

## CARDINELLE



By Bob Bates

Frank Flowers of Acton, MA demonstrated this pattern at the 2011 FFF International Fly Fishing Fair (formerly Conclave) in West Yellowstone, MT. He let me photograph the steps as he tied. According to a couple of internet sources it was developed in the late 1960's by Bill Chiba of Springfield, Mass. He showed the fly to Paul Kukkonen of Worcester, Mass., and Paul is given credit for popularizing the pattern by featuring it in his films. According to Paul it has caught all species of trout, landlock salmon, Atlantic salmon, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, walleye, pike, Striped bass, blues and coho salmon. Paul considers it one of the top 5 streamers. It is a very popular pattern in southern New England. I am sure it is included in the "all species" of trout, but it looks like a great steelhead pattern.

Since it is a streamer, fish it like one. In moving water give a quartering downstream cast a try. Use a floating or sinking line and drag free float until it starts to drag across current. At any time be ready for a strike. In still-water vary the retrieve and depth.

### Materials List:

**Hook:** Mustad 3665A or 9575 #6-10

**Thread:** Red or orange, 6/0

**Body:** Fluorescent pink Depth Ray nylon wool or orange

**Wing:** Marabou, pink or cerise

**Collar:** Yellow saddle hackle

**Head:** Thread

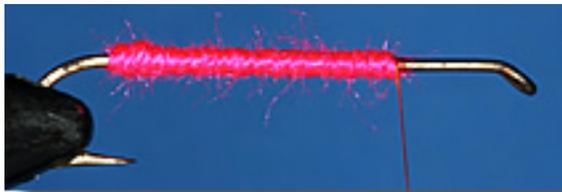
## Tying steps:



1. Debarb hook and line hook shank with close wraps of thread from back of loop eye to just above the point.



2. Tie on body material.



3. Spiral thread forward. Stop at back end of loop eye. Wind body forward, secure and trim.



4. Put wing on top of hook. This is a generous wing, about 2-1/2 inches long. (Frank didn't realize that the marabou wing was pulled over by thread torque until it was too late. So when you tie this pattern be sure to hang on to the marabou so it stays on top.)



5. Attach a yellow streamer hackle in front of the wing. Wrap it three or four turns right next to wing. Put on a few thread winds to make sure the barbs lay on the wing. Half hitch right in front of hackle. Some of the internet pictures show a collar with barbs that reach back to the point of the hook. (Have you ever been to a doctor who looked in your ears?) The tool he uses has a replaceable tip for sterility. Frank talked his doctor out of it and uses it as a half hitch tool. Naturally, he cleaned and sterilized it first.



6. Build up the head, and whip finish it. Put on some head cement on, and keep the vise moving so the cement does not sag.

**Closing comments:** This is an easy to tie pattern that catches fish almost wherever you go. I think that some of our tiers in the Northwest could use a few of these when they go to our steelhead waters that are hot right now. Or they could use them now or next spring in other streams or lakes. Frank sometimes puts a little pearlescent crystal flash in with the marabou.

Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.  
You can direct any questions or comments to FOM at [fom@fedflyfishers.org](mailto:fom@fedflyfishers.org)