

Banjo Minnow

For our January Tyer, I am bringing back an amazing professional tyer and fly designer, none other than Dan "Eggman" Walker. The fly he will be bringing us, is somewhat of a newer fly he created after last year's 2015 Smallmouth Outing. This fly is no knee slapping or boot kicking fly, but a bass fly fisher's dream. Let me introduce you to the Banjo Minnow Fly. The way Dan describes the results on this fly you won't be hearing sour notes, only the sweet music of tight lines.

Here is the fishing report on our tyer: Back in the late '60's while Dan was in junior high, he started in the world we call fly fishing and fly tying. From there Dan got into commercially tying flies and has been doing this for 30 plus years. Since then, he was part time self employed as Eggman Flies as a vendor selling flies and fly tying materials at fly fishing and Steelheader shows and for 25 years now. He mentioned that he mainly ties commercially for Steelhead Flies, but he also ties for Trout, Bass, Pike, Musky, Carp, and Saltwater. If you don't know Dan, he is the one that is usually tying in the back of the room during our meetings and he has been doing this in the Michigan Fly Fishing Club for roughly 20 years now.

As for the fly that Dan is bringing us,

Activities Meeting - Feb 24, 2016



TYING NOTES:

it was developed last spring after the Michigan Fly Fishing Club's Smallmouth Outing. In response to encountering bass in very shallow water, is why this fly was designed. The following weekend, the "Banjo Minnow" performed very well in Dan's secret location. Over the summer it worked well for small and Largemouth Bass, Rock Bass, Crappie, Bluegill, Pike and Carp. Dan mentions, when fishing this fly, do three short sharp strips followed by a pause.

So if you are a bass bum like myself, or heading to the Smallmouth Outing in May, this is one fly you should have in your boxes. Bring your vise, tools, and note taking material and get ready for some sweet sounding bobbin slinging for a great warm water fly.

HOOKS: Straight eye #6 to #1 (I tie this fly mainly on Eagle Claw 254N #2 to 1/0 Bend the front 3/16 to 3/8 inch of the hook 10 degrees down toward the bend Saber s.e. dry #6 or any straight eye hook.)

THREAD: Body Chartreuse 140 or 210 dernier

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TAIL: Marabou usually white but also try natural smoke colored turkey 3/4 to 3 inches long Tie this down 10 degrees around the bend

BODY: Pearl Cactus Chenille Medium or Large, put the turns on sparsely enough for Chartreuse to show through end the body 3/16 to 3/8 inch before the eye

HEAD: Single Eye roughly equal in diameter to hook gap (domed plastic eyes 1/4 to 1/2 dolls eyes also work)

- Wrap a fire orange thread base between the hook eye and the body.
- Glue a single eye flat on top, the back 1/3 of the eye should overlap and be glued to the chenille wraps.
- Clamp the hook bend so the weight of the hemostat and fly will press the forward shank down onto the flat eye.
- Use hemostats to clamp the fly while glue sets (bring them if you have them).
- Liquid Fusion Glue or any clear quick sitting glue should work to bend the hook shank slightly, hemostats would work