

FOAM BEETLE



Recipe

Hook.....Nymph, size 10 – 14

Thread.....Black 6/0

Shellback..Black foam strip, 2mm

Hackle... Brown or Black, palmered

Body.....Peacock Herl, twisted rope style

Head.....Thread/Foam

1. Tie-in thread at mid hook shank and wrap back to bend of hook. Trim thread tag.
2. Cut a strip of black (or brown) foam approximately 3/8 to 1/2 inch wide and 2 inches long. Taper one end of the strip to a triangular point.
3. Tie in the foam strip by the point at the bend of the hook. Ensure that the long end of the strip is pointing back over the bend of the hook. When tying-in the point, ensure that you tie-in about 1/4 of the way up the point and cover the front of the point with thread wraps. If you tie the foam in right at the point, you will probably tear or break off the foam during later steps.
4. Clean the fluff from an appropriate sized hackle and tie-in the base of the hackle at the same point where you tied-in the foam. The hackle should point out over the hook bend. Trim off hackle butt.
5. Now take 3-4 peacock herls, trim off the bare butts and match the herls together. Tie in these herls as a group at the same point as the hackle.
6. Now take the thread and twist it and the herls together forming a “herl” rope. Wrap this herl rope in tight turns up the hook shank (forming a football shaped body) to about 2 hook eye lengths behind the hook eye, strip off the excess herl and tie off the herl rope. Let the thread hang.

Over....>

7. Grasp the hackle and palmer it up the herl body in tight but evenly spaced turns to the end of the herl body and tie it off. Trim off the excess hackle.
8. Now take your scissors and trim the hackle fibers off the top of the fly.
9. Grasp the foam strip and pull it firmly but gently over the top of the fly and tie it off tightly just behind the hook eye.
10. Being careful to not cut the thread, lay your scissors against the front edge of the hook eye and cut the foam strip straight across the front of the hook eye, forming a small foam head.
11. Whip finish the fly on the thread wraps binding down the foam and cut the thread.
12. At your optional, you may make small angular cuts at the corners of the foam head to form a smaller head.