



Soft plastics catch fish, fresh or salt. But those are jigs, jerk baits and worms flung by spin and casting reels. Well, hey, Smitty figured fly fishers should give soft plastics a go, too. For sunfish. For the shad run. For trout. (Think San Juan Worm.) No fur or feathers necessary. Scissor off the flexible rubber "feelers" from the gummie toys. Smitty got his at Dollar Tree. Or, order the Spirit River Squirmy Wormies from Feather Craft.

Materials

- Hook: Mustad 3366A size #10 (or your favorite freshwater hook)
- Bead: Glass bead (like Killer Caddis) size 6/0 color your choice
- Body: "Feelers" from a Gummie ball or toy
- Glue: Any CA Gel type super glue
- Tool: Dental floss threader



Smitty and the toy anima(s) with dozens of soft p(astic fee(ers).



Tying Sequence

Step 1 (below) Cut "feelers" from gummie toy (It helps if you stretch the material out from the toy before you cut, and cut where it starts to "fatten" as this will leave a knob of

silicone at the end as a stopper for the bead). Cut extras and set aside.



Step 2. String bead (or beads) onto dental floss threader (1 string on 6 at a time to "tie" a half dozen at a time) ... or just do one at a time till you feel comfortable doing more.

Step 3. Place looped end of threader over a "wormie" at about the midway point and slide bead down loop and pull on threader until tail slides through bead . Slide bead down "wormie" towards the "knob." Stop when it rests against the knob. Set aside and repeat with rest of "wormies".

Step 4. Take hook and "Texas Rig" it from the "knob" end and through the bead . Make sure to have hook point come out the side of the "wormie" as soon as it clears the bead.

Step 5. Apply a dab of CA Gel onto shank of hook and then, grabbing the "wormie" right behind the bead, slide it up hook shank to the eye of the hook making sure you don't get any CA glue on your fingers (I usually push it up far enough so the "knob" folds around the eye ... when I release pressure on the "wormie" it backs off leaving the eye of the hook completely visible). If by chance some of the cement should fill the eye, just take a used feather and run it through the eye to clean it out.