

FOAM HOPPER

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It's that time of year again when the fish start feeding on grass hoppers. Here is one of my favorite patterns. You can also use yellow foam.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- HOOK** | 280 Hopper Hook
- THREAD** | Hagen's Jig and Lure | Tan
- BODY** | Larva Lace Foam | Pre-sliced | Tan
- WING** | Deer Hair
- BACK LEGS** | Rubber Legs | Yellow
- FRONT LEGS** | Rubber Legs | Black
- THORAX** | Poly Bear | Tan
- HEAD CEMENT** | Flex Lock
- SEWING NEEDLE**

The material used to recreate this can be found at: www.unexcelledfishing.com



« Step 1

Place a sewing needle in a vise. Cut a 4" thin strip of tan foam. Push center of foam strip onto the needle. Tie in your thread directly ahead of the foam, firm but not to tight.



« Step 2

Position the thread at the desired width of the body segment. Fold the ends of the foam forward against the needle. Your first wrap of thread should be loose, then pull firmly with 3-4 wraps to form the segment. Do not use too much pressure. You are only trying to compress the foam snugly, not bind it to the needle. Repeat to form the desired number of segments. Usually 3 or 4. When done make 3 half hitches at the last segment and clip thread.



« Step 3

Remove segments from the needle and apply a drop of head cement to the thread wraps.



« Step 4

Lay a bed of thread on your hook. Hold your Hopper segments to the hook and repeat step 2 once or twice. The front segment should reach the midpoint of the hook shank. Clip the foam tags and bind down.



« Step 5

Take a bundle of deer hair that is 1/3 to 1/2 the hook gap in thickness. Mount to form the wings. It should extend just to the end of the body. Clip the butts and bind down. Position thread halfway between the wings and the hook eye.



« Step 6

Peel 2 sections of yellow rubber legs containing 3 strands and clip at 2". Tie an overhand knot a 1/2" from one end. Then peel and clip off two strands on the short end. Position one leg on the rear side angling upward. The knee is positioned just past the hook bend. Secure the leg. Repeat on other side. Clip the excess. Peel a strand of brown rubber legs and cut 2 - 2" lengths. Mount one on both sides of the hopper to form the front legs.



« Step 7

Tie in a small strip of poly bear by wings. Bring thread back to the eye of the hook. Twist poly bear into a rope and wrap forward. Tie off and whip finish. Clip the front legs to about one hook gap in length.



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