

Super Hair Clouser for White Bass

Time again for the annual white bass run. White bass generally are found in our lakes and reservoirs, but the spawn in the spring in moving rivers. Once the water gets warm enough, about 55-66 degrees, the white bass move upriver in large numbers where they are easily targeted by fly fishers. White bass don't build nests, but lay their eggs over sand or gravel bottoms in moving water. Most spawning activity takes place from dusk to dawn, and during the day the fish will either hold in deeper holes or continue moving upstream. Your best chance for success can be finding a deeper hole just below riffles and rapids.

4 to 7 weight rods work well, depending more on wind levels and depth of the water than the size of the fish. You will want to use at least a sink tip line if not a full sinking line. The white bass seem to shy away from the light, so they will be found deeper on bright days, and sometime near the surface on overcast days. Water clarity also makes a difference.

In clear water, use short, erratic strips. Fish your fly a little faster. If the fish are feeding, they will aggressively attack your fly. In colored water, or when the water is colder, allow your fly to sink a little deeper, and make long, slow strips. The fish won't be as aggressive in these conditions.

Keep your rod tip low and pointed at the fly. Sometimes it even seems to help when you stick the rod tip into the water and down near the bottom. Anything you can do to keep the fly deeper.

Unlike many fish that don't feed while spawning, white bass will actively feed. They forage on the small minnows that are common in the rivers and streams where we find them. Use small streamer flies. Size sometimes matters, with larger flies working early in the season, and going smaller as the season progresses. Colors that imitate the naturals work best. Though I don't know where chartreuse comes in. White bass normally feed on shad and shiner minnows in the lakes, so white flies, or flies with white in them, always seem to work.

The Super Hair Clouser uses any synthetic hair. These are more durable than the bucktail Clousers we have used in the past. Here I have chosen to use Slinky Fiber, but only because I thought the gray I found would make a better fly than some of the grays I have in other materials. Super Hair, Supreme Hair, EP Fiber, I've even seen them tied with crystal Flash. Whatever you have or can find. Just make sure that the two colors are of similar materials so that the action is consistent. I prefer to add the weight directly to the fly and maybe have a couple of variations in my boxes.

MATERIALS Super Hair Clouser

Hook: Streamer Hook, 3-4X Long, straight or down eye, size 6 - 10

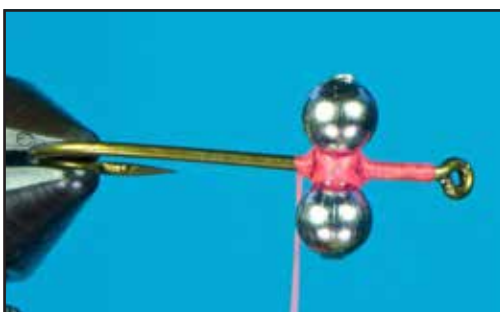
Eyes: Bead Chain or lead eyes

Belly: White Super Hair or Substitute (Slinky Fiber Shown)

Back: Gray or Chartreuse Super Hair or substitute (Slinky Fiber Shown)



Step 1: Place your hook in the vice. Start your thread behind the eye and wrap back to 1/3 the shank. Most place the eyes too close to the hook eye, making it difficult to get the proper proportions for the fly.) Hold your dumbbell style eyes in place and make 6 turns across the eyes in one direction. Make 12 turns in the other direction, then 6 more in the original direction. Add a drop of super glue.



Step 2: Now make some X-wraps over the eye by making wraps similar to the previous step, but 1 then 1. Finish up with a set of 4-5 frappe wraps. These go around the eye but stay above the hook. This set of varied wraps, plus the super glue, usually will be enough to hold the eyes in place.



Step 3: Prepare a small bundle of the synthetic white hair, less than you would think and a little longer than the desired length of the fly. Even one end up with just a slight taper. Tie this in front of the eyes and just behind the hook eye. A few tight wraps and a drop of glue will hold it in place. Move the thread underneath the eyes, and take 5-6 wraps behind the eye, binding the white hair down. Return the thread under the eyes to the front.



Step 4: Turn the fly over in your vice. Prepare a bundle of the gray synthetic hair, about the same amount as the white you used. Tie it in in front of the eyes, on the opposite side from the white, with a few wraps and add a drop of glue. Use your thread to build up a smooth conical head, covering the ends of all materials, whip finish and cut of your excess thread.



Step 5: We now need to trim and shape the body. I find that a longer pair of scissors works best for this. I hold the fly facing away from me and cut forward from the back. Cut at a diagonal from one side to the other, middle of the material is the final length of the fly. Cut across at the opposite diagonal, making the two sides even. Turn the fly 90 degrees and trim in a similar manner. and stroking the fibers down toward the base. Tie the hackle in by the tip at the back of the gap you left behind the bead. Use your thread to build a smooth flat base for the hackle collar and leave your thread at the front just behind the bead.