



OSU EXTENSION
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Making a Lead Jig

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service • Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

Pat Lewis

Emeritus Professor

Extension 4-H Specialist

Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering

The lead head jig is the most versatile of all fishing lures. It is used for fly fishing, spinning, spin casting, casting, cane pole jigging, and even deep-sea tuna fishing. It ranges in size from the tiny $\frac{1}{16}$ oz. fly rod lure to the huge 6 oz. tuna lure. Most common sizes for fresh water fishing are $\frac{1}{16}$, $\frac{1}{8}$, and $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. You may wish to make the $\frac{1}{8}$ oz. jig, # 2 hook. Colors most widely used are white, red, and blue. White is most commonly used. Hook sizes go with weight: $\frac{1}{16}$ oz., size 4 hook; $\frac{1}{8}$ oz., size 2 hook; $\frac{1}{4}$ oz., size 2 hook.

The lead head jig is the foundation for three very popular and effective lures. They are:

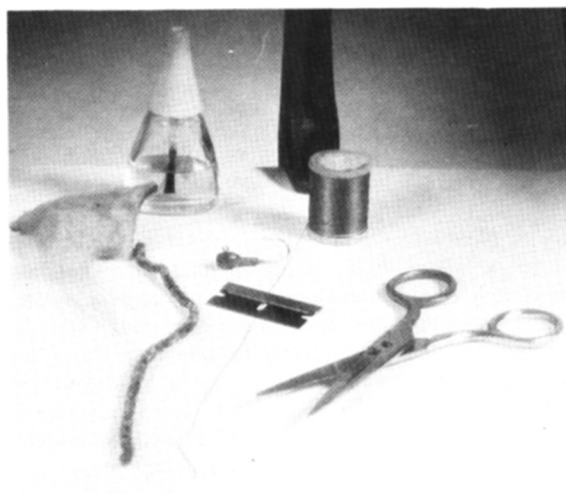
- the Chenille Body (hair or feather tail) Jig
- the Bucktail Jig
- the Maribou Jig

Steps for Making the Chenille Body Jig

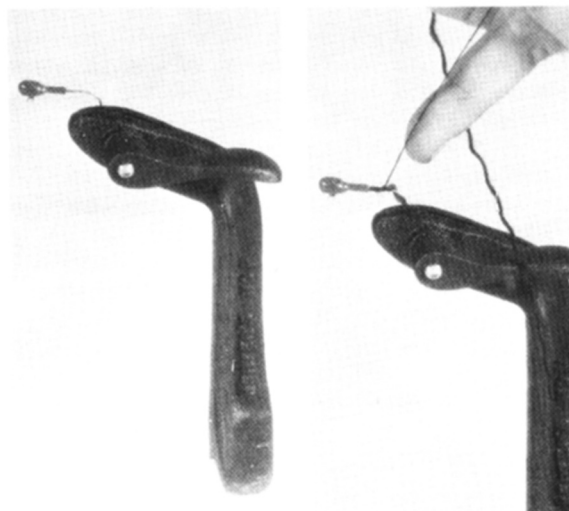
The tools you will need are jigs, a jig vise, thread, scissors, razor blade, bucktail, feathers, and chenille. You will also need patience and some degree of caution. Hooks, scissors, razor blades, and even thread can inflict painful wounds.

The first thing in the jig making is to adjust the vise. Make sure when the jaws of the vise are closed that the control lever is pointing away and down from the head of the vise. Select a jig, and put it in the vise so that the shank is level and the curve and point of the hook are just covered by the vise. Tighten the lever so that the jig will not move. Do not apply too much pressure, as you can break the vise. Check the level of your jig and the point of the hook. If the hook is uncovered, you will cut the thread or your finger.

