

Fly Tying Bench—Foam Grasshopper by Tiger Vertregt

During the season, a grasshopper pattern is one of the most useful flies in your fly box. There have been some excellent patterns developed but most of them are complicated and time consuming to tie. Tiger's Foam Grasshopper is simple and effective, and will work just as well for bass and bream as they do for trout.

MATERIALS:

- **Hook:** Size 6 bronze Aberdeen. (long shank)
- **Thread:** Danville flat waxed nylon in a color similar to the foam body
- **Body:** Triple layer foam. The body material is made of three pieces of foam glued together. I use spray adhesive to evenly coat one side of each piece of foam then sandwich them together and let dry. Leave about a ½ inch of what will be the top layer exposed. Cut the foam into strips 2 ½ inches long by ¼ inch wide with the exposed layer on the end. I like to use a ruler and razor to get an even cut.
- **Legs:** Medium round rubber legs. Leave two 3 inch strands of the leg together and tie an over hand knot at one end leaving ¾ of an inch on one side. Pull until it forms a right angle then glue. Repeat for other set of legs.



Foam Grasshopper—Tied by Tiger Vertregt Photo: Paul Sequira

TYING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Wrap hook shank from eye to bend and back. Form a small thread head 1/8 inch from the eye.
2. Place the strip with the top of your body facing down with the layered portion just a hair back from the eye. Leave the body extending over the eye of the hook.
3. Secure by wrapping over the exposed layer of foam until reaching the eye of the hook.
4. Bring the thread back ¼ inch over the shank. Fold the foam back over the hook. Secure with thread to form the head.
5. Bring the thread back another 3/8 inch and tie onto shank to form the first segment
6. The next segment wrap is even with the bend of the hook but not attached to it.
7. Continue for two more segments making them smaller as you go.
8. Bring the thread back to the rear of the second body segment making an "X" on each segment.
9. Tie in the legs with the knot in the rear and bottom legs facing down.
10. Bring the thread forward to the head and tie down the front legs facing forward at an angle to the head.
11. Finish the fly by separating the front leg strands and cutting one of them off. Repeat on the bottom section rear legs. Trim to desired length.

Notes: This fly may seem complicated to tie but really is not that difficult. After step 5, I turn the hook around in the vice so the rear of the bug is facing out. This makes it easier to wrap the rear segments without the vice in the way. You can tie this in a smaller size with no problem, but you may want to use only two layers of foam for the body.