

AVALON PERMIT FLY



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Opening Comments

This is a departure from the usual freshwater patterns in the Fly of the Month. Bobb Cannella, Jr. of Jackson, Wyoming tied this shrimp pattern at the 2013 East Idaho Fly Tying Expo in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

First a little history. Mauro Ginevri completed developed of it in 2009 to target the one day grand slam: permit, tarpon and bonefish in Cuban waters. Much of the following came from an article by Hans van Klinkin in the 2011 February-March issue of *Fly Fisherman*. Mauro and other anglers were aware of how easily permit were spooked by the patterns in use at that time. Also he saw that many patterns tied to be retrieved point up actually rolled over to their sides, which he felt spooked the fish. He didn't have success with many flies given to him. Finally, in 2001 he started tying his own flies. His early patterns didn't work much better. Then in 2007 one of his customers showed him a monofilament beaded keel fly. By 2009 Mauro was satisfied with his design and gave copies to six customers, and the results were great. Knowledge of the Avalon Permit Fly spread through the Cayo Largo area. Then it spread outside of Cuban waters.

When fishing it let the fly sink. The eye of the hook will sink faster than rest of the hook, and the beads will slide forward making a rattle. On the retrieve the beads will slide back making more noise. Repeat the retrieve/pause process until you catch a fish or are ready to cast again. A lot of fishing is on the flats so you do not cast until you see a fish. Quickly cast ahead of the

fish so the fly has time to sink. It has caught permit, bonefish, tarpon and other species throughout the saltwater world. For many anglers it is their go-to pattern. While size 2 is the original size specified some anglers are using larger sizes. One angler reported that he caught 37 species of fish before he changed his fly.

This is a heavy fly so you need to be careful casting it.

Materials list

Hook: Dai-Riki 930 stainless size 2

Thread: Kevlar, cream or tan

Casing for rattle (keel): 20 pound mono

Mouth (Head): Zelon, orange (Original called for Artic fox)

Legs: Round rubber, small and medium, orange

Shellback: Pearl braided core

Antennae: Krystal Flash, Heron Blue (peacock and black used on this tie)

Body: Marabou; tan, cream, pink or olive

Wings (Claws): Rabbit strip, 1/8-inch, same color as body

Rattle: 3 beads (Original called for four beads)

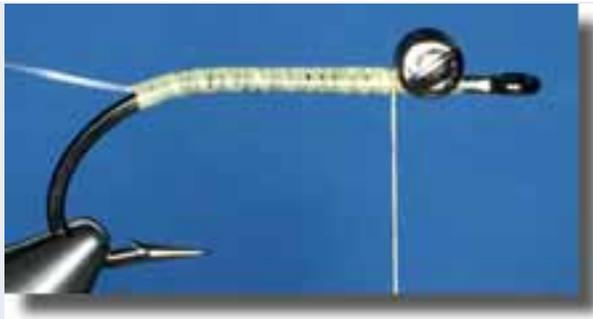
Finish (Head): Orange flat waxed thread coated with UV cement

Tying steps



Step 1

Tie lead eyes on with figure eight and some loops under the eyes. This puts a little platform under the eyes. Really cinch down with the thread. Glue is not needed.



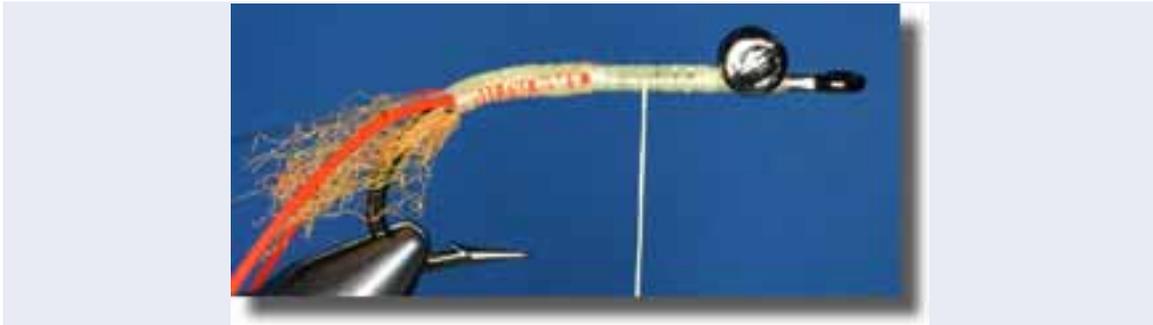
Step 2

Straighten mono with your fingers. It ties in better. Place on top of shank behind the eyes. Wrap rearward while holding mono on top of shank. At a point over the barb, wind forward to eyes. Want to have a little curve in the fly.