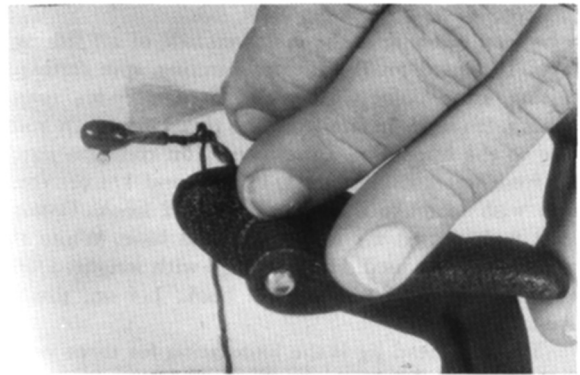
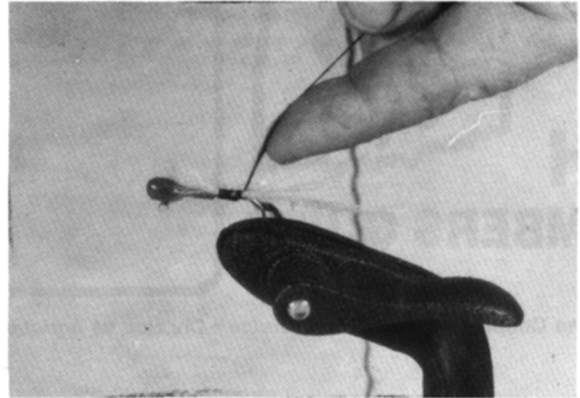
Step 2. Take the scissors and cut a piece of red thread about 30 inches long. This is the last time you will cut or break the thread until you are finished with the lure.



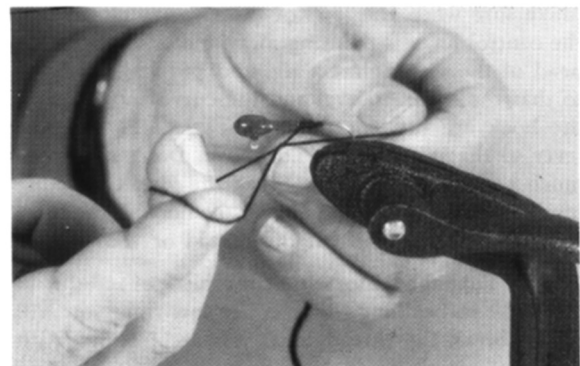
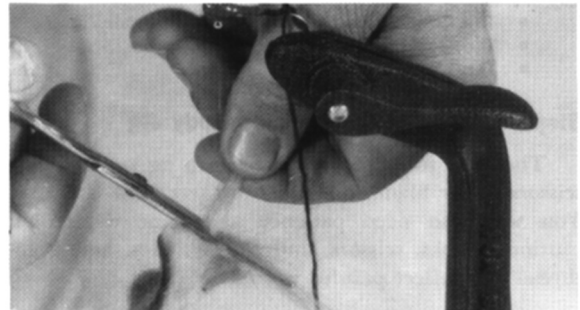
Some of the tools you will need.

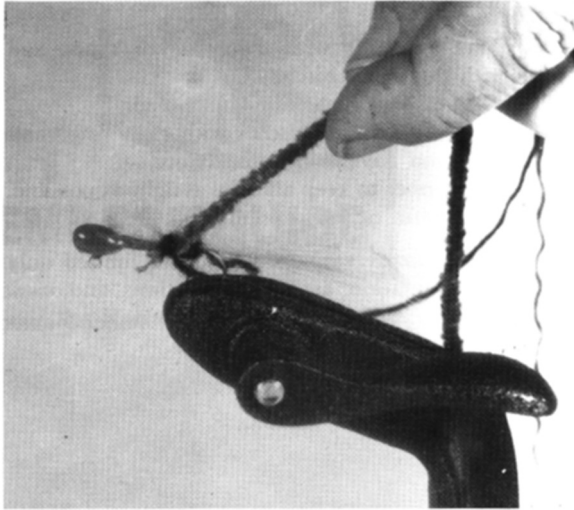


Step 3. Now attach the thread to the hook at the rear of the shank just above the bend in the hook. Throw a half hitch, and wrap seven times very tightly. Finish with three tight half hitches. This is very important because if the thread slips, the lure will twist or come apart and ruin the work. Be sure the thread is firmly attached, and check it by pulling on it.

