

Ft. Worth Fly Fishers

April 2019 Fly of the Month

Cypret Minnow



The April Fly of the Month comes from the vise of FWFF member Barry Webster and is the creation of Charlie Cypret, a guide who specialized in some of our local waters (Lake Whitney and the Brazos River). Some of you may recall that Charlie spoke to the club in the late 90's, and you may also remember him from other encounters when he was an active guide. He used this pattern for striped bass, largemouth and smallies. It appears that he may have designed it with White Bass (aka Sand Bass) in mind, so I thought it was an appropriate selection for this time of the year since the redbud trees are blooming.

Local Texas folklore has it that the Sand Bass run coincides with the redbud bloom. Charlie fished this fly with a nine-weight rod and a Teeny T-400 25-foot sinking tip line in Lake Whitney. Charlie also has used this fly for stripers on spring spawning runs in the Lake Whitney tailwater and in saltwater for redfish and sea trout.

Recipe:

- **Hook:** Any streamer hook in sizes 2 - 8 (for these dressings, I used a Firehole 718, size 6)
- **Thread:** 210 Denier in white
- **Body:** Estaz Opalescent White (any white chenille would work)
- **Eye:** Bead chain or lead dumbbell, depending on desired sink rate, here in silver
- **Overbody and Tail:** Pearl Mylar cord in medium

Step 1: Lay down a thread base starting a couple of eye diameters behind the hook eye. Use a figure eight tying pattern to attach the eyes to the hook. Leave at least an eye diameter space behind the eye. You may want to use super glue or head cement on the thread wraps to secure the eyes so they do not rotate.

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Step 2: Lay down a thread base to about where the hook bend begins.



Step 3: Attach a piece of Pearl Estaz at the back of the hook. Wrap the Estaz forward up the hook shank to just behind the eyes. Wrap the Estaz around the eyes in a figure eight pattern, then wrap again back to the thread position and tie off.



Step 4: Select a piece of the Mylar cord about 3-4 times the hook length. Remove the center cord so that you are left with a piece of Mylar braid. You can also substitute other shiny materials (Bill's Bodi Braid, for example) for other effects or if you don't have Mylar cord.



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Step 5: Bend the braid in half. Use your bodkin to make a hole thru the braid at the midpoint. Slip the hook eye through this hole and hold the braid vertical.



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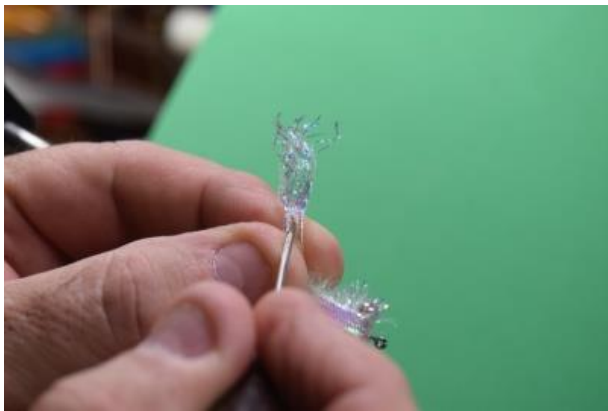
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Step 6: Pull the top half of the braid back to the thread point and secure it on top of the Estaz with a couple of thread wraps.



Step 7: Pull the bottom half of the braid back along the hook to determine the point it meets the hook. Now, starting at the end of that braid, use your bodkin to pick apart the braid. Unravel it back far enough to allow you to separate the fibers on either side of the hook so they flow past the hook and form a tail.



Step 8: Bring the unbraided material back past the hook, causing it to lay over the bottom of the Estaz in a mirror image to the top. You may have to be careful how you split it past the hook to ensure the braided portion lies flat. Secure the unbraided portion to the hook with a couple of thread wraps. In the photo below, it's a little long to my taste and I'll trim it in the final step.

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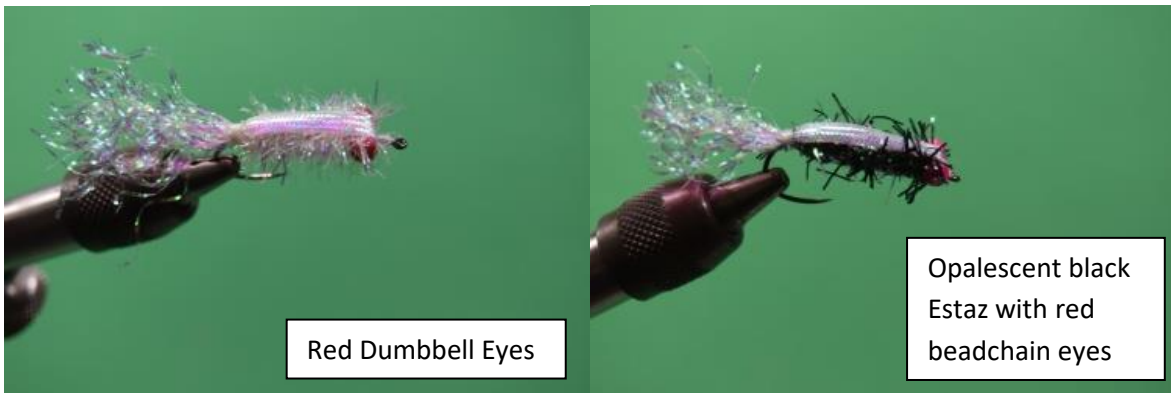
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Step 9: Using your bodkin, unravel the remaining braid to the tie-off point complete the tail. Trim the tail to length if needed. I like the tail to be about a hook length. Using a large whip finish tool (or hand whip finish), make five or six turns at the tail tie-in point. Clip the thread and restart it in front of the eyes. Create a small, neat thread head and whip finish. This will hold the Mylar on to the eyes very snugly. I used head cement (or other glue) to secure the back thread as well as the whip finishes at the tail head for durability.



I played around with the materials (bead chain color, body material, overbody material) to create some variations which I think have interesting fishing possibilities:



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Looks like the possibilities with this pattern are fairly limitless. I can't wait to get out and try Charlie Cypret's creation to fool some sandies. Hope you enjoy the pattern and try it out soon.

Barry Webster