

Tuffleye Surf Candy

The Tuffleye surf candy is a great baitfish imitation that represents food to most things that swim. In particular it has proved deadly on long tail tuna here on the Sunny Coast. Surf candies were initially tied using epoxy, I prefer using Tuffleye's light cured acrylic. It makes the tying process a lot neater and there is none of the waste that you so often have when tying with epoxy. Because the Tuffleye acrylic will only set when it comes into contact with the high intensity blue light, you can take your time moulding the exact shape you are after. Once you are satisfied, 10 to 20 seconds of exposure to the light will result in a hard crystal clear finish that will not yellow with age!



Materials

Hook- Gamakatsu SL12S #6 – #2/0

Under Body – Saltwater Mirage Mother of Pearl

Under Wing – White Polar Fibre

Over Wing – Tan Polar Fibre

Lateral Line – Shimmerflash Mother of Pearl

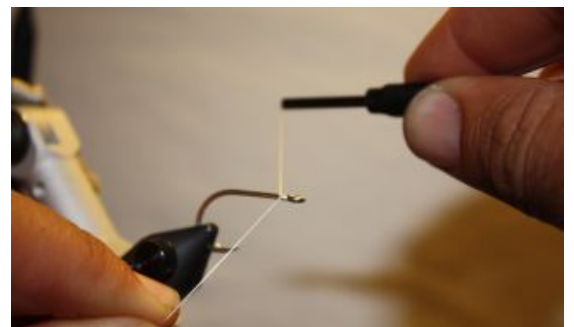
Eyes – WTP flat eyes to suit

Coating – Tuffleye Core

Final Coat – Tuffleye Finish

Step 1 – place hook in vice and attach the thread

Step 2 – Cut one strand of Saltwater Mirage and secure it to the hook. Wrap the entire strand from the eye to the bend of the shank and back to the eye creating an even under body of pearl mylar. Tie it off at the eye and remove any excess.



Step 3 – Comb out the white Polar Fibre and cut a clump of fibres just thinner than a pencil. Brush out the short under fluff, measure to your hook shank and tie in behind the eye.

The wing of Polar Fibre should extend 1 to 1 ½ hook shanks behind the bend.

Step 4 –With the white polar fibre secure, cut a lightly thinner clump of tan polar fibre and tie it in on top of the white polar fibre. Make sure you tie the tan polar fibre in so that it sitting squarely on top of the white polar fibre, this create a good lateral separation between the different colour fibres best mimicking the dorsal colours of a bait fish.

Step 5 – Cut a strand of shimmerflash, fold it in half around your tying thread and tie in place so that it lies along the divide between the white and tan polar fibre. This represents the lateral line of the bait fish. Repeat for the other side of the fly.

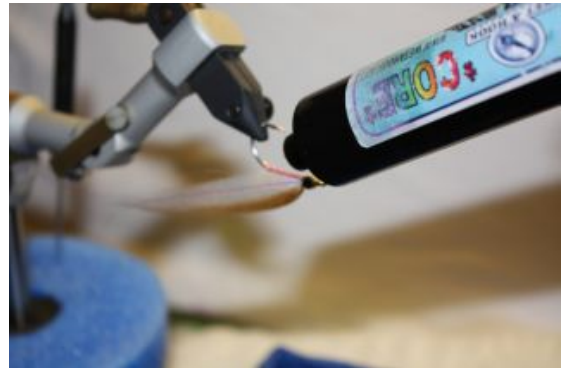
Step 6 – Ensure you have a fairly substantial thread head and the whip finish the head and cut the thread.



Step 7 – Before removing the stick on eye from the sheet, fold the sheet so that the eye is also folded in half. This will allow the eye to better conform to the shape of the thread head you created. Stick an eye on to either side of your thread head. Make sure they are evenly positioned.



Step 8 – The fly is now ready to be coated. Apply the Tuffleye Core evenly over the fly from the hook eye to the bend. By keeping tension on the fibres with your vices hand it is easier to get the desired shape and control unruly fibres. Don't try to put too much on at once. For the first coat you just need enough to create the shape you are after and secure all the fibres.



Step 9 – Apply the Tuffleye high intensity blue light for 20 seconds. This is not UV light and is supposedly a safe light but it is still advisable to not look directly at the light. The body will remain tacky, this aids in adhesion when adding further coats.



Step 10 – Apply a second coat to create a smooth finish. Apply the blue light to cure. Once you are satisfied with the fly use acetone to remove the sticky residue. This will result in a matt finish, the fly can be fished like this as it will appear shiny in the water and the fish really don't seem



to mind. Or if you prefer your fly box to be full of beautiful shiny bait fish, you can use the Tuffleye Finish or simply finish the fly with Hard as Hull or Sally Hansen's Hard as Nails.



The Tuffleye surf candy is a great little fly that I am sure you will agree is one of the closest imitation of the many small bait fish you will find along most coast lines. By using different synthetic and natural fibres you can experiment to see which one work best for your application and fishing situation. My personal favourite is polar fibre, but bucktail, supreme hair and krystal flash are just a few of the many other materials that work wonders!



Here are a few colour combinations that work well along the Sunshine Coast:
Olive over White, Pink over White, Grey over White, All White

I hope you have fun tying this great fly!

Tight Lines

Derek