

Lake Erie Shiner (Tube Fly)

By Raymond Tucker (aka – “letumgo”)

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Materials Used

HMH Copper Tube (or Plastic Tubing) - 3/4" or 1" long x 1/8" OD

Clear Junction Tubing (5/8" Long piece)

Thread - White UNI-Thread (6/0)

Rear Body - Silver or Gold Mylar Tinsel

Gills - Red Floss (Danville Rayon Floss – single strand)

Wing (listed in the order they are tyed in)

1. Flash'N Slinky ("Off White") – small bundle cut 4" long (tyed in folded in half)
2. Twelve to Fifteen strands of Krystal Flash - 5" long (Blend of colors to suit your tastes)
3. Flash'N Slinky ("Natural") – small bundle cut 5 " long (tyed in folded in half)
4. Five Pieces of Peacock Herl

Eyes - 3D Stick on Eyes (3/16" Diameter / Golden)

Body Covering - Feather Craft Flexicord (1/8") Pearl or Black-Pearl

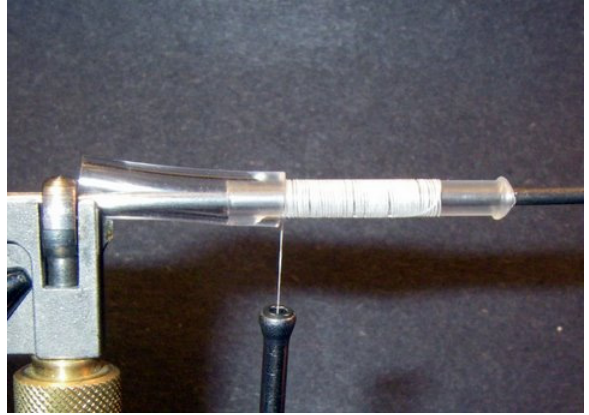
Sharpie Markers (Marigold & Olive)

Two thin coats of Epoxy

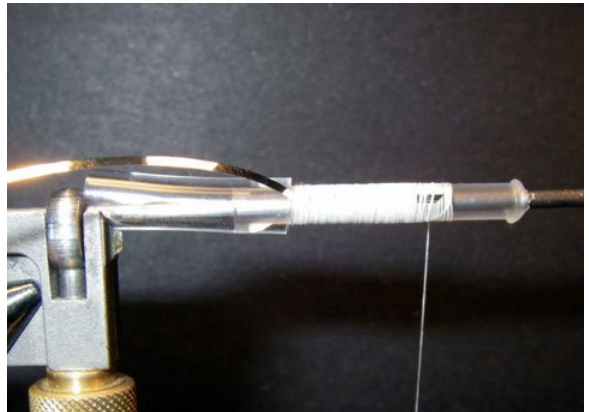
Detailed Tying Instructions:

Materials are tied onto the tube in the order they are listed on page one, above. The synthetic fibers do not hold much water, making this fly fairly easy to cast.

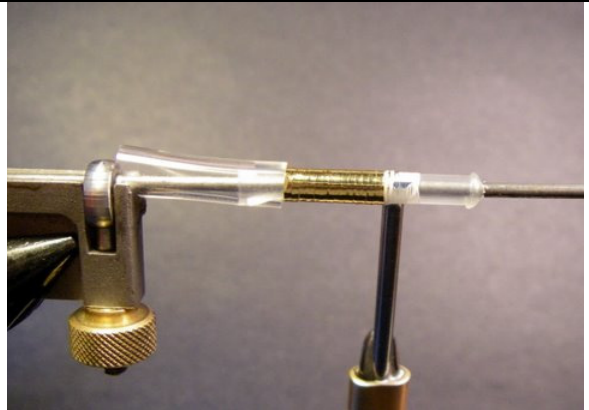
- Prepare the tube by mounting a piece of junction tubing over the end of the tube. If you are tying with the plastic tube body, you should also pre-melt the end of the tube (head end). This is done before the tying process because the epoxy could be damaged during the melting process.
- Mount the tube on a mandrel and then insert into the tube fly vice. Mount the tying thread and wrap back to the junction tubing. It is not necessary to wrap the thread onto the junction tubing since it will be held in place later by epoxy.



