Five Minute Flies
Saltwater Fly Tying Instruction Manual
Part 1
Congratulations, you are starting an endeavor that will serve you well the rest of your life. When you catch your first fish on a fly you have tied you will be hooked.

Fly tying is a very creative activity, but don’t feel like you have be an artist to tie flies that catch fish. Throughout this booklet you will find “steps” to follow, just remember that there is not necessarily one way to do something. Shown are basic concepts and techniques that will get you started. Don’t be afraid to try something different, especially changing color schemes and sizes for your particular fishing environment.

From these basic patterns and techniques you will be able to begin the process of creating your own flies. Flies don’t have to be pretty or perfect to catch fish. If your first few flies don’t turn out quite like the pictures, don’t worry just keep practicing and let the fish decide what works.
Getting accustomed with the tools of the trade.

Step 1.
The Crest #450 Vise
We have chosen the Crest #450 vise because of its simplicity and added feature of a slotted jaw which is designed to hold larger hooks as often used in many saltwater patterns.

Hook placement & Adjustment:
Place hook into Vise Jaw. Close handle. (downward pressure)
If Hook is loose open handle and tighten locking nut in clockwise direction. Towards hook. (Left Handed tiers operation direction.) Do not over tighten locking nut. Hook should be snug and with more downward pressure on the handle, the hook should be locked. For large hooks, size 4 or larger. Place hook in special slot in jaw. Adjust as above.
Remember do not over tighten adjustment knob. Over tightening will crush the hook lending to a possible hook breakage.
Step 2. Threading the bobbin.
Place the spool of thread between the bobbin arms as shown. Lightly pull off about 10 inches of thread.
Insert the bobbin carefully into the end of the bobbin so that the “Y” of the wire is sticking out TOWARDS the spool of thread. Insert the tag in of the thread into the “Y”, pull the remaining thread “the thread off of the spool”. Carefully pull the threader out of the bobbin tube, this will trap the thread in the “Y” and the bobbin will be ready to go. HINT! Sometimes the “Y” need to be closed or tighten, this can be done easily by using a small pair of pliers and GENTLY mash the “Y” down.

Step 3. Adjusting the bobbin.
Sometimes the thread tension “how much force it takes to pull the thread from the spool” needs to be adjusted. You don’t want the spool to loose while at the other hand you do not want it so hard to pull off that you break the thread while tying.
To tighten the tension, simply remove the thread spool from the bobbin, keeping it still threader and bend the both bobbin arms inward to increase the tension, outwards to lighten the tension. The proper tension should be so that it takes just a little “pulling” to extend or lengthen the thread.
Step 3. Starting the thread on the hook.
We suggest practicing starting the thread on the hook by using bent paper clips. They are inexpensive and teach the proper method of attaching the thread as well as getting a feel for thread tension.

Place a paper clip into the vise jaw as shown. Tighten the clip just as you would tighten a hook. Pull of about 8 inches of thread from the bobbin. Holding the tag end of the thread with you left hand and the bobbin in your right. Lay the middle of the exposed thread on the middle of the clip keeping tension on the thread at all times. Start wrapping the thread “going around the clip in a circular motion trapping the thread that you are holding in your left hand about 4 or 5 turns. If the thread is locked onto the shank of the clip, you should be able to let the bobbin hang by itself. Using your scissors clip off the remaining thread held in your left hand. Close to the shank. Next wrap a few more turns of thread and you are now ready to build your first fly. We suggest that you practice this a few times to get comfortable.
Step 4. Finishing the head or learning the Whip Finish Knot. The Whip Finish is the MOST important knot you will use in fly tying. It is basically a knot that as you wrap the thread over itself, you create a loop that is then pulled UNDER the 5 wraps of thread so that it locks itself. Some tiers chose to learn how to do it with their hands but mostly a Whip Finish Tool is much easier for the beginner. We STRONGLY suggest that you practice this knot several times BEFORE you tie your first fly. It’s frustrating to get to the end of the fly and can’t figure out to tie it off!

1. Hold Whip Finisher tool in your hand, trapping the ball located just above the handle between thumb and index finger (this prevents the tool head from turning). While holding the tool in this manner, position the head of the tool on tying thread as shown.

2. Bring bobbin and thread up and over toward the middle of the hook shank catching on the bent arm of the tool. The thread should be positioned very close to the hook shank as shown.

