

Fun with Foam

HOW TO MAKE PANFISH AND BASS FLIES WITH CRAFT STORE FOAM



**FSFF Fly Tying Session
2 November 2024
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Craft Foam Sources

HOBBY LOBBY

Michaels[®]



One 12 x 18 inch foam sheet can make hundreds of the flies we'll tie today.

Foam Fly Hints

- **Use heavier hooks to “keel” flies.**
- **Streamer, Nymph and Sproat Hooks work well.**
- **I use hook sizes #10 to #2. -- There is little uniformity in hook sizes between brands.**
- **Scissors, Xacto Knife and Paper Cutters will cut foam.**
- **Cut foam strips to width of hook gap. -- This is a “rule of thumb” for most foam flies.**
- **Foam form cutters are helpful but you do not need them. -- They reduce creativity!**
- **Foam may spin on hook. – Keep it straight during tying -- I will show you how.**

Additional Materials

(The non-foam stuff you'll need)

- **Estaz, Crystal Chenille, Ice Dubbing -- Good foundation material on hook shank.**
- **Rubber Legs -- Not necessary on gurglers but nice to have on most other foam flies where subtle presentations are key. Smaller diameter legs (silly legs) can be doubled to increase footprint of fly. These flies fish “bigger” than they are.**
- **Adhesives -- Add strength and endurance to fly.**
- **Wings/Tails -- Try different things: EP Fiber, Marabou, Craft Fur, Rubber...be creative.**
- **Threads -- 3/0 is good. It's strong enough without becoming bulky or cutting through foam. I try to match colors of foam and foundation material for esthetic reasons.**
- **Sharpie -- Good for “accenting” flies.**

The Flies We'll Make



GURGLER
192



BEETLE
288



GRASSHOPPER
256

They Work!



They Work!



They Work!



Ready to Begin?

