

# Using Foam

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Just a variety of the large range of possibilities using closed cell foam to create floating flies. The foam can be purchased in sheets or sometimes strips from craft stores, (eg AJ's Emporium), or more expensively from your fly tying supplier.

Foam can be cut into shapes, notched, layered or tied into segments. There are multiple ways of tying, and it can be combined with other materials, fur, feathers, crystal flash, rubber legs, wings etc. Flies can be tied large or small and foam makes an excellent substitute for deer hair. Foam's pliable nature allows the tier to twist, stretch, and bend it to the desired position. But, attaching this springy material to the hook can be challenging. Foam is smooth and slippery and it can rotate and slide on the hook shank without the use of glue. Lay down a good base of thread and use super glue to help hold the foam in position. Compress the foam with finger and thumb when you make thread wraps around it.

The designs of foam flies are only constrained by the tier's imagination. They are visible in all types of water and most light conditions. They float all day, and probably forever, however some ties may make casting tricky.

In general, foam flies are fished in much the same way as fur and feather dry flies. Cast above the fish and let the fly drift down to, and over, the fish.