3. Release the ball that has been trapped between your thumb and index finger. This will allow the head of the tool to rotate.
4. Lift the tool up and toward the hook, while doing this, move the bobbin toward you. Maintain thread tension on the bobbin. You should now have formed thread triangle between points A, B, and C. Rotate the tool forward (away from you), wrapping the thread between point A and C around the hook shank.

4 A. When the thread has been wrapped around the hook approximately 4 to 6 times, the tool must then be released from the knot. To do this, first finish wrapping the thread so the hook A. on the head of the tool is facing straight upward as shown.

5. Now move your tool so it is in the position as shown. This motion will allow the heel of the tool B. to release from the thread triangle.

6. The thread is now held by the hook portion of the tool. By pulling on the bobbin, the tool will travel towards the hook, closing the loop of thread. When the hook is very close to the hook shank, raise the tool to allow the thread to slip off the hook of the tool, continue pulling bobbin, thus forming knot. Trim thread and apply head cement.
Basic Saltwater fly’s and their anatomy. Most saltwater fly’s are based on two types of game fish. There are the Pelagic species such as Albacore, Bonito, Jacks, Mackerel Tarpon the larger species as Sailfish, Marlin or Dorado who feed on larger baitfish. Species as Bonefish, Redfish, Snapper and Spotted Trout are more bottom feeders that search for small crabs, shrimp and smaller baitfish.
Basic fundamentals of tying fly’s

Any Fly!

Starting the thread in the middle of the hook. This is an application for almost any fly with the exception of spinning hair.

Wrapping back towards the bend of the hook, you have determined the placement of the tail.

By wrapping forward, you have established the placement of eyes. If the fly does not require eyes you have creative a stopping point to form the head of the fly as well as establishing the length of the body.
McVey’s Trout Candy
Recipe:
Hook: Mustad 34011 (or equivalent) Size #2
Thread: Chartreuse Flat A, prewaxed
Eye: Brass Dumbell, plated gold, size small
Tail: White and brown bucktail

Step 1. Put a small bend at the middle of the hook shank as illustrated. Sharpen hook if necessary. Place the hook in the vise, adjust accordingly, for proper tension.

Step 2 & 3 Wrap the thread in the middle of the hook. At this point add the eye, place the eye ”dumbell” on top of the hook shank, six wraps one way, six wraps in a counter clockwise motion. Make sure that the wraps “Tension” are tight. Position the eye so that it is perpendicular to the hook shank. Apply head cement.
Step 4. Wind thread back to the bend of the hook as pictured.

Step 5. Cut a small amount of Brown bucktail. This natural color brown is found on the back of the tail section. Try to even the tips by holding the butt tips in your left hand and removing the short hairs with your right hand. Take those short hairs and lay them with the hairs you have remaining in your right hand, so the tips are even.

Step 6. Tie the brown bucktail butts right behind the eye as shown. Try to make sure that the tail stays on top of the hook shank.
Step 6. Tie in chartreuse Cactus chenille. Note how the fibers have been stripped from the core leaving only the core exposed.

Step 7. Wind the thread forward stopping just in FRONT of the eye. Next wind the cactus chenille forward along the hook shank. When you get to the eyes take a turn between the eyes and 1 complete turn in front of the eyes.

Step 8. Tie in Pink Cactus chenille and wind forward to the eye of the hook. Tie off by with a few turns of thread. Clip the remaining chenille and form a small head. Finish off with a whip finish and clip the main thread from bobbin. Apply head cement. Fly completed!

Optional Step 9. If you want to develop a side silhouette you can trim the body as shown.
Crazy Charlie
Recipe:
Hook: Mustad 34007 Size #2—# 6
Thread: Chartreuse Flat A, prewaxed
Eye: Silver Medium Bead Chain
Tail: Crystal Mirror Flash
Underbody: Crystal Mirror Flash
Top Body: Clear medium V-Rib
Wing: White Bucktail & Crystal Mirror Flash

Step 1. Start the thread in the middle of the hook as always

Step 2. Wind the thread forward to just behind the eye of the hook. Place bead chain eye, using a crisscross wrap as in the McVey’s Trout

Step 3. Wind the thread back to the point of the hook as shown. This will be where the tail will be tied in.
Step 4. Gather about 6-8 strands of crystal mirror flash approximately 8 inches long. Using the ends, measure for the tail. Tail length is approximately the gap of the hook which is the length from the hook point up to the hook shank.

