

Dan Walker's

Hook Up Gurgler

By Todd A. Schotts

For our February Spotlight Featured Tier we are going to turn things upside down with a pattern that is truly amazing! It is brought to us by none other than master tier and fly designer Dan Walker!

If you are not familiar with Dan, here are the tight lines on him...back in the late '60's while Dan was in junior high, he started in the world we call fly fishing and fly tying. From there, Dan got into commercially tying flies and has been doing this for 30 plus years. Since then he was part time self employed as "Eggman Flies" and was a vendor selling flies and fly tying materials at fly fishing shows and Steelheader shows for 25 plus years now. He mentioned that he mainly ties commercially for Steelhead Flies, but he also ties for Trout, Bass, Pike,



Musky, Carp, and saltwater fish. If you don't know Dan, he is the one that is usually tying in the back of the room during our meetings and he has been doing this in the Michigan Fly Fishing Club for roughly 20 years now.

As for the pattern he is bringing us, it is the famed Gurgler with a slight twist (or flip, you might say) from the original pattern. The "Hook Up Gurgler," just as the name says, points the hook up. The big square foam head that projects forward from the hook eye, deflects any floating weeds, helping the fly climb over them. Dan also mentions it is good for casting deep into the lily pad beds, where you can virtually skate your fly over the lily pads. He likes it for Bluegills because the hook is always in the roof of their mouths, never in the gills. When fishing this amazing pattern, try marching it along with a steady quick rhythm of sharp two inch twitches. I know one thing, I am a big fan of fishing the Gurgler - this will have to go into my fly boxes for sure.

So if you are interested in tying this unique, but truly amazing pattern, then bring your vise, tools, note taking materials, and be ready to tie the Bluegill version and a larger version for Bass with Dan Walker. Until next month, tight lines and snazzy flies.

Hook Up Gurgler



HOOK - straight eye dry fly #8 or #6, Teimco 101 #8, Saber #6 straight eye equivalent to Tiemco 899 #8 or larger

THREAD - 140 denier or 6/0 Fire Orange // 210 denier or 3/0 for large flies.

TAIL - Marabou tied a little past the start of the bend.

BODY - Plastic Chenille, Wrapped Marabou, anything really.

HACKLE - Palmered over body or as a collar over head thread wraps. Trim this flush on top of hook, (the bottom of the fly).

HEAD - 2mm or 3mm foam rectangle tied to project forward & back from the tie off wraps behind the hook eye. Flip over the hook in the vise to tie this onto the side of the head that is in the hook gap. Either match the bug color or go high visibility.

LEGS - Rubber Legs in X pattern tied in at tie off point.

BEST COLORS - Black, Chartreuse, Tan & Olive, Purple.