave them out, but if you're on the fence, take the time and add the eyes. The only streamers I tie without eyes anymore are featherwings that use jungle cock. All my bucktails and marabou winged flies have painted eyes. I first coat the

head with two or so coats of clear nail polish to seal the thread thus preventing the paint from bleeding and ruining the circular effect we're after. I also use acrylic paints, which seem far more compatible with nail polishes and other head lacquers than the model paints most folks use. I dab the eyes with the ends of a 1/4" dowel that was sharpened in an electric pencil sharpener to various diameter points. The final coat or two of nail polish protects the eyes and gives the head a smooth glossy appearance. Painting eyes is not the kind of thing you can finish all in one sitting, so most people simply don't bother. I feel it's worth the work.

Hook	Streamer 6xl, #6-#10
Thread	Olive Danville 6/0
Body	Pearl Tinsel wrapped over White Uni-Stretch
Belly	White Bucktail or Goat
Throat	Light Blue Hackle Barbs, half as long as the belly hair
Wing	Olive Bucktail topped with Olive Brown Bucktail
Flash	Pearl or Olive Krystal Flash, just a few strands
Head	Olive, Yellow Eyes w/ Black Pupils

Typing Instructions:

1. Using a bobbin, begin wrapping a layer of white Uni-Stretch from behind the head toward the bend. Before reaching the bend, begin wrapping over a section of pearl tinsel which will serve as the overbody.
2. Wrap the Uni-Stretch to the bend of the hook and return to the head area, making even wraps to keep the body as smooth as possible.
3. Wrap the pearl tinsel forward over the white floss making smooth and even turns. Tie off behind the head. Whip finish and cut off the un-stretch.
4. Coat the body with high gloss nail polish (Sally Hansen's Hard and Nails is a good choice) and set it aside to dry. I usually tie up a batch of bodies ahead of time so that the first will be dry when I set the last aside.
5. Tie in a small bunch of white bucktail or goat beneath the hook shank so that it extends into but not beyond the gap of the hook.
6. Tie in a small bunch of soft light blue hackle beneath the white bucktail extending about halfway the length of the belly. (As stated above, I usually omit this ingredient on my flies).
7. Tie in a small bunch of olive bucktail on top of the hook so that it extends to the back of the bend or just slightly beyond. Trim the butts at an angle to facilitate the forming of a bullet shaped head.
8. Tie in a couple strands of krystal flash. Just a few. You don't want the flash to dominate the wing but rather add a subtle highlight and sparkle.
9. Tie in a bunch of olive brown bucktail (I use the brown portion of an olive dyed bucktail) on top of the wing so that the length is as least as long as the olive portion, or just slightly longer.
10. Wrap a neat bullet shaped head with smooth turns of thread.
11. Apply a coat or two of nail polish to the head to seal the thread and create a smooth foundation for the painted eyes.
12. Dab on a dot of yellow acrylic paint for both eyes and set aside to dry.
13. Dab on black acrylic paint for the pupils of each eye and set aside to dry.
14. Finish the fly by adding a couple more coats of clear nail polish to protect the painted eyes and provide a smooth glossy finish to the head.