Step 5. Wrap the thread forward stopping behind the eye. Tie in a 8 inch length of clear V-Rib. Wrap the thread over the V-Rib holding tension on the

Step 6. Wind the remaining Mirror flash to the front of the fly. Tie off, and clip the remaining material
Step 7. Next wind the V-Rib up to the eyes. Make sure that you wind the V-Rib with the smooth or flat side down and the round side up. Tie off and trim excess.

Step 9. Cut a small bunch of white bucktail and tie in as shown. The tips should extend just a little longer than the bend of the hook. Apply head cement.

Step 10. Tie in another small bunch of Crystal Mirror flash as shown. Form neat head, whip finish and the fly is completed.
Bend Back Recipe:
Hook: Mustad 34007 Size #2-#6
Thread: Chartreuse Flat A, prewaxed
Body: Silver Poly Flash
Tail: Crystal Mirror Flash
Under wing: White Bucktail
Middle Wing: Crystal Mirror Flash Wing

Step 1. Place the hook in the vise and bend the hook shank “UP” about 10 -15 degrees.

Step 2. Start the thread in the middle of the hook.

Step 3. Tie in a section of silver poly flash about 8 inches long. Advance the thread forward to just behind the eye of the hook.
Step 4. This time instead of winding the thread back to the bend of the hook wind the silver poly flash backwards as shown.

Step 5. Wind the poly flash forward as shown. This “doubled” wrap body will form a larger silhouette.

Step 6. Tie off as shown and trim excess poly flash.
Step 7. Invert the hook in the vice. Select a small bunch of white bucktail. The total length of the under wing should be about 1 1/4 the length of the hook shank.

Step 8. Tie the bucktail in as shown, trim excess material.

Step 9. Cut another bunch of bucktail using chartreuse hair. The length of this top wing should be a little longer than the white under wing. Tie in as above, form neat head, whip finish. Apply head cement, fly completed. Option, you can add a few strands of crystal mirror flash as a middle wing before tying in the chartreuse bucktail.
Step 1. Start the thread in the middle of the hook as always.

Step 2. Wind the thread forward to just behind the eye of the hook. Not as close as you did on the Crazy Charlie. Tie in Dumbell Eye as shown.

Step 3. Cut a small bunch of white bucktail and tie in directly in front of the eye. The total length should be 1 1/2 time the length of the hook shank. Wind the thread back behind the eye.

Clouser Recipe:
Hook: Mustad 34007 Size #2—# 6
Thread: Chartreuse Flat A, prewaxed
Eye: Black Machined Dumbells
Tail: White Bucktail
Underbody: White Bucktail
Under Wing: Chartreuse Bucktail
Top Wing: Crystal Mirror Flash
Step 4. Pull the bucktail back over the eyes as shown. Make two or three wraps of thread to lock the bucktail in place. Continue pulling the bucktail back towards the bend of the hook. After the tail is set, spiral wrap the thread forward as shown.

Step 5. Invert the hook and select 5-7 strands of Crystal Mirror flash. Tie in the flash as shown leaving flash extending towards the hook point as well as in front of the hook eye.
Step 6. Fold the remaining flash that is extending over the hook eye. Tie down as shown.

Step 7. Cut a small bunch of bucktail as shown. The total length should be about 1 1/2-1 3/4 the length of the hook shank.

Step 8. Tie the bucktail in. Form a small neat head, whip finish and the fly is now complete.
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Sea Ducer
Recipe:
Hook: Mustad 34007 Size #2/0— #4
Thread: Red Flat A, prewaxed
Tail 6-8 White Saddle & Mirror Flash
Body: None
Head: Red Saddle Hackle

Step 1 & Step 2. Start the thread in the middle of the hook, wind back to hook point as shown.

Step 3. Select a small bunch of white bucktail and tie on top of the hook shank. Length approximately the length of the hook shank.

Step 4. Select 6-8 white saddle and strip the fuzz from the base of the feather. This is easy to do. Arrange all of the feather so the tips of the feathers match. Holding the feather tightly as show, use your right thumb nail and strip the fuzz off the quill or stem.
Step 4. Using 3 or 4 of the feather that have already been striped, tie in on the side of the hook as shown. Repeat this step again using the remaining feathers. Length about 2-3 times the length of the hook shank. Tail length should be as pictured.

