

Tying Bench

Gartside Gurgler for the Everglades Canals Tied by Russ Hampton

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Russ Hampton tied his Gurgler Fly for Suncoast Fly Fishers at the May 2008 meeting, taking SFF fly tiers through the process all the way from cutting the foam to hooking six pound bass in the Everglades.

Okay, scratch the part about the six-pound bass, except you should know that Russ and his Gurgler Fly have taken bass up to six pounds in the South Florida canals. Work it like a popper, he said. For peacock bass, keep it moving.



The Gurgler Fly was created by Jack Garside but our man Russ gives it a weed guard as well as other twists and turns to make it his own. Here's the process:

Tying Sequence: Russ Hampton Gurgler Fly

1. Cut the foam. Russ uses a piece of piece of tempered glass, a straight edge, wallpaper cutter, and a ruler to measure the width. For small bluegill gurglers, it's 1/4-inch wide; for bass, 1/2-inch wide.
2. Wrap the shank of the hook.
3. Cut the bucktail to the length you want. Clean out excess hair.
4. Tie bucktail in and some flash on top.
5. Tie in rubber legs facing back, for bass gurglers; but for a bluegill gurgler let them extend out the side like a bug.
6. Tie in the weed guard. Depending on the size of the fly use 20 to 30 pound hard mason.
7. Make an angled cut in the top of the foam to a point.
8. Lay the foam in with the solid part right where the thread is tied off.
9. Tie the foam down in segments, working toward the back.
10. Tie in Estaz Grande, palmering it forward to the weed guard. Tie it off and give it a haircut on top. Material sticking down is okay.
11. Fold the foam forward and tie it off right in front of the weed guard
12. Pin the foam back and build up thread under it so that it sits in the air a little bit.
13. Tie thread at the front of the lip of the foam so that the lips sets up high. Tie it off and apply head cement.
14. Go fishing.

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Half and Half Fly Tied by Bob Burkard



One of my favorite flies for redfish, snook, and speckled trout is the Half and Half, a combination of two traditional patterns, Lefty Kreh's Deceiver and Bob Clouser's Clouser Minnow.

The Half and Half is often described as a Clouser with a Deceiver saddle feather tail. This combination results in a fly with the jiggling motion of the Clouser and the "fish attracting" tail

movement of the Deceiver.

You can tie a Half and Half in an almost unlimited combination of colors and hook sizes, and it represents more of a tying style rather than a particular pattern. For this fly I am tying a white, chartreuse, and blue Half and Half. This combination has become my go-to fly for fishing off the beaches and flats. I follow the recipe described by Bob Clouser in his book *Clouser's Flies, Typing & Fishing the Fly Patterns of Bob Clouser* with a few modifications. While the Half and Half is often tied with a great deal of flash, I have found that cutting down on the amount of flash has resulted in more fish for me.

Note: This pattern has been around for a while and, in fact, Paul Sequira also presented a recipe for the half and half fly in our own Suncoast Fly Fishers newsletter back in 2006.

Materials:

- Hook: Gamakatsu SL11-3H 1/0
- Thread: White UNI-Thread 6/0
- Eyes: Dumbbell Lead Eye - Red - Sized Small
- Tail: White Saddle Hackles - use long thin saddle hackles to get the best action
- Collar: Buck tail - White
- Belly: Buck tail - White
- Flash: Pearl Crystal Flash, Rainbow Flashabou
- Gills: Red Krystal Flash
- Back: Buck tail, Chartreuse, Blue
- Finish: Head cement, Clear Cure Goo - Hydro

Tying Sequence

1. Tie in lead eyes and finish as you would a regular Clouser. For this fly I am using red dumbbell eyes.
2. Tie in 4 white saddle hackle feathers on the top of the hook, with two saddle feathers on each curved inward like praying hands and the base of the saddle hackles against the rear of the lead eye. (This is tied in like a Deceiver tail). I like the feathers to be between 2 1/2 and 3 times the length of the hook.
3. Tie in 4 strands of Pearl Krystal Flash on each side of the tail. Cut off slightly longer than the feathers.

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Tying Bench, continued

Half and Half Fly Tied by Bob Burkard



4. Tie down white buck tail behind the eyes, being careful to lightly wrap thread rearward and more securely wrapping as you progress forward. This will help the buck tail lay down on the fly. I tie this buck tail about half the length of the feathers. Using your thumb, push down on the buck tail so that it lies on each side of the hook. This helps prevent the saddle hackle from fouling when casting.

5. Place a small bunch of white buck tail in front of the barbell eyes and tie to anchor, finishing as you would a Clouser wrapping behind the eyes. This should be the same length as the previous buck tail. Remember that this will be the belly of the fly.



6. Turn the hook over in your vice. Tie in 4 strands of rainbow Flashabou from the center point. Fold the Flashabou so that there are 4 strands on each side of the hook and tie them down. Trim slightly longer than the pearl Krystal Flash.

7. Tie in 6-8 strands of Red Krystal Flash from the center point and fold the Krystal Flash so that there are an equal number of strands of each side of the hook. Tie them down and trim to the length of the hook point. I really like the look that this red Krystal Flash adds to the fly.



8. Place and tie a small bunch of chartreuse buck tail on the bottom side of the fly, in front of the barbell eyes just as you would for a Clouser. This buck tail should be about the same length as the white buck tail belly.

than any other Half and Half colors that I have used.

9. Place and tie a small bunch of blue on top of the chartreuse buck tail the same length as the chartreuse buck tail. I like the contrasting chartreuse and blue colors and I have caught more fish with this color combination

10. Form a neat head and whip-finish.

11. I use Clear Cure Goo to coat the head, eyes, and thread wraps. I have found that the thin or hydro works best because it soaks into the buck tail and threads and makes this a more durable fly.