

*Make your own jig*

# The Tommy Special Bucktail

by Richard Reich

When my son Tom was 7 or 8 years old, I decided to teach him how to tie bucktails. Back then it was all white with a red collar. So, we started off and the first thing he said was, "The fish are not all white." OK what do you suggest?

We put some of the chartreuse on top. He said we needed another color on top of that so it looks like a fish. He chose green. It looked pretty good, and again he said we need eyes. I said we paint those with red dots. He said we need big eyes like the ones you put on lures. OK, we put quarter-inch and it looked interesting. But will it catch fish?

The next day at the lighthouse, I put it on an egg and added a pork rind. Now it looked like a Christmas ornament! After I caught a few fish, I had one guy tell his kid to stand behind me to see what I was using.

So here's how it's tied today...

## Materials Needed

- nail polish, CVS clear, Paparazzi Crystal City
- Smiling Bill jig head
- crystal flash
- hook protector (screen spline)
- hackles (hot pink) option.
- bucktail (white, chartreuse, dk green)
- thread (white, red, clear nylon)

## Tools Needed

- scissors • 3 bobbins • vise

1. Tie white thread on the collar of the jig, then the shaft



2. Tie 4-6 pink hackles to the shaft, bring thread back to the collar



3. Cut white bucktail (coat the end w/nail polish) and wrap to the bottom half of the collar, tie off white thread and coat with nail polish.



4. Wrap clean nylon thread to the collar and wrap chartreuse bucktail to the other half



5. Wrap dark green bucktail on top of chartreuse.



6. Add some kind of flash to the middle of the jig, tie off clear thread

7. Add a red collar at the start of the collar  
8. Coat collar with Crystal City nail polish

I also tie this bucktail with light blue center and dark blue top for the fall when snappers are around.

The jigs I make use Mustad 34184 (long shank) or 34185 (short shank).

If your using a Do-It mold it will need to be modified by making the hook eye bigger and the slot the hook shaft sits in. I also use a quarter inch forstner bit to make a slot for the eye.

Always use a cork on the hook when drilling. (Or I know a guy who makes them).

I also pour the heads **using pewter**, which makes a one ounce cavity 5/8ths of an ounce, slower sink rate. *My wife's still looking for her mothers pewter collection!*

Any questions I can be reached at (reich@risaa.org).  
Be safe so we can go fishing soon.

