

Rich's Ghost

By Beth Jappay



I recently snagged a fly tied by Rich Henry, a well-known native guide in the Klamath area who is known for his sparse patterns. I reverse engineered the tie, which I found to be both tricky and interesting. I don't know what he calls this pattern, so this is my name for it. I suspect the pattern is a great shad fry imitation, and I look forward to trying it on smallmouth bass on the Willamette this summer. I would fish this pattern with a short leader on a sinking line.

Materials List

Hook: Ahrex NS 105 streamer or equivalent size #4 or #6

Thread: Ultra Thread 70 denier, white

Body: Original Saltwater Flashabou, Pearl

Rib: Original Saltwater Flashabou, Pearl

Hackle: Hoffman hen cape, white

Tail: Micro Flashabou, Pearl

Directions: Prepare the hen's feather by holding it by the tip so that it is curving away from you and stripping away the lower barbs.



Insert hook into vise. Start thread behind the eye of the hook and advance to the bend of the hook. Tie three strands of Micro Flashabou on either side of the hook and trim to a length equal to the length of the hook.



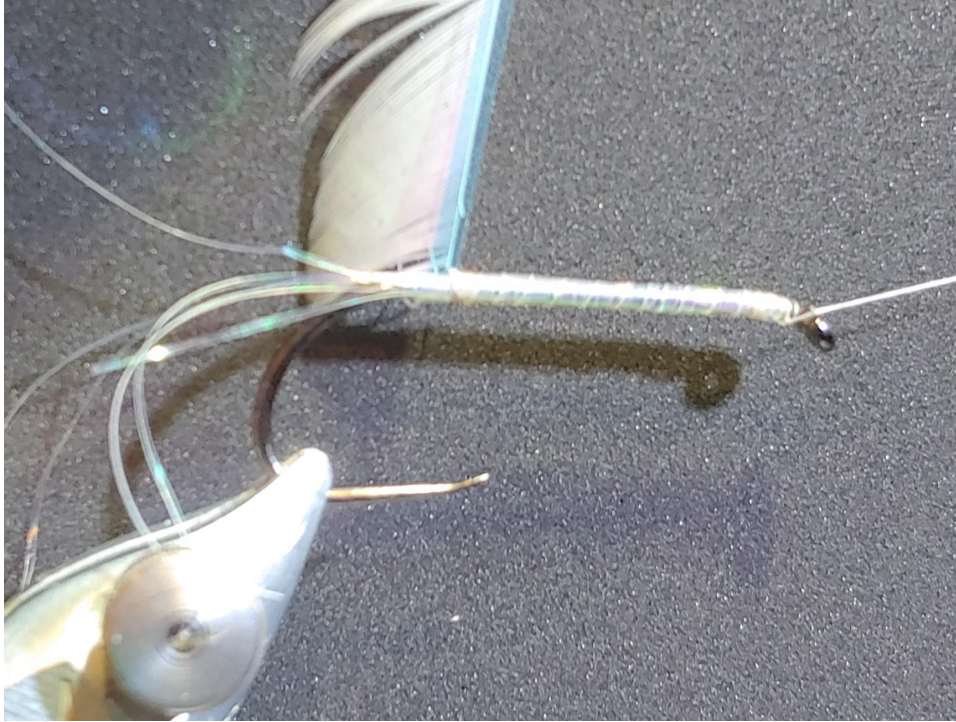
Tie in the saltwater Flashabou on the far side of the hook. Tie the feather in by the tip about 2 mm forward of the Flashabou on the near side.



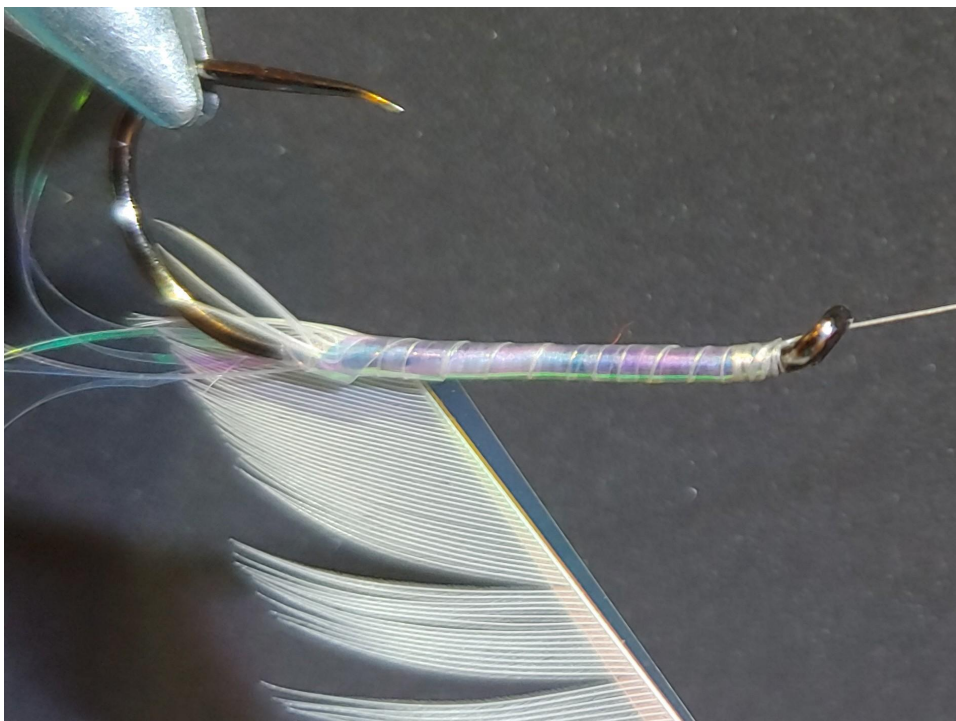
Tie another piece of Flashabou just in front of that on the far side of the hook. Advance the thread to an eye's length behind the eye of the hook and dab some Hard As Nails or head cement on the thread-coated shank. Wrap the Flashabou forward to behind the eye of the hook. Secure and trim.



Pulling the feather forward out of the way, wrap the Flashabou once around the hook behind it. When the Flashabou comes around with the second wrap, have it end up on top of the stem of the feather, which is now oriented with the barbules facing the back of the fly.



Pinch the two together so that the stem is barely covered by the back edge of the Flashabou. Now slide the far end of the feather stem slightly forward in relation to the Flashabou, creating a slight angle. Doing this will make the feather barbules end up standing out perpendicular to the hook shank. Keeping this angle/relationship, wrap the pair forward using five wraps to end up behind the eye of the hook. A rotary vise is a big help here.



Secure the pair in place by wrapping the thread a couple of times around the feather/Flashabou combination, then bring the thread in front of the Flashabou and secure and trim the feather stem.



Now secure and cut the flashabou. Form a head, whip finish, and cement the head.