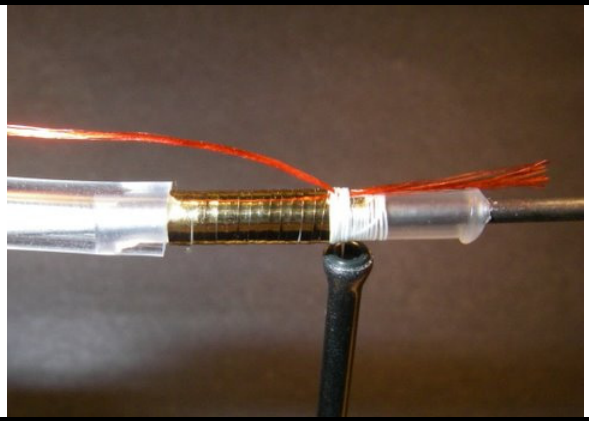
- Mount a narrow strip of Mylar tinsel at the back end of the fly and wrap the tying thread forward to the front of the fly. Be careful to wrap the thread in very close wraps (each wrap touching the last). This will help form a smooth underbody to wrap the tinsel over.
- When mounting the tinsel, make sure that the side with the desired body color faces towards the body of the fly. When you wrap the tinsel, it will fold over and display the desired color.



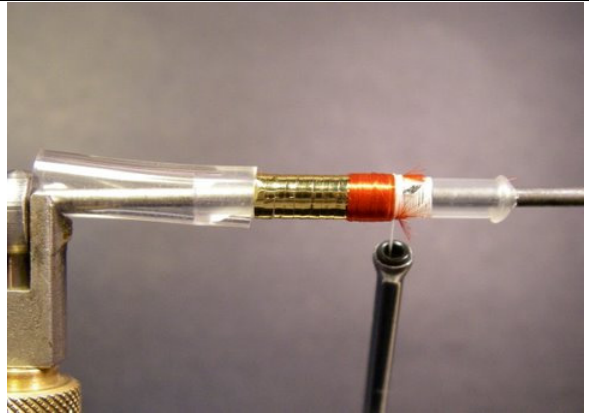
- Wrap the tinsel forward to the tying thread. Each wrap should be touching the leading edge of the previous wrap. Tye off the tinsel and clip off the excess.



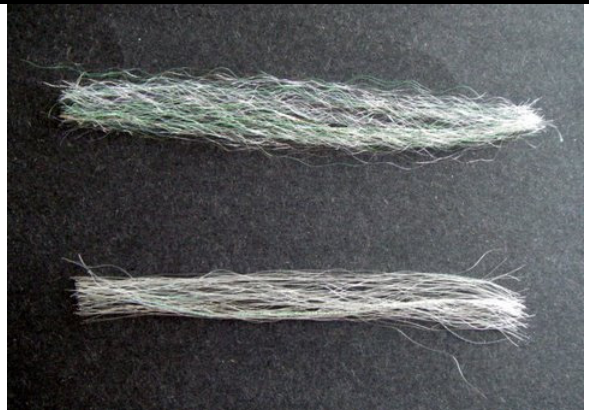
- Mount a single strand of floss at the top of the tube.



- Wrap the floss towards the back of the fly and then back to the tying thread. I like the gills of the fly slightly longer than 1/8”.
- Secure the floss and clip off the excess.
- NOTE - Leave enough room at the front of the tube to tie in the wing material and nose of the fly. Leave roughly 3/8” to 1/4” in front of the gills.



- Cut the material for the wing. In the photo to the left you see two sections of synthetic wing material. Use about 1/3rd less material for the bottom section. Each section is about 4 to 5 inches long. I like to measure the material as I cut it so that I can get consistent results from fly to fly.



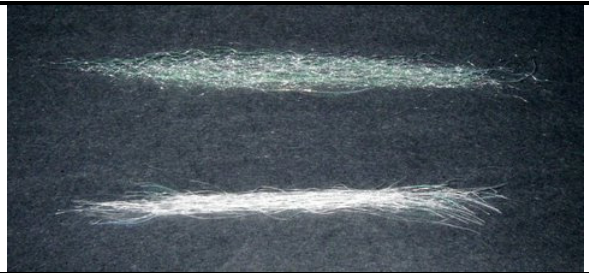
- All of the synthetic materials are trimmed to length (4" to 5" long).



- Pull some of the fibers to make the ends uneven to give the minnow pattern a more natural profile. Do this before the material is tied in.
- I find this method much easier to do, than trimming the materials after they are tied in. This method seems to give consistently better looking fly when it is done. The fly profile looks great once the fly gets wet (very minnow shaped profile).