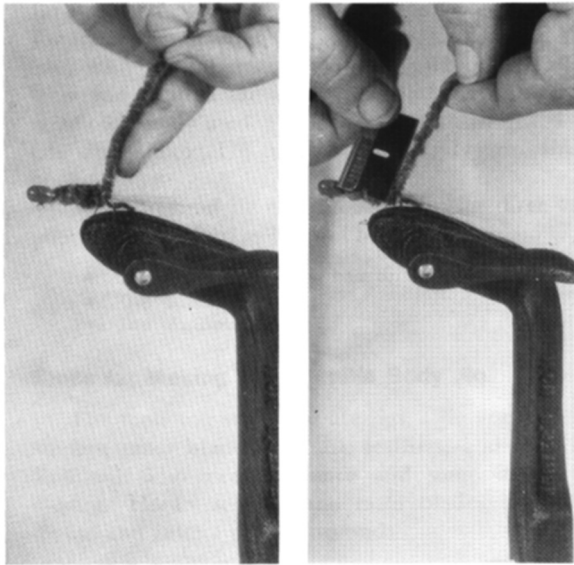


Step 4. Now select a tail. At the front of the tail or feather, pinch a small amount of hair or feather between your thumb and finger. Clip at the base of the feather or kip tail. Do not turn loose, or your troubles will multiply by the number of hairs you hold in your hand. Now lay the tail right on top of the wraps of thread, and wrap tightly again seven times and finish with three half hitches. If everything stands the tightness test, proceed to the next step.

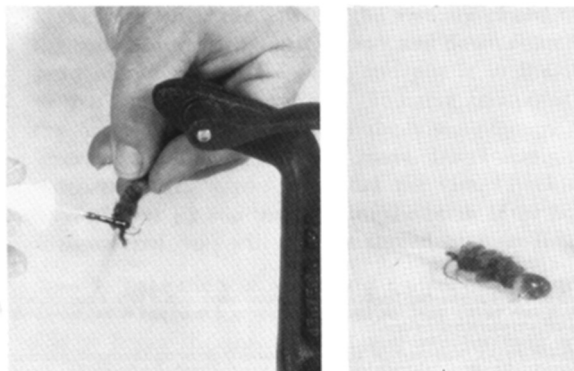




Step 5. Take a piece of chenille about 8 inches long—use a green or blue color. Place one end of the hook just on top of the half hitches. Give it the tightness test. Now make sure your thread is free and lying behind the chenille because you will finish where you started.



Step 6. Start wrapping the chenille forward very tightly until you have filled the hook to the bulge at the head of the jig. Keep it tight and start wrapping the chenille back over itself until you are back where you started. Hold the chenille tightly with one hand (your left, if you are right handed). Now still holding tightly, pick up the thread with your free hand and again wrap tightly seven times. Drop the chenille and finish with three or four half hitches. Now with the razor blade, carefully cut the thread as closely as you can without cutting the half hitches. Cut off the chenille the same way as closely as you can without cutting the threads. Open the vise and take the jig from it. Put a drop of clear fingernail polish on the final half hitches, and you have a very nice fishing lure that will catch fish.



Summary

1. Put the jig firmly in the vise, with the shank level, and the hook point covered.
2. Attach the thread firmly to the hook just above the bend (thread should be 30 inches long). Wrap seven times, and finish with three half hitches.
3. Attach feather or hair tail to hook; wrap seven times and finish with three half hitches; clip off excess between wraps and eye of hook.
4. Attach chenille solidly to the hook; wrap seven times and finish with three half hitches.
5. Wrap chenille forward to head and then back to starting place.
6. Wrap chenille with thread seven times and finish with three half hitches.
7. Clip off excess chenille and thread.
8. Fix finished half hitches with clear fingernail polish and you have a completed lure.
9. Remember to keep all steps as tight as possible.
10. Be careful of sharp points and edges.

There are many variations. You are limited only by your imagination as to combinations and uses. Which one is best? Ask the fish. They will tell you by how many you put on the stringer.

Oklahoma State University, in compliance with Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246 as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other federal laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices or procedures. This includes but is not limited to admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Samuel E. Curl, Director of Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. This publication is printed and issued by Oklahoma State University as authorized by the Dean of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and has been prepared and distributed at a cost of 20 cents per copy. 0404.