Step 5. Using 6 – 8 strands of Crystal Mirror flash, tie in as shown. Length should extend beyond the tail feather. Fold the remaining flash back over the wing as you did on the Crazy Charlie.
Step 6. Tie in 3 or 4 red saddles as shown. Don’t forget to strip the fuzz off exposing only the stems. Pinch the saddle feather that is closest to the eye of the hook. Wind the hackle as shown in the lower picture. Tie off. Next take the remaining hackles and wind through the first hackle by weaving the feather as shown. Tying off each hackle as you go.

Step 7. Form a neat head. Whip finish and apply head cement. Fly completed.
Lefty’s Deceiver
Recipe:
Hook: Mustad 34007 Size #2/0— #4
Thread: Chartreuse Flat A, prewaxed
Tail 6-8 White Saddle & Mirror Flash
Body: Chartreuse Bucktail tied in three stages
Under wing /Collar: White Bucktail
Top Wing: Chartreuse Bucktail
Throat: Red Mirror Flash
Topping: Peacock Herl

Step 1 & 2. Again start thread in the middle of the hook. Wind back to where the tail will be tied in, then wrap forward to just behind the eye of the hook. Doing these three steps you now have established the tail set, body length and enough room to finish the head.
Step 3. Select 6-8 saddles as you did for tying the Sea Ducer. Make sure the fluff is completely stripped off leaving only the stem.

Step 4. This time tie 3—4 of the saddle on top of the hook shank. Make sure that the feather curve inwards. You want to create a “tent” type profile. Do the same operation for the remaining feathers. Clip any extra stems as shown.
Step 4 & 5. Cut about 4 strands of Mirror Flash or Crystal Mirror flash about 8 inches long. Fold the flash over the thread as shown holding the strands in your left hand. Slide the flash back to where the tail set is making sure that it is on top of the hook.

Step 6. Cut a small bunch of chartreuse bucktail and tie in. Try to get the hair all around the hook shank. Sometimes it is easier to invert the hook and tie in a second bunch of hair. The bucktail length should be just a little shorter than the end of the saddle hackle.
Step 7. Advance the thread forward and tie in another bunch of bucktail.

Step 8. Reverse the hook and then tie in a small bunch of white bucktail. Make sure the hair stays on the underside of the hook.
Step 9. Select about 6 strands of red crystal flash, about 4 inches long. Tie in as shown. Fold back and clip the extra length as shown. 9 A

Step 10. Reverse the hook as shown and select about 8-10 strands of peacock herl. The total length should extend beyond the tail as shown. Tie in at this point.
Step 11. Form neat head, apply head cement and whip finish. Completed fly.
CCT Crab Fly
Recipe:
Hook: Mustad 34007 Size #2-# 6
Thread: Chartreuse Flat A, pre-waxed
Eye: Medium Black Dumbell
Tail: Crystal Mirror Flash & Hackle Tips
Body: CCT Body Fur.

Step 1. After you have started the thread in the middle of the hook, wind forward and set a pair of black dumbbell eyes.

Step 2. Tie in a few strands of Crystal Mirror flash as above, then fold back as pictured 2 A

Step 3. Trim the tail as shown. Tail length should be approximately the same as the gap of the hook.
Step 4. Select 4 hackles, Strip the extra fibers off as shown. The tail length should be 1 to 1/1/2 times the hook shank.

Step 5. Tie one set, 2 feathers, on each side of the hook shank. To make the hackle tips point out wind the thread behind the stem like you were putting a dumbbell eye on. This will help lock the tips in place.

Step 6. Cut a piece of CCT Body Fur approximately 6 inches long. Strip some of the yarn away from the core and tie in as shown. Make sure that the fibers are faced as pictured.
Step 7. Wind the body fur forward making that sure the fibers lay back towards the point of the hook. Continue to make 1 or 2 wraps in front of the eyes as pictured below. Tie off and apply head cement.

