

Fly of the Month

by Earl Schenberg

Fat Head Beetle

Fly created by: Dennis Potter of Riverhouse Fly Co.
Tied and photographed by: Earl Schenberg

MATERIALS:

Hook : TMC 100 SZ 16 to 12.
Thread: Black 8/0. Underbody: Peacock Herl.
Body and Head: 1/8-inch thick open cell foam.
Wings: Slate or white EP Fibers.
Legs: Black rubber legs.
Indicator: Fluorescent Egg Yarn.



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Lay down a thread base and tie in the foam and Peacock Herl.
2. Build body with Herl to the 2/3s point of hook.
3. Bring foam up to that point and tie off. Add legs, wings and egg yarn indicator to that point.
4. Adjust the wings and legs to the proper position on the sides of the body.
5. Bring foam up to the hook eye, leave a little extra material to create the shape for the fat head. Tie off the foam leaving enough room to finish the head.
6. Whip finish and cement. Super glue can be used to secure the foam body if needed.

HOW TO FISH:

This simple little beetle should be presented as any other dry pattern. It will float high and can be worked under and round overhanging branches and under cut banks. When it does get wet it will sit lower in the film thus the reason for the indicator. Just lay it out there and let it do its thing. Apply a little action, a twitch a short jerk occasionally and you will be surprised at the results

HISTORY:

Quote, Dennis Porter: "The Fat Head Beetle is one of the most important signature bugs I've ever created. There are 350 species of beetles in the Midwest; in the United States, there are almost 4,000 different species. And there are literally thousands of other species of insects that have that basic shape. My theory is that if you catch a fish on that pattern, it probably ate the fly because of its shape, not because it was eating specifically beetles."