- Here are the two bundles of wing material after they are prepared (ends are now uneven and each pile is slightly longer than it was before the ends were pulled)



- All of the wing materials are tied in "high style". In other words they are each tied in one in front of the other on top of the tube. I like to tie them in at the middle of the fibers and then fold them back over themselves. This creates an extremely strong fly (the wing will never pull loose).
- Tie in the bottom layer of wing material by the center. The fibers should all be mounted on the top of the tube. It is helpful to wrap from the front to the back.



- Fold the wing fibers in half and secure with the tying thread.
- Carefully wrap forward and form a nice taper in front of where the wing is tied in.



- Repeat these steps with the Krystal Flash (12 to 15 strands of mixed colors) and with the material for the back of the fly. Each bundle of fibers is tied in by the center and folded in half to secure them in place. Each bundle is tied in slightly in front of the last wing. All of the bundles are tied in on top of tube.



- Select 5 or 6 strands of peacock herl and even the tips. Tie the herl along the top of the fly to give it a nice dark line along the back.



- Notice that the thread is wrapped from the front of the fly towards the gills. Stop the tying thread at the back of the head and then fold the butt ends of the herl back over the top of the head.
- Wrap a couple times with the tying thread and secure with a whip finish.
- Clip off the tying thread and the excess butt ends of the herl.



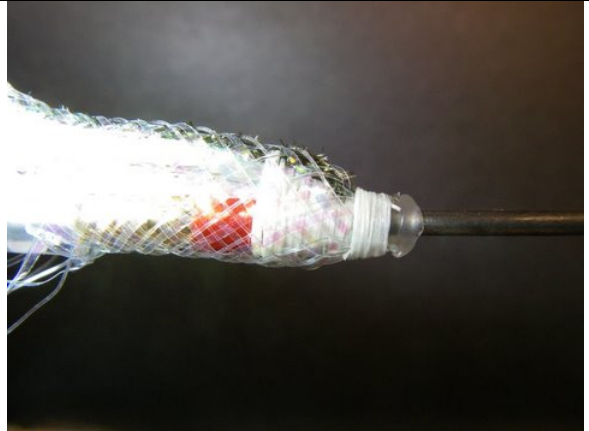
- Here is the finished body of the fly.
- Notice that there is still a small gap at the front of the head. This gap will be used later to allow room to tie off the body cover material (Flexicord).



- Cut a piece of Flexicord equal to the length of the tube assembly (junction tubing plus tube body).
- Carefully slide the Flexicord over the body and wing of the fly.



- Secure the Flexicord at the front of the head and then whip finish the nose of the fly. Clip off the thread.



- Here is a Bullet Head tool modified to hold the wing and body in shape while applying epoxy. The rubber membrane of the bullet head tool has been modified with a simple hole punched to form an oval opening in the rubber gasket material.



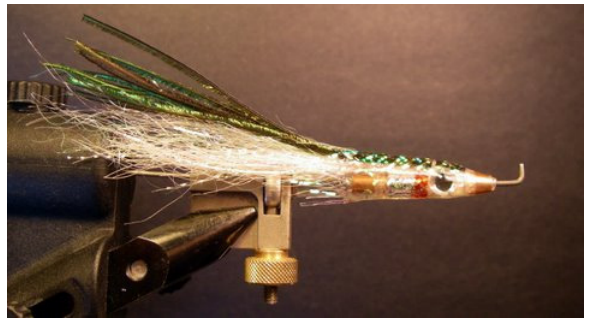
- Slide the modified bullet head tool over the fly to help hold the shape of the body while it is being coated with epoxy.
- Color the top of the nose of the fly with a Sharpie marker (Marigold & Olive).
- Mount a pair of 3D stick on eyes at the front of the fly.



- Give the fly a thin (repeat *thin*) coat of Devcon 5 minute epoxy. Make sure that the fly is rotated in the vice to prevent sagging of the epoxy. After three or four minutes, the epoxy should be set up enough to stop rotating the fly. Take it out of the vice and set it aside to let it fully cure (at least 1 hour).



- Remount the fly in the vice and give it a second thin (repeat *thin*) coat of epoxy. Rotate the fly to prevent sagging of the epoxy. After three or four minutes, the epoxy should be set up enough to stop rotating the fly. Take it out of the vice and set it aside to let it cure. Do not fish the fly for at least 24 hours.



Version With Gold Colored Body



Version With Silver Colored Body



Have Fun!