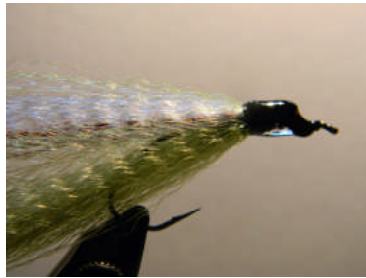


## Levi's Struggling Baitfish Submitted by Mike McCracken



Levi's Struggling Baitfish

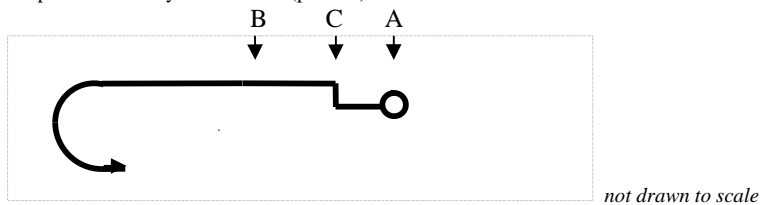


Fly ready for black polish on head

### Materials:

- Owner Down Shot™ offset hook, size 1 (#5133-01)
- 140 denier black Ultra thread
- White Supreme Hair (~28 cm long strands)
- Olive Supreme Hair (~28 cm long strands)
- Fluorescent Chartreuse Supreme Hair (~28 cm long strands)
- Copper Krystal Flash (~18 cm long strands)
- Zap-a-Gap CA adhesive
- Epoxy (30 minute or your choice)
- Black fingernail polish
- Mirage Hologram Dome eyes (3/16 inch)
- UV Knot Sense and UV light
- Sally Hanson Hard-as-Nails clear coat polish
- 2 mm craft foam, sticky on one side

Point B to point C is ~1 cm and from point C to the eye of the hook (point A) is ~0.5 cm.



### Tying Instructions:

1. Crush the barb on the hook. These hooks are VERY sharp, so this step will be of particular importance should you get the hook lodged in part of your body or in a friend! The barb end of the finished fly will ride up in the water in Clouser fashion. (*see picture 2*)
2. Lay down a thread base from point B to point A and secure the thread; wrap thread back to point B.
3. Tie in ~ 35 strands of olive Supreme Hair on bottom side of the hook as pictured above between point B and point C. Tie in the strands at the midpoint of the bunch of 35 strands and loop the front half of the strands to the back end of the hook and secure down to the bottom side of the hook at point C. Pull the olive strands down so they are out of your way as you tie the rest of the fly.
4. Cut ~8 strands of 6 cm long copper Crystal Flash and tie in and secure at point C on the top of the hook.
5. Cut ~15 strands of white Supreme Hair in half. As with the olive Supreme Hair, tie it at the midpoint of the strands with the front half of the strands folded toward the back end of the hook and secured to the top of the hook. The strands should be tied in between point B and point C and lay on the top of the hook as pictured above. These strands will ride down in the water and represent the belly of the bait fish.
6. Cut ~15 strands of chartreuse Supreme Hair in half and tie down 15 strands on each side of the hook between points B and C.
7. Add thread to form a smooth head between points B and C and secure at point C.
8. Apply Zap-a-Gap to the thread and allow the glue to dry.
9. Apply epoxy to form a head with the center between points B and C. Ideally between the Supreme Hair strands on the bottom of the hook from step 3 and the epoxy, the bottom of the head should be in line with the hook running from point C to A. Allow the epoxy to dry. (*see picture 1*)
10. Use the UV Knot Sense to round out the head. Paint the head and the black thread with black fingernail polish and allow it to dry.
11. Secure the eyes on the head between points B and C using UV Knot Sense.
12. Apply Hard-as-Nails over the head and eyes. Trim the tail of the baitfish so that the fly lies horizontal when it is held by a paperclip at the point of the crushed barb on the hook. The fly should be about 8 to 9 cm from the hook eye to the end of tail. (*see picture 2*) Change the colors of the Supreme Hair and Krystal Flash used in tying this fly to simulate different types of baitfish.

**Fishing Instructions:** This version of the struggling baitfish has caught bass, crappie and channel catfish. Fish the fly with a split shot about six inches from the fly. Strip in a short distance and let the fly flutter/struggle. I have also found that a 2 cm foam disc (a dime serves as a good template; two, 2 mm thick foam discs, sticky sides to each other; poke a small hole in the center) inserted over the end of the hook eye will hold this fly at the surface, thus behaving, when stripped with short, quick movements, like a wounded baitfish struggling on the surface.