

Stealth Bomber... Original Recipe by Kent Edmonds

One of my favorite top water flies is the Dahlberg Diver, a deer hair fly with head sloped up from the hook eye to a diving collar. When stripped the Dahlberg fly dives under the water as much as several inches and then pops quickly back to the surface. All this action and noise attracts fish from near and far. Unfortunately, my attempts at spinning deer hair results in something a cat might cough up and the going price at a fly shop is 5-6 bucks, minimum. Being both inept and cheap, I started experimenting with sheet foam to develop a head that looked and acted like the Dahlberg Diver. After a few hours at the vise with scissors and foam, I came up with the fly in the first photo. It did not look much like the original but it dived and sputtered and the speckled trout loved it. Naturally, I was quite proud of my originality.



But then I started reading and googling. Tom Regina lent me his copy of "Tying Foam Flies" by Skip Morris. One of Skip's flies looked suspiciously like mine but how could he have copied mine since his book was written 16 years earlier? And I found dozens of recipes on the internet all with that familiar sloping face and diving collar. Even Cabela's and Feathercraft had the flies for sale. So much for my originality. One of the internet flies I found is the Stealth Bomber tied by Kent Edmonds, a full time flyfishing guide in LaGrange, Georgia, website www.flyfishga.com/stealth/htm. The recipe here is Kent's fly with a few variations.

MATERIALS

Hook	Mustad 34011, Size 4
Thread	White, then red, prefer Danville flat-waxed nylon, 3/0 will do
Tail	White marabou, tied full, topped with crystal flash, copper and root beer, 4-6 strands each, doubled, optionally a dyed grizzly hackle on each side of the marabou
Head	White 3mm foam in the shape and dimensions shown
Body	Ice chenille, medium clear or white
Legs	Tarantu-legs, medium black and white tipped with orange marker, two pairs each side



TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1. Place hook in vise. Attach thread and lay thread base from hook eye to bend finishing above barb. Select a full marabou plume and a second if required for a full tail. Position the marabou atop hook and tie in so tail is one hook in length. Wrap thread over butts of marabou forward to 1/4" or so behind eye. Return thread to rear. Select 4-6 strands root beer and copper crystal flash, double around tying thread and tie in atop marabou. Trim crystal flash 1/4-1/2" longer than marabou. Optionally, tie in a dyed (red, orange, purple, etc.) grizzly hackle on each side of marabou. Tie in 6" length of crystal chenille and bring thread forward to hook eye.

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2. Cut a piece of white 3mm foam in the shape shown. The long part is a hook gape wide and two hooks long. The triangle top is 3 hook gapes wide. My original had a circle instead of a triangle; the triangle is easier.



3. Place foam atop hook with small end of triangle just behind eye. Center the foam and pinch quite securely to prevent slipping as you wrap (readjust foam as necessary throughout tying process). Wrap 3-4 turns just behind eye, then 6-8 firm spiral turns back to the bend. The foam will have a segmented appearance. Now take the same number of turns forward in the tracks of the previous wraps stopping just behind eye.



4. Wrap ice chenille forward in the tracks of the thread wraps stopping at the eye. Secure chenille with 3-4 thread wraps and trim excess chenille. Return thread to center following tracks of ice chenille. Bring the tail foam piece forward to secure at the hook center. The foam forms a hump; the higher the hump, the more bubbles will form in the water when your bomber pops to the surface. You can experiment later; for now try to approximate the hump in the photo. Secure foam at center with 3-4 firm wraps and cut off excess.



5. Bring the triangle foam piece backward and secure with several firm wraps at hook center. Whip finish or take 3-4 half hitches all in the same place. Cut thread and remove fly from vise. Trim foam to form a roughly circular or oval collar as shown in the photo.



6. Remount fly in vise upside down. Tie in red thread atop white thread wraps. Tie in two pairs of legs each side as shown in photo. Remove fly from vise. Color the tips of each leg with orange marker. Apply head cement to all thread wraps.