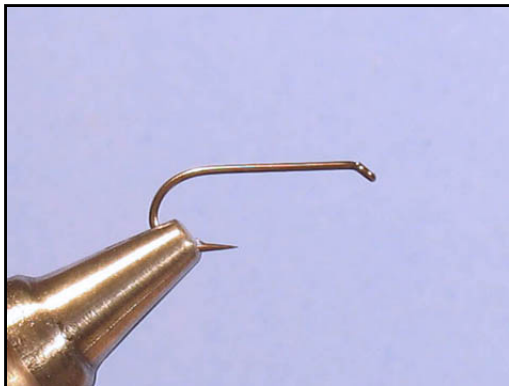


A step at a time: FOAM BEETLE



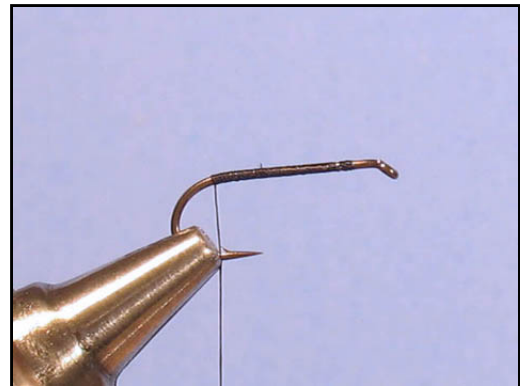
Hook: Dry fly, #12-16
Thread: Gudebrod 8/0, black
Body: Peacock herl
Back: 2 mm fly-tying foam, black
Hackle: Rooster, black
Indicator: Poly yarn, yellow

Step 1



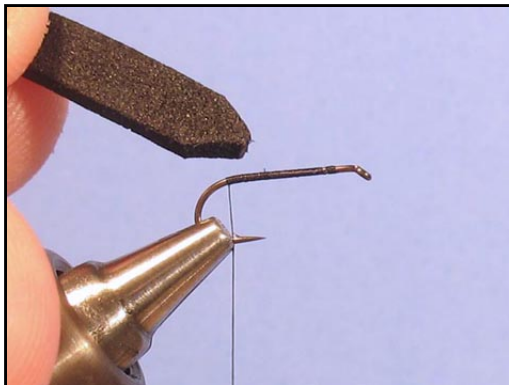
Mount a hook in the vise.

Step 2



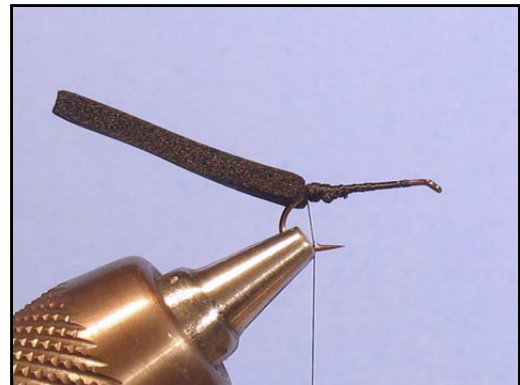
Tie in the thread and wrap it back to the hook bend.

Step 3



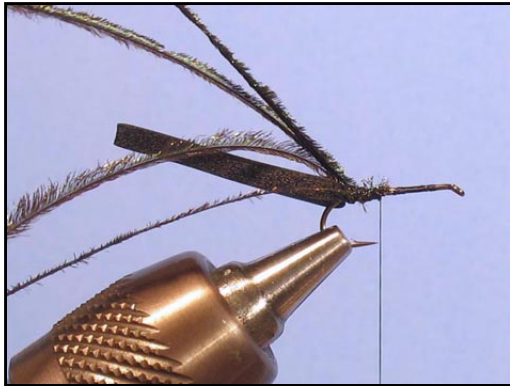
Cut a strip of foam, about 5mm wide. Then cut the corners in one end. This makes it easier to tie in without creating too much bulk at the same time as it centers it on the hook.

Step 4



Tie in the foam strip in the prepared tip. First wrap goes over the start of the wide part and the rest of the tip is tied down to the hook shank.

Step 5



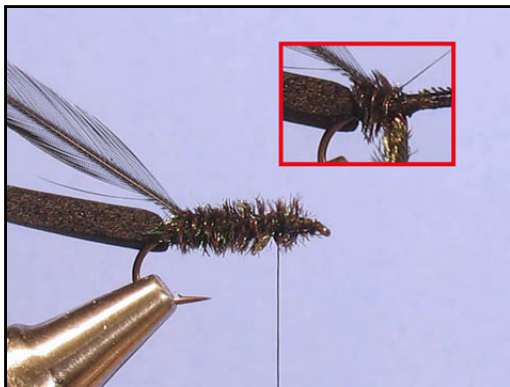
Tie in 4 peacock herls in the tip end, immediately in front of the foam.

