

GARTSIDE GURGLER



Recipe

Hook.....Wet/Streamer/Bass, size 8 -2/0
Thread.....White, 6/0 or 3/0
Tail.....Bucktail or Marabou, white
Tail topping.....Pearl Krystal Flash
Body.....Closed cell foam, white, 1/8" thick
Rib.....White or grizzly saddle hackle
Shell.....Closed cell foam

1. Place the hook in the vise. Tie-in the thread behind the hook eye and wrap a neat thread base back to the middle of the hook shank. Cut off the thread tag.
2. Cut a sparse batch of bucktail (or full tail of marabou plumes) and tie it in at the middle of the hook shank as a tail. (The tail should be roughly 1 1/2 times the length of the hook shank.) Wrap over the hair butts back to the hook eye and remove any excess hair butts. Wrap the thread back to the tail tie-in point. (The rear half of the hook shank should be bare.)
3. Tie-in 5-6 strands of Krystal Flash by their middle on top of the tail at the tail tie-in point, then fold the front half of the strands back over the tail and bind them down at the tail butt with a few thread turns to keep them out of the way. Try to keep the flash that you folded back centered on top of the hook shank as we will later pull it forward over the middle of the shellback. Let the thread hang.
4. Cut a 4"-5" strip of foam approximately 1/4"-3/4" wide (depending on hook size), lay it on top of the hook shank with one end just behind the hook eye, and tie it in with several firm thread wraps at the same point as the tail. (About 2"-3" of the foam should laying over the rear of the hook shank and tail.)

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5. With firm thread wraps, wrap the thread forward toward the eye making 4-5 distinct and evenly spaced segments, cupping the foam around the hook shank as you wrap the thread forward. When you move the thread forward from one segment to the next, ensure that the thread cross over points are on top of the foam body (and not visible from the sides or bottom). When you reach the hook eye, wrap the thread back to the foam tie-in point, keeping the wraps in the same locations as the first wraps, crossing over on top of the body and tightening the wraps as you go back. You should now have 5 distinct body segments and the thread should be back at the foam tie-in point.
6. Now select an appropriately sized saddle hackle, strip the barbs from one side, and tie it in on top of the foam body at the same point where you tied-in the foam. Wrap the thread forward again to behind the hook eye, making sure to keep the thread wraps at the same points as when you formed the body segments. Palmer the hackle forward between the body segments and tie it off behind the hook eye. Remove any excess hackle and let the thread hang behind the hook eye.
7. Now grasp the rear flap of foam and pull it forward over the foam body and tie it off tightly behind the hook eye. **DO NOT CUT OFF THE EXCESS FOAM.**
8. Go back to the tail and grab the 5-6 flash strands of Krystal Flash that you initially folded back (see step 3) and pull them forward over foam shell and tie them off directly behind the hook eye. (Be sure to keep the strands centered on top of shell.) Trim off any excess flash.
9. Lift the forward remaining segment of foam and bring the thread under it directly behind the hook eye, do a whip finish, and cut the thread.
10. Pull the remaining foam forward over the hook eye, and with your scissors just in front of the hook eye, cut straight across the foam to form a head. At your option, you may round the edges of foam head. You can also coat the Krystal Flash on the top of the body with super glue for additional durability if desired.