

Gartside's Gurgler

Jack Gartside is the originator of the Gurgler, there are several variations of this excellent fly and regardless of minor differences they are all effective. The Gurgler is a simple fly designed to imitate surface bait. It is neither a popper nor a slider rather, a very effective in-between type of fly, a surface commotion pattern. The following is the original Gurgler dressing, which can be tied on either a long (for toothy critters) or standard shank hook. When tied on the long shank hook, all of the materials are tied on the forward half of the hook shank, leaving the rear half bare to protect it from sharp teeth. This fly has proven to be an excellent choice when shrimp are skipping on the surface.

Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 3407 or 34011 (long shank) sizes 4 – 2/0
- Thread: White 3/0 or monochord
- Tail: Very sparse white bucktail or marabou plumes (full) overlaid with 5 or 6 strands of pearl flashabou
- Body: White closed-cell foam, forming 5 equal segments. Foam should be 1/2" to 3/4" wide depending on hook size. Use foam at least 1/8" thick
- Rib: White or grizzly saddle hackle palmered between body segments
- Carapace (or shellback): Closed-cell foam pulled over the body. Trim foam leaving an excess about 3/8" (+/-) protruding beyond hook eye

Directions:

Attach thread just behind hook eye and wind back about half way for long shank hook or about three quarters of the way for regular shank hook. At the termination of the thread wrap, tie in a very sparse tail of bucktail or a full bunch of marabou plumes. The tail should be about 1 1/2 times the shank length. Leave the remainder of the shank bare.

Tie in a 6" length of five or six strands of pearl flashabou at base of tail – tie them in at the mid point so that half is forward of the thread wraps and half is to the rear. Now bring the forward strands back over the tail and take a couple of thread wraps to secure them.



Gartside's Gurglers tied by Paul sequira

Cut a strip of foam about 4" or 5" long and 1/2" (+/-) wide and place flat on top of the hook shank. The body and shell will be formed from this ONE piece of foam. Tie in so that the front of the foam ends just short of the hook eye with about 2" to 3" extending over the tail.

With the tying thread, make five evenly spaced segments, cupping the foam around the hook shank as you wind the thread forward. Now wind the thread back to the starting point in between the segments.

Strip the fibers from one side of a saddle hackle and tie it in by the tip at the rear of the end segment. Advance the thread forward once more in between the foam segments to the hook eye. Palmer the hackle forward between the segments and tie down at the eye. Trim and discard excess hackle.

Bring the foam over the top of the body and tie down just behind the eye. Bring the loose strips of flashabou over the carapace and secure them with thread at the foam tie in point. Trim the excess flashabou and whip finish a small head under the foam lip.

Trim the excess foam leaving a lip extending over the hook eye approximately 1/4" to 1/2" long. You may trim the lip round this will help reduce the fly from spinning while casting, or just leave it straight.