

Gart's Foam Bluegill Fly

Tied by Bob Haase



Hook: Mustad #3366 #10 or R50 (94840) or equivalent hook. It can also be tied in other sizes.
Thread: 140 Denier or 6/0 same color as foam.
Body: 2MM CraftFoam
Tail: Hackle
Hackle: Any Neck Hackle or other appropriate feather.

This is probably one of the best bluegill flies that I have ever used. I find that it fishes as good or better than most poppers. There are a number of variations of this fly that was originated by Dave Gartside. The

version that I am showing here is my variation and uses the foam rather than chenille for the body.

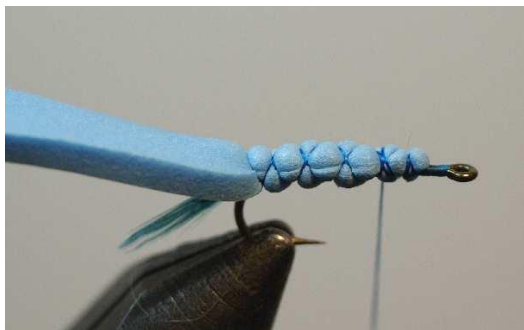


Step 1 - Start the thread and wrap it back to the bend of the hook. Take a piece of hackle or other appropriate feather and tie in the tail as shown. Advance the thread toward the eye of the hook and stop where shown in the picture.

Note: *Using a stranded thread like Ultra Thread or Danville works better for tying foam as it does not cut into the foam as easily.*



Step 2 - Cut a strip of foam about 1/4 inch wide and about 1-1/2 to 2 inches long. Trim the end as shown on one end, which is the end you will tie in.



Step 3 - Tie in the foam by beginning where you have the thread tied in near the eye of the hook. I usually place a few drops of super glue over the thread before tying in the foam, but be careful not to get the glue on your fingers as you wrap the foam. I do not use the super glue when tying with kids. Tie the foam to the hook by making a series of thread wraps, spacing the thread about 1/8 inch apart. Tie all the way to just over the bend of the hook and make two thread wraps and tie back to where

you started while continuing to space the thread as described. The foam should wrap around and under the hook as you tie. Stop about 1/3 the length of the hook back from the eye.



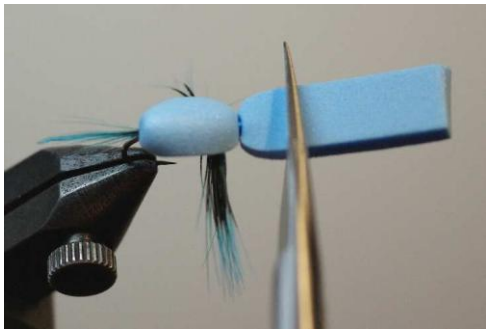
Step 4 - Tie in the feather (hackle) as shown. Softer hackle type feathers work good for this such as pheasant body feathers or hen saddles. Any neck hackle will also work. I usually make the tail out of a piece of the same feather that I use for wrapping.



Step 5 - Make about two to three wraps of the feather depending on the fiber count of the feather to achieve the amount of fibers as shown. Tie off the feather and use your thumb and forefinger to push the hackle fibers down to the sides and back slightly. *(You will bring the foam down over the top and this will aid in tying down the foam without trapping the fibers with the thread.)*



Step 6 - Bring the foam over the back and pull carefully, but firmly toward the front of the fly to slightly stretch the foam as you tie it in just behind the eye of the hook. Make about 3 to 5 wraps of thread over the foam and then bring the thread under the foam just behind the eye and make few more wraps just under the foam. Whip finish or make a series of half hitches.



Step 7 - Take your scissors and cut the foam as shown just about the thickness of the body (1/4") in front of where you tied in the foam. Your fly is now complete.

You can also use this fly by tying it about 2 to 3 feet behind a spinning float and fishing with a spinning rod and reel.

