

## ***The Copper Cyclops***

History of the fly pattern:

The Copper Cyclops has had a detrimental affect on the population of Redfish in South Louisiana for approx. ten years now. It was conceived for three reasons: ease of casting, (it's compact); the fly doesn't tangle during a lot of heavy, frequent casting, (the primary materials are located behind the hook); and it has lots of flash for Redfish in dirty brackish water. There are many patterns that fit the requirements I've listed above, but I also wanted to be able to tie it quickly, and I don't copy the patterns of other tiers. So, I started to work with various concepts and patterns using a one material idea. I decided to use gold, copper or silver as the color of the "flash". You see, the **Primary** Redfish color in South Louisiana is **Gold** – but in reality, most Reds just like lots of flash, regardless of color. However, as a commercial fly tier, one must please the Public! So, I acquiesced and settled on a "golden copper" color. Next, shape and size had to be determined. I wanted a slender, minnow shape, as it had the proper aerodynamics in fluid. I used a single, large eye in the original pattern - hence the name Cyclops. My experience has proven over the years that more predators will chase a prey with a "spot", or eye, more often than one without a spot. So, I eventually added another eye to make it a typical minnow shape/style. Picking the size was easy. I gave a number of sample patterns to my Primary Guide, Jeff Sympson, who fishes with me frequently. I observed his handling of each fly on a 9' seven weight rod. I selected the size he could cast the farthest with the least trouble.

Fishing the pattern:

The Copper Cyclops is a Redfish pattern used for specific fishing circumstances, i.e., dark, dank skies with dirty water conditions, and to a lesser degree, for use in heavy cover or weeds, when tied weed-less. The pattern represented is for open water conditions – typically in a 2 – 6' water column. It's been effective around well heads, pilings, and old cypress stumps as well as in wide open bays and dirty old bayous. In all cases the most effective casting distance would be approx. 50' – just keep it simple, a 1X or 0X - 10' leader (depending on fly size) with the fly attached using an improved clinch knot – no loop connections here. I use a sinking tip line from time to time, as the fly is plastic and tends to be some what buoyant. The sinking tip brings the fly down deeper, the plastic in the fly tends to keep it off the bottom during slower retrieve. Use a short, slower, strip retrieve – you want the predator to see the fly (prey imitation) you present!

### Pattern Recipe:

Hook	Mustad 34007 or equal; sizes 2 – 1/0
Thread	Red nylon on the body and red or gold Mylar for the finish wraps
Tail	Copper Krystal Flash
Body	Copper Krystal Flash
Eyes	Plastic stick on eyes with black pupils
Head	Band of red nylon over wrapped with gold Mylar (optional). Overcoat head and body with Five Minute Epoxy and lacquer

### Tying steps:

Wrap the shank of the hook with red thread and fasten with super glue

Select a 3/8" thick clump of Krystal Flash and attach as shown, to the bend area of the hook – trim the tail in an uneven cut, not an even, straight cut

Wrap the head/nose of the fly, creating a taper as shown; tie off red thread and use the gold Mylar to make a banded over wrap, if desired

Prepare a puddle of mixed Epoxy and apply big drops on the fly while it is in a rotating vise (place a cup under the fly to catch the wasted drops and drips)

When the entire fly is saturated and dripping with Epoxy, begin to rotate the vise, using a bodkin to create a shape as shown in the photo; continue spinning the vise until the Epoxy sets. Set in eyes as desired. Apply a coat of high quality gloss lacquer over the body. If there are specific questions, please call me from 5 until 10 PM, Central – 504-451-9235, I'll try to help out.