Fly Tying Bench— Lefty's Bug *by Pat Damico*

This past year, I had the privilege of guiding Tom Schmuecker, owner of Wapsi Products. Tom's knowledge of fly fishing, especially fly tying was incredible. During our discussions he revealed his love of freshwater bass fishing, especially on the surface. Tom said Lefty's Bug was by far one of the best poppers he ever used. A week after he returned home, he sent me several flies that he tied including Lefty's Bug. I tied some and used them this past summer for Pennsylvania large and smallmouth bass with great success. The fly is very simple and is most productive in this original version.

Lefty's Bug tied by Pat Damico Al Pitcher photo

Materials list:

- Hooks: Mustad 9672, or similar hook, size 2-8
- Thread: Black or yellow 4/0
- Tail: Squirrel tail, gray or red
- Body: Small corks, available at craft, and hardware stores
- Paint: Yellow Testors model paint, clear Sally Hansen Hard as Nails, Hacksaw blade and 5 minute epoxy

Tying Instructions:

1.Crimp barb, cover entire straight part of hook shank with thread

2.I like to sand a flat area of the cork selected to sit on the water, pick the part with most defects if present

3.With a hacksaw blade cut a groove for the hook in the center of the flat area from front to back. Try thread covered hook for fit, making sure it is recessed adequately and that point of hook is not too close to cork body

4.Coat the groove with 5 minute epoxy, place hook in groove, smooth flat area with applicator. Make sure hook is properly centered and straight

5.When epoxy is thoroughly dry, paint entire cork with yellow Testors. When dry, color looks more like mustard

6.Coat painted cork with a thin layer of clear Sally Hansens

Place hook in vise, and tie thread behind cork. Select a bunch of squirrel tail to match your hook size, overall length of hair will be about as long as hook shank. Secure hair and whip finish. Head cement applied to thread will complete fly.

Smaller versions are great for panfish. Do 6 or more at a time by doing each step on all of them before proceeding. This is just another of the many wonderful contributions Lefty Kreh has made to our sport.