



“The Gutless Frog” *

October 2009 Fly of the Month

Tied and photographed
By *Jim Berdan*

As we all know, most fish species, especially bass, love to hide in aquatic weeds, reeds, cattails, and other cover. One of the ways to get to these fish is to cast into their hiding places. Success depends on a lot of luck or a good weed guard. Rob Meade’s design offers a very effective alternative to the run of the mill mono weed guard.

In a recent post on Dan Blanton’s Bulletin Board, Rob stated:

Stalking our native species in total darkness in and around wickedly heavy cover in the form of log jams, floating aquatic weed and stands of reeds, was not a viable option using regular weed guards... The gutless frog design has enabled us to fish these areas very effectively. We creep along in the boat listening and then casting to any disturbance no matter how many snags are out there...

For more on fishing with the Gutless Frog in the dark, here’s a link to Rob’s Post on Dan Blanton’s Bulletin Board: <http://www.danblanton.com/viewmessage.php?id=127526>

Tying Instructions

MATERIALS

HOOK: TMC 2499SP—Barbless

THREAD: UTC—Waxed—Hopper Yellow

LEGS: Speckled Centipede Legs—Yellow/
Black

BODY: Rainy’s Float Foam—Yellow Small

EYES: Spirit River—3-D Molded Eyes—Red

1. **(Photo 1)** Lay a 3/16th inch thread base behind the eye of the hook. Tie in three 1½” - 2” lengths of speckled centipede legs

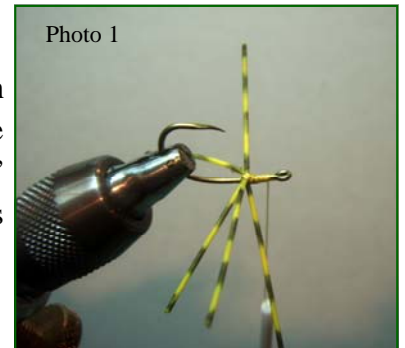


Photo 1

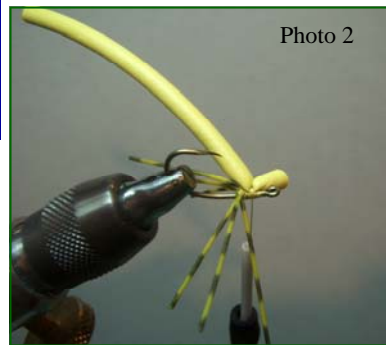


Photo 2

2. **(Photo 2)** Cut a 2½ inch length of Float Foam and tie it in on the far side of the hook behind the hook eye and on top of the front legs.

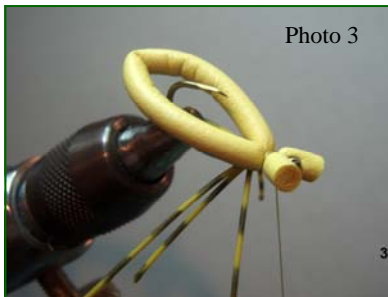


Photo 3

3. **(Photo 3)** Bring the Float Foam around the bend of the hook and tie it in on the near side behind the hook eye on the near side. Whip finish and apply head cement to secure.

4. **(Photo 4)** Cut three 3 inch lengths of speckled centipede leg material, tie a knot in one end and thread the other end(s) through the eye of a large size sewing needle.

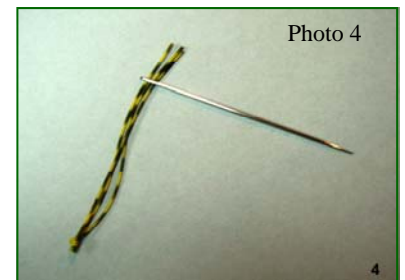
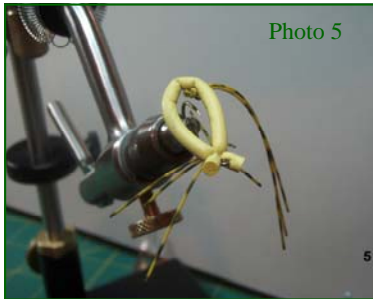


Photo 4

* Originally designed by Rob Meade in Australia. Modified and tied by Jim Berdan



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5. (Photo 5) Insert the needle into the foam (as shown) and pull through. Stop when the knot is against the inside of the foam circle. To finish the legs, tie a knot about ½ inches from the end to form a foot.

6. (Photo 6) To finish the Gutless Frog, cement the eyes to the cut ends of the Float Foam and with a permanent marker, put dots or a pattern on the top and sides of the body.

You're done!



*“I had a chance to try the **Gutless Frog** out on a pond not far from Sacramento. The pond had both bass and bluegill. The Gutless Frog attracted a lot attention, mostly from the bluegill, but their mouth is so small that all they did was grab the legs. It was truly weedless. I threw it into weeds and cattails, and not one snag. I suspect that this design can be used with other patterns.”* Jim Berdan