

Subject: : Fly Tying

Topic: : Beetle Patterns

Re: Beetle Patterns

Author: : DGC

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URL:

The # 14 foam beetle is the top producing dry fly in my collection pretty much every year.

1. For the foam beetle, make sure the strip is not too fat for the hook you are using. The standard tying foam really should not be used under a # 14 unless you shave it down, which is easy enough to do with scissors. I use the foamie craft sheet foam for # 16 and smaller, and shave that down as needed to # 20.
2. Cut the strip about as wide as the hook gap. On larger beetles, say # 8 or larger, make the foam more like a football shape. I have caught some really nice trout on very large beetles.
3. If your beetles dont land right, try stretching the foam a little more when you tie it down near the hook eye. Also, dont use too light a wire hook.
4. For visibility, take a little strip of orange foamie sheet, and tie it in at the main foam body tie down point. Then, just trim it smooth to the body with scissors. Some folks paint a dot on theirs, but this orange foam dot (after trimming) is just as good, easier, more durable, and adds a little flotation.

I love beetles.