

Bob's Foam Hopper

Tied by Bob Haase



Hook: Mustad 94831 or equivalent in sizes #12 through #8

Thread: 140 Denier Tan

Body: 2mm (1/8") Foam

Wing: 1/16" Foam

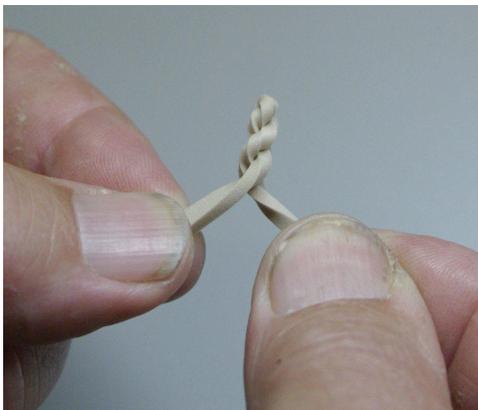
Legs: 1/16" Foam

Hackle: Dry Fly Hackle to Match

Eyes: Squish Ball Material or Foam

Note: Wapsi "Fly Foam" comes packed with 2 sheets of 1/8" foam and 2 sheets of 1/16" foam which is just perfect for this pattern.

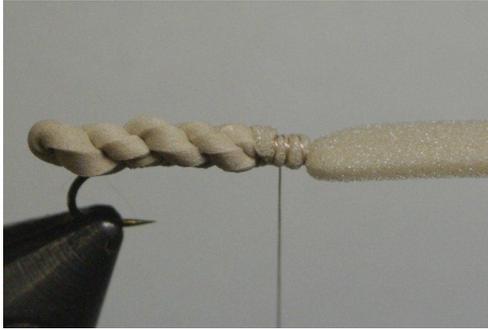
There are a lot of great hopper patterns and during the last few years I have been trying to create a hopper pattern designed specifically for "hopper - dropper" fishing. I wanted it to be able to support the weight of various nymphs and also be able to be fished alone if desired. During this time I used many different materials for all the body parts including the legs and was not satisfied until I decided to make an all foam hopper. The hopper leg cutter from River Road Creations was the final piece of the puzzle that allowed me to create the best floating hopper pattern I have ever tied. This hopper floats great even with a little heavier nymphs, casts well without causing too much line twist, and the best part is that the fish approved it by including it in their diet. I tie it in different sizes and the hopper leg cutters come in three different sizes available through Hairline Dubbin dealers. By using a light tan foam and permanent markers, I can create all kinds of colors. Another plus is that they are easy and fun to tie.



Step 1 - Place a Mustad 94831 or equivalent hook in your vise and lay down a good thread base. Next take a piece of 2mm foam and cut it into strips about 1/8" wide and about 3 inches long. Holding the strip between the thumb and forefinger of each hand, twist the strip clockwise with your right hand at the same time you are twisting counter-clockwise with your left hand to form (twist) a body as shown in the picture. Note that all the dimensions of the foam are for a #10 94831 hook. Please adjust accordingly for different size hooks and hoppers.



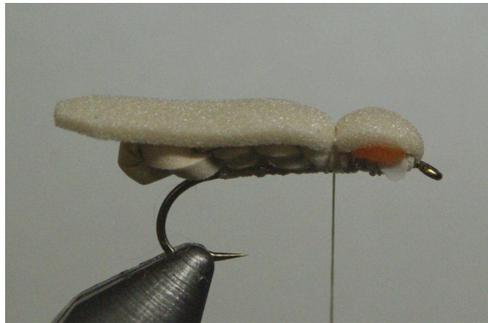
Step 2 - Tie in the foam on the hook as shown leaving about 3/16" or more for the head of the hopper. Then apply super glue to the hook shank and hold the body on to the hook until it sets. You can then trim the excess foam off and make a few more wraps of thread to secure.



Step 3 - Tie in a strip of 1/16" foam cut about 1/4" wide. as shown. The foam strip should be tied in just behind the eye of the hook and then moved about 3/16" back.



Step 4 - Place a drop of super glue where you are going to place the eyes which can be made from the legs of a kids squish ball or other squish type toy or a strip or small cylinder of foam. Fold the strip of foam over and tie down as shown. While holding on to the foam strip, take your scissors and trim off to about 1/8" behind the body and then trim at an angle to make it look like a wing. (You can see this better in the following picture.)



Step 5 - Next apply super glue to the top of the body and hold the wing down until it sets up. By gluing the body to the hook and the wing to the body this makes a more durable fly. You can now take your scissors and trim the eye material to form the eye as shown.



Step 6 - Next tie the foam legs as shown. Use the small size leg cutter from River Road Creations to cut the legs out of 1/16" thick foam. I sometimes place a drop of super glue just where the legs attach to body to make it stronger.



Step 7 - Take any dry fly hackle of the appropriate size and tie it in between the head and body and make about two wraps as shown and tie off. Optional for the fisherman as I don't think the fish care... cut two little antennae from a similar squish toy called a googly critter or rubber leg material. You can now take permanent markers in yellow, brown, and green to color the hopper the color you and the fish want, or you can leave it plain and color on the stream to match the hoppers you find.