Step 8. Using the points of your scissors comb the fibers out so they are flat as shown.
Step 9 & 10 Remove the fly from the vise and pull the fibers as shown. Do this a few times until they are all flat. Next using your scissors trim the crab in to a oval as shown. Take your time and work in a circular motion at all times. Below is the finished fly.
Glass Minnow
Recipe:
Hook: Mustad 34007 Size #2-#6
Thread: White Flat A, prewaxed
Eye: Black Medium Bead Chain
Body: Crystal Mirror Flash
Tail: Crystal Mirror Flash
Under wing: Crystal Mirror Flash
Wing: White Super Hair.

Step 1. Start the thread in the middle of the hook. Wind forward just behind the eye of the

Step 2. Select 6-8 strands of Crystal mirror flash. Tie in behind the eyes and wrap back towards the bend of the hook.

Step 3. Bring the thread forward to behind the eyes. Wrap the crystal mirror flash as shown and tie off. Do not trim the excess flash.
Step 4. Fold the extra crystal mirror flash backwards and tie in on top of the hook. Trim the total length as shown. Approximately 1 1/2 times the shank of the hook.

Step 5. Invert the hook and using about 5 strands of red rainbow flash double as in the past and secure the throat in as shown. Note that the flash is tied in behind the eyes. See figure 6.

Step 6. Trim the throat as shown.
Step 7. Invert the hook. Tie in a small bunch of white super hair. Trim the excess and form a neat head. Whip finish.

Step 8. Trim the top wing at a diagonal as shown. Length of the wing should be approximately 1 1/2 the length of the hook shank. Finished fly.
Surf Candy
Recipe:
Hook: Mustad 34007 Size 4-6
Thread: White Flat A, prewaxed
Body: Flat Silver Mylar tinsel
Tail: None
Under wing: White Super Hair
Top Wing: Olive Super Hair.
Eye: Stick on prismatic

Step 1. Tie the thread in the middle of the hook. As a short cut, tie in about an 8 inch section of flat Mylar tinsel.

Step 2. Pulling the Mylar back towards the hook with your left hand, overwrap it with the thread, stopping at the bend of the hook.

Step 3. Wind the thread forward first just stopping behind the eye of the hook leaving room for the head. Wrap the tinsel forward, silver side up as shown. Tie off and trim excess material.
Step 4. Attach a small bunch of white super hair as shown. The overall length should be approximately 1 1/2 times the length of the

Step 5 & 6. At this point take 4 or 6 strands of Mirror flash and double it over as shown. Slide it to the top of the hook and tie into place.
Step 7. Take another small bunch of olive super hair and tie in on top of the white super hair. Form a neat head and whip finish.

Step 8. Trim the back of the fly as shown. Total length should be approximately 1 1/2 the shank of the hook. Remove the fly from the vice, holding the wing as shown make a diagonal cut from the underside. This will give the fly a “Fish Tail” appearance.

Step 9. Before adding the stick on eye apply a good coating of head cement to the body to the point as shown. This will incase the fly body providing a sleek profile. Finished fly.
Banger Fly
Recipe:
Hook: Stanless Steel Popper Hook
size 1/0
Thread: White  Flat A, prewaxed
Eye: Stick on prismatic eye
Body: Chartreuse Cactus Chenille
Tail: White Bucktail
Head: Foam Cylinder.

Step 1. After putting the hook in the vise, slide the popper over the hook shank.
This will insure that the cylinder will slide easily for the last step. Remove the cylinder.

Step 2. Wind the hook as shown creating a good thread base for the cylinder.
Step 4. Pre measure the length of the foam cylinder. Tie the butts of the bucktail down to the shank of the hook, towards the eye of the hook. This will make a good thread base to glue the cylinder in place. Note. The cylinder may need to be shorten. Make sure that the length of the cylinder will also expose the eye of the hook once it is glued in place.

Step 5. Return the thread to the bend of the hook as shown. Tie in a small length of cactus chenille, remember to strip the fibers off exposing only the core.

Step 6. Wind the cactus chenille to the premeasured stopping point that was determined in step 4.

Step 7. Wind the thread forward as shown This will make a good thread base
Step 8. Apply a liberal coat of head cement or Super Glue (optional).

Step 9. Quickly slide the cylinder in place. Make sure that it goes all of the way back to the cactus chenille and that the eye of the hook is ex-

Step 10. Attach the stick on eyes as shown. Option. Some tiers will cover the entire cylinder with 5 minute epoxy or they use a high grade of clear tape.