

# Making Jigs

by Dennis Tubbs

A jig is a hook with a weighted head. Some jigs are plain, with just a head. These are used to fish bait, or plastic taillike lures. Some jigs are dressed with materials, making them look like minnows or crayfish. “Dressing” a jig means placing something on the hook. Hair from deer tails, feathers, synthetic materials and rubber are used as dressings. An easy dressing to master is rubber skirting.

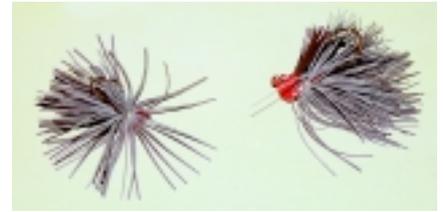
For making rubber-skirted jigs, you need the following items:

- \* Scissors
- \* Needle-nosed pliers
- \* Craft wire (from a craft shop)
- \* Wire cutters
- \* Rubber hackle or jig dressing (buy at a tackle shop or on the Internet)
- \* Fly tying vice (an old used vice will work well)
- \* Jig heads of 1/16-ounce to 1/2-ounce (find at a tackle shop)

Be very careful when using the scissors and wire cutters.

To make a rubber-skirted jig, follow these steps:

1. Place the vice on the edge of a table.
2. Adjust the vice to hold the hook with the eye up.
3. The rubber should be twice as long as the distance from just behind the hook eye to the bend. Cut the rubber to this length.
4. Cut a piece of wire about 2 inches long.
5. Fold the rubber in half. Place the doubled rubber on the hook shank just behind the eye, and wrap the wire tightly. Wrap two times and then twist the ends together. Trim the ends, but do not cut the twist. Push the twist tightly to the hook shank. This may take some practice.
6. Pull the fat pieces of rubber into three smaller pieces. Then pull a small piece away from the jig (pull hard). Slowly cut the fine strands apart. If the rubber pulls off the hook, the wire has to be tightened.
6. After you cut all the small pieces, trim the length to be just longer than the hook bend.
7. That’s it—your first jig!



# PLAY