

A step at a time: FOAM CATERPILLAR



Originator: Paul Whillock

Hook: Stimulator or Natural Bend, #6-10

Thread: Gudebrod 8/0, yellow

Body: Body: 2mm fly-tying foam, yellow

Legs: Ultra Chenille, yellow

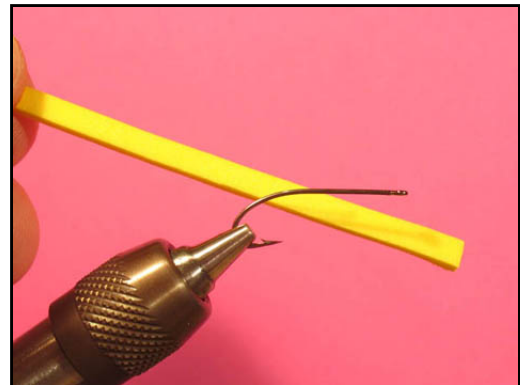
"Finishing touch": Permanent markers

Step 1



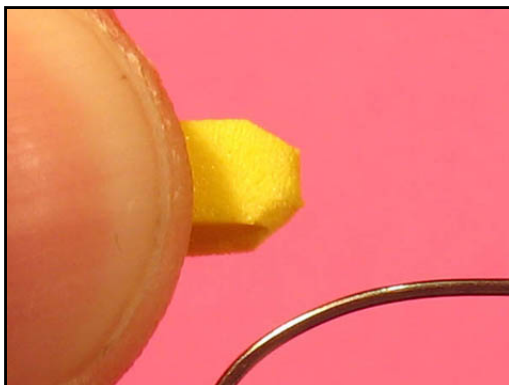
This is a Stimulator hook, designed particularly for the Stimulator pattern. A Natural Bend or a straight streamer hook will also both work for this pattern.

Step 2



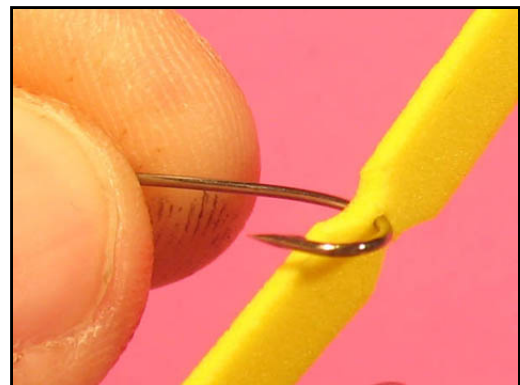
Cut a fairly long strip of foam, ca 5mm wide. 3-4x the length of the body is usually enough to make it easy to work with when it's on the hook. (To get it straight and even, a sharp knife and a ruler can be to prefer in front of the fly-tying scissors.)

Step 3



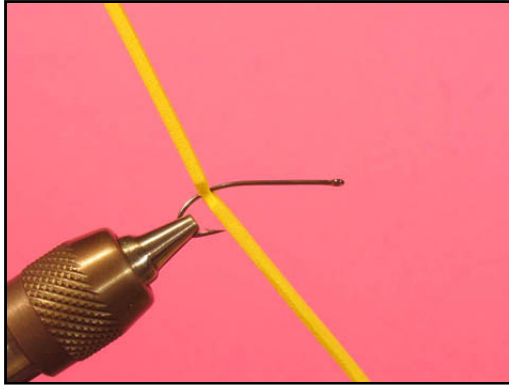
Fold the strip at its center point, squeeze it a little and trim the corners of the doubled part. Note that this is mainly for rounding edges, so don't cut too much.

Step 4



Stick the hook point through the strip, in the middle of the crease that was created when squeezing it. To first create a hole with a needle makes it easier to get the hole straight and to avoid taring the foam up with the barb.

Step 5



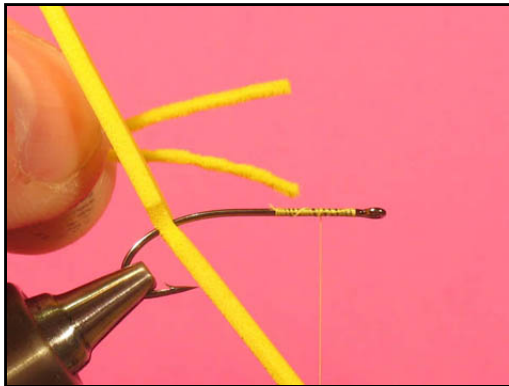
Mount the hook in the vise with the foam hanging freely.

Step 6



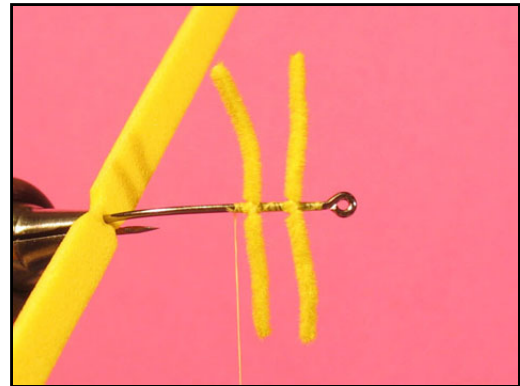
Tie in the thread and wrap it a couple of centimetres down the hook. Return to a point around 5mm from the start of the hook eye.

