

Miss Iridescent Green Beetle... Russ Shields

While browsing through Roger Lowe's fly shop in Waynesville, NC I came across metallic green foam called LocoFoam. It was just the color I had been looking for to simulate the underside of a Japanese beetle I had captured. The only problem was the LocoFoam was too thin to float the finished beetle. I got the idea to use 2mm closed cell "sticky-back" craft foam or other closed cell foam and gluing an iridescent green fabric to the tacky side of it. I found the fabric I was looking for in a Jo-Ann's Fabric Store. The iridescent green fabric, called Tissue Lame, was a perfect color match for the real beetle. And so was born the Miss Iridescent Green Beetle".

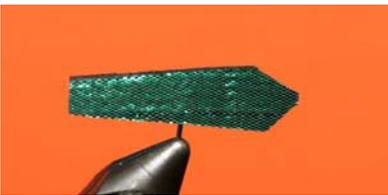
Tying Materials

Hook: Mustad 94831, 2XL, 2XF, size 12 (R43)*
Thread: 6/0 black
Body: Black Hareline High Tack Adhesive Foam overlaid with Tissue Lame fabric
Underbody: UTC, peacock, MDG Sparkle Braid
Adhesive: Cyanoacrylate, i.e. Zap-A-Gap or Super Glue
Post: 1/8-inch yellow pre-split Larva Lace Dry Fly foam
Legs: Size medium, yellow, Spirit River Tarantu-Leggs



* O. Mustad & Son (USA), Inc. is in the process of changing the design and/or numbering system or designation of hooks. In this and future recipes published in *Flies & Lies* the number of the "Mustad Signature" hook that is replacing the specified "Classic" hook will be included in parentheses when it is known by the author.

Tying Instructions



1. Apply the Tissue Lame fabric to the tacky side of the foam sheet. Smooth out any air bubbles trapped between the fabric and foam. For each beetle, you will cut a body from the fabric-overlaid foam. Cut the bodies about 1-inch long and about ¼-inch wide. Trim each body so one end is tapered to about 1/8-inch. Trim the wide end to a point as pictured.



2. Debarb the hook and fix it in the vise. With a jam knot start the thread on the hook about one hook eye distance back from the hook eye. In touching turns wrap a neat thread base back to a position slightly down the hook bend.

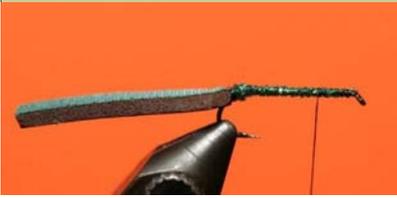


3. At the rear thread hang point, tie the fabric covered foam body to the top of the hook. Tie the foam on fabric side up by the tip of the point established in step 1. Take the thread back to the rear thread hang point.



4. Cut about a 3-inch piece of Sparkle Braid from the spool and tie it on the top of the hook directly over the body tie-on thread wraps. Take the thread forward to a point about two hook eye distances back from the hook eye.

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5. In touching turns, wrap the Sparkle Braid underbody forward to the front thread hang point. Tie off and cut away the excess Sparkle Braid.



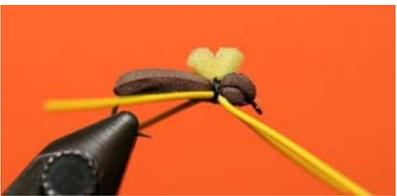
6. Apply a small amount of adhesive to the top of the Sparkle Braid underbody. Pull the foam body forward over the top of the underbody. While applying slight finger pressure to adhere the body to the underbody, slightly stretch the foam and take two or three tight overlapping thread wraps around the hook and foam to establish the body tie-down point. Move the thread forward under the foam tag to just behind the hook eye. At this point, tie the foam down again to begin forming the head. Allow the glue to set for a minute or so.



7. When the glue has set, move the thread back in several wraps to the body tie-down point. Pull the tag end of the foam back over the body. Do not stretch the foam this time. Your objective is to form a somewhat bulbous head. Tie the foam head down with two or three tight overlapping thread wraps directly over the body tie-down thread wraps. Cut away the foam tag behind the body/head tie-down thread wraps.



8. Cut two sets of legs each about 1-inch long from the rubber legs skein. Tie one set of the cut legs to the far side of the hook directly over the body/head/tie-down thread wraps. In a like manner, tie the other set of legs to the near side of the hook. Take two or three tight overlapping thread wraps directly over the body/head//legs tie-down thread wraps. Cut the legs to desired length or wait and cut them on the river.



9. Cut about a 1-inch piece of post foam material from the pre-split Larva Lace foam sheet. At its middle, tie the post to the top of the hook directly over the body/head/legs tie-down thread wraps. Cut the foam post to desired length. Take three or four half hitch or whip finish tie-off thread wraps over the body/head/leg/post thread wraps. Cut away the thread and apply a small amount of head cement all the way around the tie-off wraps.

BAMBOO ROD CLASS

For all you Bamboo Aficionados in our wonderful club, Tom Regina and Russ Shields have arranged with Bill Oyster to have a special class next March 7th through 15th 2010. The dead line for registering and forwarding a deposit is June 30th 2009.

There are four more slots available and two guest bedrooms, so you may want to get your reservation in early. The cost is \$1290.00 and that includes all your meals while you are there. The guest bedrooms are \$68.00 per night which is quite a bit less expensive that a motel in the area. Go to www.oysterbamboo.com or call 678-455-9113 to make a reservation or get more details.