



Hi, Glen Easterbrook here. Ready to tie a great fall fly?

The GFA (General Foam Attractor) Hopper was developed by Walter Wiese of Parks Fly Shop in Montana. As far as hopper patterns go, the GFA is incredibly easy to tie and really does the trick. The GFA Hopper can be tied to imitate a hopper using natural colored foam. It also makes for an excellent cricket pattern when using darker (dark brown and black) foam.

It is a fairly easy fly to tie. We will try to tie it in a couple of variations to show natural bug colors, crazy colors that old eyes can see easily, and natural colors with different colored hotspots. Thread colors are somewhat important as the thread wraps make the segmented body. So if you tie a tan foam body then tan thread is preferred to be used. If you want to tie a yellow body fly then bring some yellow. Etc.

Fishing these can take a bit of finesse. The grass hopper is a terrestrial, land based bug. It's when they misstep and fall into the river from the sides of grassy banks that they become a meal for fish. With that in mind you should be fishing these up against the bank, possibly onto the grass and then pulling them gently into the river. Sometimes they will induce a strike when 'twitched' because they naturally want to swim back to safety. They also work well as an indicator. Foam fly floating above a nymph hanging below.



Here is a material list:

- Hook: [2X-long hopper hook \(Dai-Riki 1280\) – Sizes 6-14](#) or light wire 2X or 3X long shank
- Thread: [UTC 140 Denier – Tan](#) or same as foam body color
- Underbody: [Peacock herl](#) or aa similar dubbing or chenille. Usually a contrasting color to the foam. A darker color works well.
- Body: [Craft Foam, 2-3mm – Tan](#) or yellow for naturals, pink is popular
- Wing: [Bleached elk hair, cleaned and stacked](#) or squirrel
- Hot Spot: [Bright Craft Foam – 2mm](#)
- Legs: [Striped round-rubber legs – Medium](#) almost any color