

Fly of the Month

The Foam Beetle



- Hook :- 16-10, most commonly 14-12
- Back :- Strip of foam, usually black
- Body :- Seals fur or substitute, colour of your choice
- Legs :- Black cock hackle

The foam beetle must be one of the easiest flies around to tie, as well as being very effective. The body can be of a colour to suit what is around at the time, as can the hackle that is used to give the impression of legs. And if you use proper closed cell foam such as Rainy's Float Foam they float for ever.

Start by laying the foundation thread from eye to just round the bend. A strip of foam 3 or 4 mm wide for a size 12 hook (wider or narrower depending on hook size) is then cut to a point and the point tied in and bound firmly on top of the shank. Next tie in a cock hackle feather with the fibres about the length of the hook gape. Dub your thread with whatever colour seals fur or substitute you prefer and then wind a nice thick body to just behind the eye. Now wind the hackle feather forward over the body in three or four turns and tie it off. Pull the foam strip forward and tie that off between the body and the eye. Whip finish and varnish and the fly is done.

Variations are mainly in the body colour and body material, peacock herl is popular, and red seals fur is good when there are jassid beetles around. Lighter coloured foam can be used for the back and coloured with a permanent marker pen. A bright piece of foam can also be tied on top when you tie down the foam back to act as a sighter.



A.T.

