

Hollow Fleye



Material

Hook: B10S size 2 or suitable substitute

Thread: White 6/0

Body: White bucktail, synthetic hair or craft fur

Flash: Pearl Angel Hair

Eyes: 5 mm stick on eyes or #5 fish mask w/5mm living eyes

STEP 1 –

Clip a pencil sized bunch of bucktail as close to the hide as possible. Prepare the bundle by hand-stacking the bucktail. Hold the longest tips of the bunch tightly between your thumb and index finger and pull softly on the remaining hair to separate the longest fibers from the shorter ones. Re-align both groups of bucktail so the tips are even.



Attach the tying thread near the bend of the hook shank. With two loose wraps, tie in the bunch of bucktail on top of the hook shank so the tapered tips face forward past the hook eye. Push down on the butts of the bucktail so the fibers radiate 360 degrees around the hook shank.

Take six or more tight wraps over the butts to secure the hair, and then make numerous turns to cover the tie-down point. Apply a quick-drying head cement such as Sally Hansen Hard As Nails over the exposed thread wraps.

Do not trim the hair butts. These exposed fibers are a fool-proof method of keeping the fly from fouling as they help keep the longer, tapered fibers in place.

STEP 2 –

Slide your thumb and index finger down the hook shank from the eye toward the bend to open the cone of reverse-tied bucktail so the fibers stand out perpendicular from the shank.

Push the hair toward the bend with either your fingers or an empty ballpoint pen tube and hold it in place. Weave the thread forward through the bucktail fibers and make the necessary number of thread wraps in front of the hair.



The number and placement of thread wraps has a direct effect on the final appearance of the fly. A small thread wall allows the bucktail to flare and stand out from the hook shank at a sharp angle. The more thread wraps you make, the more the hair flattens along the hook shank.

STEP 3 –

Add as many bucktail bunches as required to fill the length of the hook shank. To create a tapered fly, you must surround the hook shank with at least three bunches of bucktail in progressively shorter lengths.

A short-shank hook typically requires three bucktail bunches to fill the shank; therefore, **each bunch of bucktail should be approximately two-thirds the length of the previous bunch.**

A long-shank hook may need five or more bunches. As you move forward along the shank, use shorter and shorter bucktail and increase the angle of the hair for a realistic baitfish profile. Add flash as desired.



STEP 4 -

After the final bunch of bucktail and thread wall, tie in tab prismatic or jungle cock eyes. Whip-finish and apply head cement. You may substitute a fish mask in place of tab prismatic or jungle cock eyes.

After the head cement dries, hold the fly—with the hook-eye facing up—under warm running tap water to give the fly a beautifully tapered, baitfish shape. Place it on a paper towel to dry.

