

The Fly Tyer's Corner by Jim Gray (AFF NL August, 2020)

Llano Fox

Like most fly fishers, I love catching bass on top water flies, but sometimes that just doesn't work. When the bass won't take my Llanolope, I switch over to my favorite sub surface fly - the Llano Fox. The Llano Fox is a foxy clouser variation, tied with chartreuse and white fox tail, and grizzly chartreuse legs. This combination of size, color and silhouette mimics a drowned grasshopper. During the summer, grasshoppers are a staple food for many species of fish on the Llano. On a recent trip, I used a Llano Fox to catch a freshwater drum, a carp, many guads, largemouth, red breasts and greenies, all from the same pool. I'm convinced that fish were keying on hoppers, and slowly dragging a Llano Fox through

the pool was irresistible. I've had similar success on other Hill Country creeks and rivers. The Llano Fox has become my "fly of last resort". I know if I can't catch fish on this fly, it's time to go home.

Materials

Hook - Gamakatsu B10S size 6

Thread - UTC 140 Chartreuse

Eyes - small double pupil lead eyes, chartreuse or yellow

Under Belly - white fox tail *

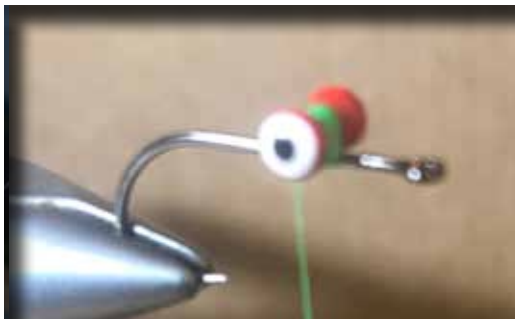
Flash - pearl crystal flash

Legs - Hareline grizzly micro legs fl chartreuse

Wing - chartreuse fox tail *

* finn raccoon can be substituted for fox tail

Step 1: Secure the dumbbell eye 1/8 inch behind the hook eye, using figure 8 wraps. Secure the wraps with a drop of Krazy Glue.



Step 2: After removing all the under fur and stacking to even the tips, tie in a sparse amount of white fox tail in front of, and behind the eye.



Step 3: Flip over and tie in 2 strands of flash. Loop each strand around eyes to make 4 strands of flash, and secure with thread. Trim flash to be even with the tips of the fox tail under belly



Step 4: Cut a single strand of grizzly micro leg in half. Loop the 1/2 strand around each eye and secure with thread. This technique secures the legs and allows them to move freely when fished.



Step 5: Remove the under fur from a sparse amount of chartreuse fox tail. Stack to even the tips and tie in just in front of the eyes. The tips of the chartreuse fox tail should be the same length as the white



Step 6: Secure the head wraps with Krazy Glue. As with any fly you tie for fishing the Llano or San Gabriel, you can create variations of this fly with bead-chain eyes, different colors, or smaller hooks.