Step 7



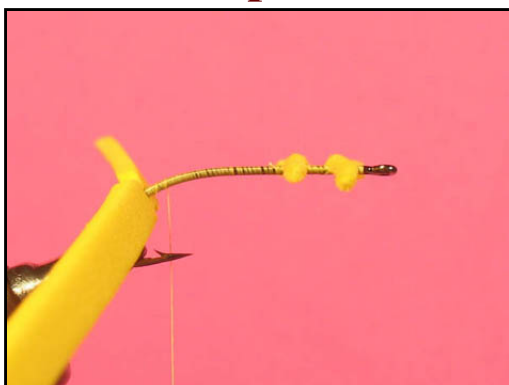
Cut two pieces of Ultra Chenille.

Step 8



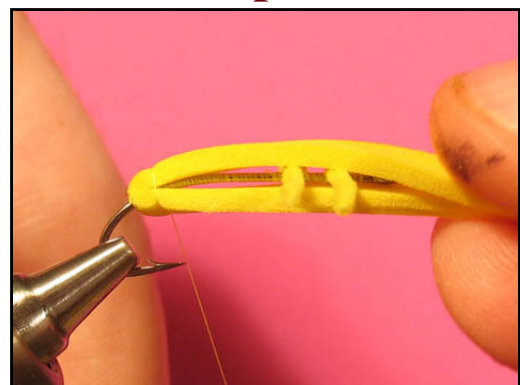
Tie in the chenille pieces perpendicular to the hook shank with 5-6 mm's between the tie-in points.

Step 9



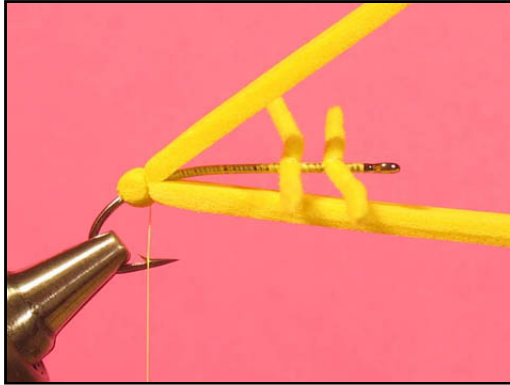
Wrap the thread down the shank all the way to the foam. Turn back again and leave it hanging about 3-4 mm's from the foam.

Step 10



Fold both foam pieces forward, one above the hook shank and one under it and make a loose thread wrap around them both.

Step 11



Keep the foam centered on the hook and tighten the thread. Secure with another couple of wraps straight on top of the first. There we have finished the first segment of the caterpillar body.

Step 12



Separate the foam pieces and bend them backwards. Let the thread pass in between them exactly at their meeting point.

Step 13



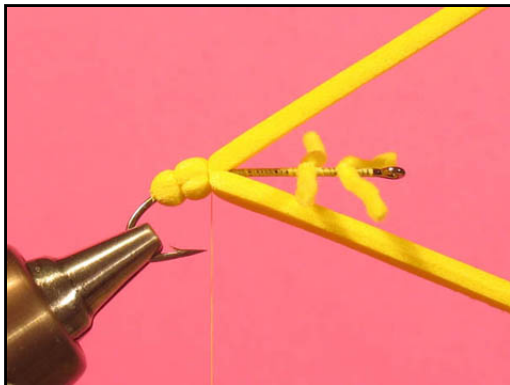
Wrap the thread up the hook shank to the point where the next segment is to be tied in.

Step 14



Create the second segment just the same way as you did the first. Fold together, a loose wrap, center, tighten and secure.

Step 15



Second segment finished.

Step 16



Create a third and a fourth and when you reach the leg pairs, simply pass the chenille with the thread and tie the foam down on the other side. Really nothing different from the other segments.

Step 17



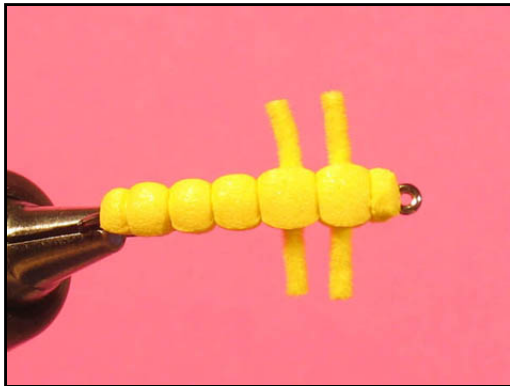
Cover the next leg pair the same way as the first and secure about 3mm behind the hook eye (not immediately behind it). Pass the thread in between the surplus pieces and make a whip-finish on the bare hook shank.

Step 18



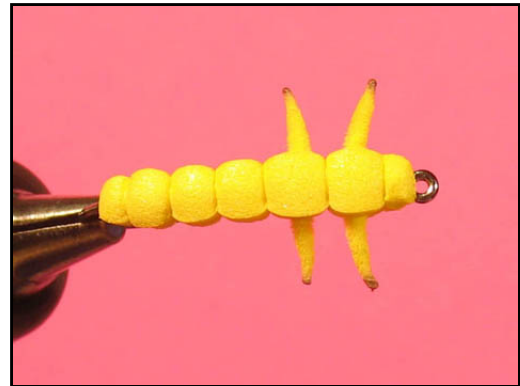
We will use these waste ends to create a head. Cut the pieces just behind the hook eye and round off the edges.

Step 19



Cut the chenille strands to desired leg length.

Step 20



Take the fly from the vise and let the leg pairs quickly pass through the flame of a cigarette lighter to create a tapered shape. When the legs have the desired shape, burn the tips (one at a time) to small "balls" by moving them close to the flame. These tips quickly burst into flame, so be prepared from the start to blow out BOTH flames.

Done...



Technically, its obvious silhouette will probably make it ready to be fished already after burning the legs. But with a couple of waterproof markers we can make it look a little neater. That was his basic form of it. But there are caterpillars in a variety of colors and shapes, so continue to experiment with both colors and additional materials.