Step 6



Finally, tie in a rooster hackle a millimeter in front of the herls.

Step 7



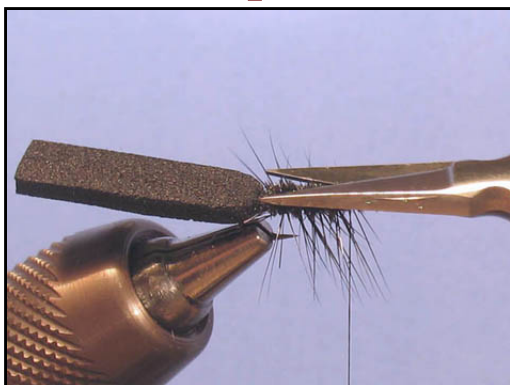
Twist the herls a few turns around the thread and wrap them together. Make the first wrap behind the hackle (insert picture) and then continue forward to a point a couple of millimetres behind the hook eye. After the herls have been secured and the excess has been cut, lay the thread diagonally backwards over the herl and let it hang about 4mm behind the head.

Step 8



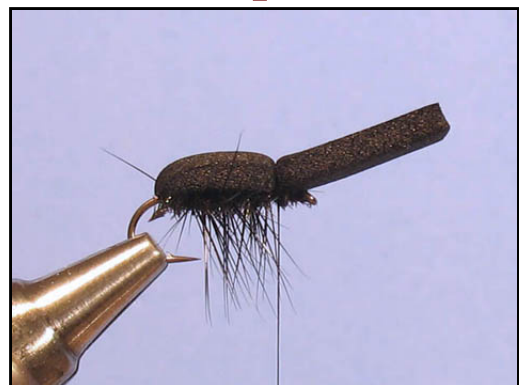
Wrap the hackle forward in even turns. 4-5 are usually sufficient. Tie it down and cut the excess.

Step 9



Take the scissors and cut all the hackle barbs on the top of the hook.

Step 10



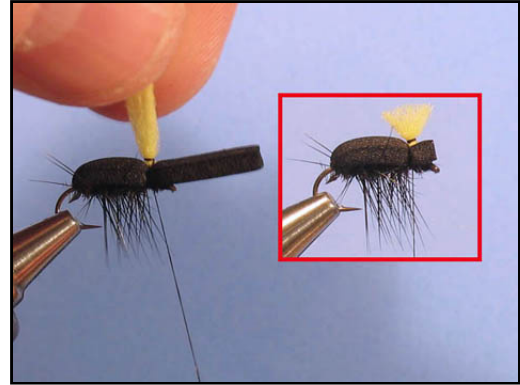
Fold(!) the foam forward and lay(!) it down over the body. Then tie it down with a few firm thread wraps. Don't squeeze or stretch the foam while handling it. This will affect its buoyancy qualities.

Step 11



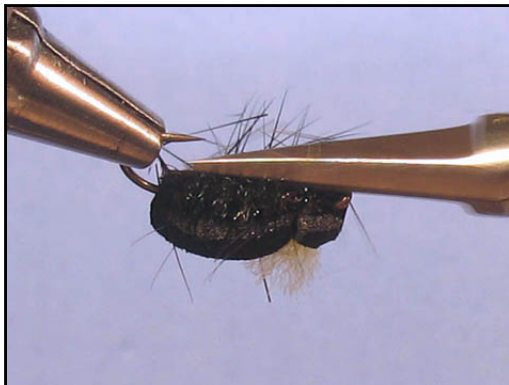
Place a piece of light colored poly or antron yarn on top of the fly and tie it down at the same point as where the foam was tied down. Pull it down in the crease so the two yarn ends stand up.

Step 12



Take the two ends, hold them together and make a couple of thread wraps around them, as close to the foam as possible. Then trim it to about 4-5mm height. Cut at the same time the excess foam over or just behind the eye and round off the corners (clearer on the next picture.)

Step 13



Make a whip-finish behind the eye (or, if you think there's room, in the foam crease). Turn the fly around and cut the hackle barbs also under it. Save the ones pointing out to the sides.

Done...



This is one of my own favourite dry flies. I often fish smaller lakes surrounded by trees, making false casts impossible. A few roll casts quickly soak the average dry fly, but not this one. So when your casting range is limited and your own fly lands at the same place as the real beetles drop down from the trees... you will want an boyant imitation on your tippet.

Top view...

