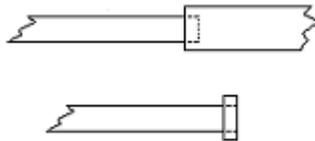


## PUFF LURE

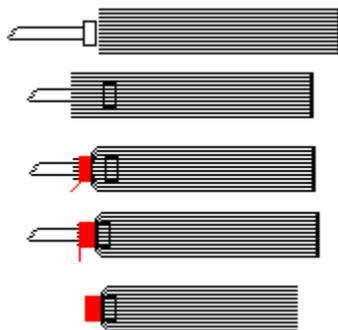
The puff lure is one that once you start making and using it you will wonder why other lures are made the way they are. The final lure can be configured in many ways. Just to name a few, weighted or non-weighted, fat or slim appearance, using of a varied collection of heads, and using only one hook that you can replace or refinish if the original rusts. And, most important is that you will reduce/eliminate the number of pull downs that do not catch a fish. Enough hype, here is the construction details.

The puff is constructed on a tying post. The post is made from polypropylene tubing. The size of the center post is based on the amount of hair (thickness) you want. You will find applications for all three sizes of the polypropylene tubing posts and many uses of the puff. The four sizes of the tubing are one quarter inch, one half inch, three quarter inch, and one inch. The smaller size of the tubing (call the post) will fit in the next larger size (called a flange) and it will stop the hair from slipping off the post. The larger tubing size is the smaller part of the finished post. One quarter inch or less in length is used for the flange. When a large post is used, you can place smaller sizes of tubing inside the post to reduce the size of the hole, if necessary. Heat seal the flange end by using a propane torch and passing it through the flame.



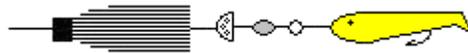
### Bucktail look

To start tying on hair, overlap the flange and post about one inch or more with the hair. Wrap four or more times around the hair and about a half inch away from the flange. Reverse the wrap direction towards the flange making six wraps. Check the hair distribution around the flange. Move the hair if necessary to equally distribute it around the post. If unable, start over. Continue wrapping until you have about one quarter of an inch of wrapping. Slide the hair down to the flange. Make three wraps away from the flange. Apply super glue and let it dry. Then cut off the wrapping thread. Trim off the post at the end of the wrapping. Apply super glue on the exposed hair in the wrapping. Then cut off the heat sealed end to the length you want to make your puff.



### Puff lure assembly

Your puff lure is ready for assembly. The weighted bucktail puff lure is shown with all of the parts that you can use. You start with the threaded shad and put the pieces together. Place a locking bead on the mono right in front of the shad to keep the next group of parts from slipping down the mono and causing the shad to slip into an inappropriate position. (You can make your finished lure longer by moving the locking bead away from the shad). You can use an egg sinker, one to eight ounces, on the mono next for weight if desired. Then you can place one half of a plastic golf practice ball to make a fat lure presentation. Then you place on a puff. (You can stack two puffs together to meditate a mistake of bad hair distribution or if you did not use enough hair in the construction of a puff). You can also trim off the belly of the shad that is covered with the puff. This allows the hair to collapse when a fish strikes and helps assure a "hookup."



### **Puff lure heads**

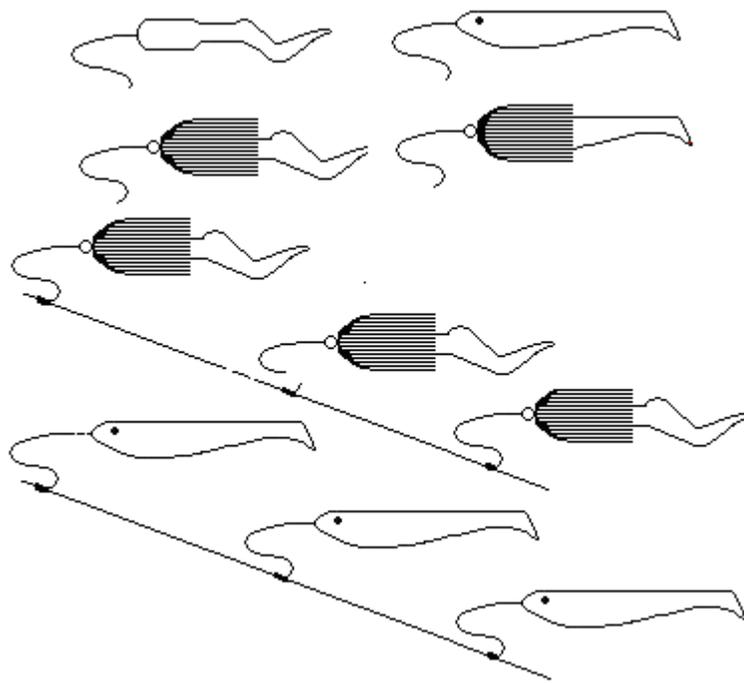
Finally you reach the position of the lure head. What to use? You are only limited by your imagination. Some of the types that I have used successfully are a large bead, a plastic pipe end cap, various sizes of plastic bottle tops, ends of small and large plastic Easter eggs, jig heads of various sizes and shapes with a hole thru the middle in lieu of a jig hook, and, most recently, plastic squid bodies (where you also can add up to three ounce egg sinkers). The predator and the bait both have eyes that look up and forward. When a large Striper attacks it starts below the prey, it cannot see the bait fish eyes nor can it be seen by the victim. You will attract more Stripers if you add reflective material to the puff, such as Krystal Flash or Flashabou, then eyes ever will. If you feel that you must have eyes, I suggest that you use the flat stick on type and save your self some money. By the way, how many fish have red eyes? I have never caught a fish that had other than black eyes.

### **DAISY CHAINS**

A daisy chain is usually composed of three teasers spaced on a length of mono and used in front of a lure. Teasers can be a shaped piece of soft plastic attached with a small snap, spinner blades, artificial hair, or a combination of these items. The type of teaser used is dependent upon where the chain will be used. If used with a top unweighted lure on a tandem rig, the teaser is a puff which is not weighted and placed on the main line.



When used with a weighted lure in a tandem rig, each teaser is crimped to the main mono line with a short leader. You can also use a weighted Daisy Chain to provide a little more lure depth separation between lures if you use puffs with or without plastic. You can add weight under the last puff or distribute the weight under each using egg sinkers.



Note that active daisy chains (those with plastic teasers) will attract more fish than an inactive chain. I now use a single weighted lure on my planer board fishing lines with a puff daisy chain with plastic teasers instead of pulling tandem rigs. I feel the trade off of using active teasers offsets the need to use two lures to attract one Striper to bite. Plus the incident of fishing line wrap is reduced and, with no long leader to pull in by hand, you wind the Daisy Chain to the rod tip and net the fish.