Step 3

Turn fly over to tie in the Zelon. Trim to about a gap length Zelon head. Spread out the Zelon a bit so it will move better. The originally specified Artic fox didn't move as much as Zelon, so Bobb changed the materials. With the hook upside down it is easy to tie the Zelon on the inside of the bend.



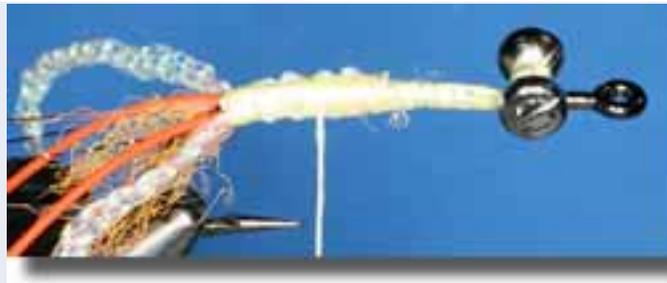
Step 4

Tie in the legs or feelers. Bobb has tied so many of them that he knows the length of rubber to use. Keep rubber on the side of the hook. It seems to help if you pull on the rubber a little as you tie it on. Trim so there is 1-1/2 inches of rubber sticking out. (Bobb trims to the D on his Dr. Slick scissors.) Flip over fly and tie on the other piece of rubber. It is handy to have a vise that rotates.



Step 5

Tie in a piece of Krystal Flash on each side just like the rubber legs. Make them the same length as the rubber legs. Be careful to avoid stretching the Krystal Flash or you will lose the flash. Heron Blue color is preferred by Bobb's clients.



Step 6

Tie in pieces of pearl braided core on the side of the hook like the rubber legs. Tie them a little bit more around the bend. The bulk of everything at the rear of the hook will be covered in a couple of steps. You should have noticed that everything so far has been tied on the sides of the hook. This is to allow room for the rattle to work.



Step 7

Tie marabou by the tips on top of shank as shown. Wetting the fingers a little helps control the marabou. Do not need super quality marabou for this. It just needs to be long enough to wrap up to the eyes.



Step 8

Wrap marabou forward to the eyes, secure and trim.



Step 9

Tie rabbit strip on side of hook right behind the eyes. Catch the smallest piece of the leather with the thread, and put on two additional thread winds. Slide the scissors through the fur and cut the leather at a point one half of the distance between the back of the body and the back of the hook's bend. Secure the second wing on the other side of the hook. The Kevlar thread lets you really secure the wings without covering up a lot of fur. Bring thread in front of eyes.



Step 10

Turn fly over and bring the one piece of pearl braided core forward go around the eye and secure in front of the eyes. You can put some tension on the core as you do this. Then bring the other piece of pearl braided core forward, tension it a little, wrap around the eye and secure in front of the eyes. Trim excess.



Step 11

Thread three beads on monofilament casing. Doesn't make any difference which way you thread them on (smaller or larger hole first). Bobb used the smaller hole. Secure mono in front of eyes. For hook sizes 2 - 4 use 1/8-inch bead for larger hooks go up one size for the bead



Step 12

Tie off Kevlar, trim and tie on orange flat waxed thread. (Beads are hiding in the wing.)



Step 13

Make a nice head to cover up the Kevlar. Whip finish and trim excess thread. Coat head with UV cement, clean off any excess and cure with UV light. Last step hold rubber legs and touch them with permanent marking pen. Make marks random, and try to avoid marking wings or orange Zelon.

Closing Comments

This pattern looks a bit complicated, but it is really straight forward when you get into it. Just fish it so the rattles work. Let it sink and then give it a quick retrieve. It was designed for the saltwater world, but it might work on some of my bass and brown trout lakes.

Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.

You can direct any questions or comments to FOM at
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