

EASTERN BEETLE



Recipe

Hook.....Long Shank Dry, size 8 - 12

Thread.....Black 8/0

Abdomen.....Black floss

Wing covers.....Green deer hair

Thorax.....Peacock herl

Thorax cover....Black Plastic film

Hackle.....Black hen

1. Flatten the barb on hook and put it in your vise. Tie-in the thread behind the hook eye and wrap it back to the start of the hook bend, laying down a good thread base.
2. Tie-in a 3"-4" piece of floss at the hook bend on top of the hook shank with the length of the floss going back over the hook bend. **(This floss will be used to separate the wings.)**
3. Cut and stack by the tips a small bunch (**say ½ the hook gap in thickness**) of deer hair. Tie-in this hair by the tips at the hook bend. **(Be sure to keep the hair on top of the hook shank and the piece of floss that you previously tied-in.)** Wrap the thread back to the hook bend.
4. Tie-in a 10"-12" piece of floss at the hook bend on top of the hair and then wrap the thread forward to about 1/3 of the hook shank behind the hook eye. Now wrap the long piece of floss forward to cover the rear 2/3d's of the hook shank. Wrap the floss in such a manner as to form a football shaped abdomen, then tie off the floss and remove the excess.
5. Now pull the deer hair forward over the floss abdomen and tie it down tightly. Remove any excess hair. **(Be sure to keep the hair on top of the hook to simulate wing covers.)** Pull the short piece of floss over the deer hair and tie it off. Remove any excess floss. **(Be sure to keep the floss centered on top of the deer hair wing. This is to simulate the joint between the wings.)**

Over....>

6. Cut a 3" – 4" piece of plastic film (I like to use Thin Skin), remove the paper backing, and tie it in at the end of abdomen and wing case with the length of it laying back toward the hook bend and the shiny side down. (Be sure when tying it down that you wrap back over the wing case slightly so that there are no gaps.) .
7. Select 3-4 strands of peacock herl and tie them in at the base of the abdomen. Twist them together into a loose rope and wrap the rope forward to slightly behind the hook eye, forming a thick thorax. Tie-off the herl and remove any excess.
8. Select a hen feather with barbs about the length of the hook gap. Tie in the feather by the tip in front of the herl thorax. Take 2 turns of the feather in front of the thorax, tie it off, and remove any excess feather. Now stroke any feather barbs on top of the hook to the sides.
9. Grasp the plastic film and pull it forward over the thorax and feather barbs and tie it off right behind the hook eye. Remove any excess plastic.
10. Form a neat thread head, whip finish, and cut the thread.
11. Apply head cement to the head, wing covers, and abdomen. Multiple coats of cement may be necessary to adequately cover the wing covers and abdomen to achieve the hard case appearance common with beetles.

Over....>