

Foam Black Beetle

By Derek Young

From Spring to Autumn, fish may be rising for food on the surface but nothing is visible. Often the food will be tiny black, brown or green beetles that are stuck in the surface film. This is an excellent pattern when this occurs. There are numerous beetle patterns, but this pattern fished as a single fly on the point, with the leader de-greased, has caught me many fish on my favourite water Llyn Clewedog. Try it static and slowly twitched back.



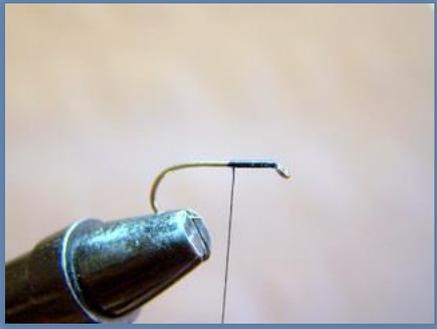
Dressing

Hook	Kamasan B 170 Size 10 to 16 (Light wire)	Thorax	as Rear Overbody and Underbody
		Legs	Natural Grizzle Cock Hackle
Thread	Black 6 Ought Uni-Thread	Head	Black 6 Ought Uni-Thread
Rear Overbody	Black closed cell foam (2mm by 4mm strip)		
Rear Underbody	Natural Peacock Herl (3 to 4 strands)		



Step 1

Set hook in vice (ping it) and catch on Black 6 Ought Uni-Thread.



Step 2

With touching turns take thread to one third of body length. Remove excess thread.



Step 3

Catch in the black closed cell foam with 2 loose wraps. Hold foam at angle towards you. Then as you tighten up the thread it will pull the foam over the hook shank levelling it.



Step 4

Tie down foam to around bend.



Step 5

Bind down with tight wraps of thread. This stops the foam twisting around hook shank.



Step 6

Catch in 3 to 4 strands of peacock herl at rear. Leaving thread at rear, wind peacock herl, in opposite direction to thread, up to the thorax area.



Step 7

Wind thread forward, in open turns, up the hook shank. Use half hitch/whip finish to secure the peacock herl. LEAVE EXCESS HERL IN PLACE.

TIP – as the peacock herl is fragile a coat of varnish/superglue on the underbody will help secure the peacock herl as it can get shredded after a few trout have taken your fly.



Step 8

Select a Natural grizzle cock hackle and prepare the butt as a comb to aid tying in.



Step 9

Then tie it in across hook shank and facing away from you.



Step 10

Pull foam over the peacock herl under-body and tie down with 2 tight wraps of thread.



Step 11

Wind the grizzle hackle 2 to 3 wraps towards you, over and under, between the gap in the foam where you put the thread wraps.



Step 12

Secure and remove excess hackle.



Step 13

Lift and hold foam out of the way while you wind the peacock herl that you previously left in place to create thorax under-body.

Wind the thread forward through the peacock herl.



Step 14

Tie off with half hitch/whip finish to secure the peacock herl. Remove excess peacock herl.



Step 15

And again, pull the foam over towards eye and tie down with 2 tight wraps.



Step 16

Lift foam out of the way and move thread forward to eye.



Step 17

Create neat head with thread, whip finish and remove thread.



Step 18

Trim excess foam at an angle.
Tidy up with fine point scissors then varnish head.
NB – some tyers leave the foam jutting over eye so the fly ‘pops’ through the surface film during the retrieve.



Step 19

Trim hackle underneath with a horizontal cut.
This allows the beetle to sit ‘in’ the surface film rather than ‘on’ it.



Front View



Rear View