

Pete's Rust Bucket.

I guess you could say that this fly is a variation of the Clouser **Minnow** or crazy Charlie style fly. It was developed by Peter Swanson and has proved successful on a huge variety of species. It is particularly good on bream in the upper estuary systems and the all black version is great for Australian Bass. **Now I will be the first to admit that my fly tying skills are not in the same league as Pete's but here is a simple recipe for creating the bucket.**

Hook: Mustad 34007 Size 1 down to 6.

Body: Chenille

Eyes: Small Brass Hour Glass or Bead Chain

Flash: Krystal Flash

Wing: Calf Tail or Fine Bucktail

Over Wing: Cross Cut Rabbit or Zonker

Thread: Flat Waxed Nylon

Glue: Head Cement.

1. Place your hook in the vice and starting behind the eye of the hook wrap the shank down level to the bend. Tie in you eyes approximately 1½ hook eye lengths back from the eye and apply head cement to the wraps



2. Transfer your thread back to the bend of the hook and tie in the chenille. Move the thread back to the eyes and wrap the chenille along the shank of the hook Tie off and move your thread to in front of the eyes



3. Create the wing by taking a bunch of calf tail. Trim so that it extends past the end of the hook by a distance approximately equal to the gape of the hook. Tie this in front of the eyes. Do not use excessive wraps as the rest of the materials get tied in on top of this. You can substitute fine bucktail for the calf tail in this step and larger flies may require bucktail to get the required length. You will need to stack the buck tail so all the tips are even. You can use a stacking tool but I prefer to hand stack by pulling out the longer strands and laying them back in along side the shorter ones.



4. Tie 3 or 4 strands of Krystal Flash and trim to the same length as the wing. Tie this in on top of the wing so that it runs down along side of the wing.
5. Tie another similar sized bunch of calf material, again in front of the eyes and on top of the previous ties. If using bucktail there is no harm in letting the material flare a little bit here to give the fly some body



6. To make the overwing, cut about half a centimetre of Cross cut rabbit and remove the skin. Trim this so the length of rabbit extends just past the barb of the hook and tie in on top of the wing in front of the eyes



7. Whip finish and glue the threads using head cement.

Varieties.

I have deliberately not specified and material colours in this pattern but popular variations include all black, all white and the “Rust Bucket”. Vary the pattern to match what you are attempting to imitate.



Fishing the bucket.

This is a very versatile fly, Pete even used it to snare a couple of small Spanish Mackerel recently when they failed to be interested in anything more substantial. It is very effective on bream when cast deep into the snags and fished with a short jerky strip with a large pause between the strips. Keep the fly in the strike zone as long as possible. For Australian Bass, fish the fly deep on a density compensated sinking line, use short sharp strips and with plenty of time between strips. Stay in touch with the fly as fish will often strike during the pause.