

## **Tying a Beck's Super Beetle\***

**Introduction** - Cathy Beck's Super Beetle is an ideal representation of one of the larger terrestrial insects (i.e. beetles), and a proven fly pattern for fishing for a variety of fresh water fish species. But more so, for the Beginner fly tier, tying a Super Beetle provides an opportunity to learn the application of synthetic materials in the construction of other terrestrial insect patterns; hoppers, crickets, ants, etc.

### **Materials-**

- Thread 6/0 or equivalent – black or color to match the dubbing
- Hook – Tiemco 3761 (size 6) or equivalent wide gap streamer hook
- Black ice dubbing
- Thin (3mm) foam (black). (foam color should also match the dubbing)
- Crystal flash (black)
- Hi Vis wing material (or equivalent)
- Sili legs or equivalent (made from silicon)

### **Tying Steps-**

- Wrap thread to the bend of hook.
- Dub the thread and wrap the dubbed thread forward to the thorax (i.e. 2/3 of the hook shank). Tying thread should then hang at the intersection of the dubbed abdomen and the bare shank.
- Prepare a section of foam ~2" long, trim one end rounded, leaving the opposite end blunt. Hold the foam over the shank of the hook with the rounded end ~1/4" beyond the hook bend. Then mark the foam where the thorax will be and punch two small holes in the foam ~1/8" apart.
- Insert the hook eye through the rearmost hole in the foam and then through the foremost hole in the foam. (Now, the rear facing section of foam will be on top of the hook, the section representing the thorax will be underneath the hook shank, and the remainder of the foam on top of the hook and over the hook eye).
- Secure the foam in place with a number of thread wraps in the section between the two holes in the foam.

- Lift the rear portion of the foam up and apply a couple drops of quick drying glue (i.e. zap-a-gap), and push the foam down on the abdomen until it is fixed in place.
- Wrap ~ 6 strands of black crystal flash around the tying thread and draw down on the thread such that the crystal flash is attached at the rear of the thorax area. Trim the crystal flash so that it is about the same length as the foam.
- Tie in a long section of hi-vis or other wing material at the same location, such that the end of the wing material extends slightly beyond the foam wing. Then wrap the tying thread over the forward section of the hi-vis approximately 1/8".
- Then fold back the forward section of the hi-vis and secure it with several thread wraps (toward the rear). Trim this 'fold back' piece to correspond to the length of hi-vis which was first tied in.
- Fold back the foam creating a head to the fly and secure it with several thread wraps, and trim off any excess foam which is to the rear of the thorax.
- Wrap a 2" length of leg material around the tying thread and slide this onto the side of the fly at the thorax area. Repeat this step with another piece of leg material tied in on the opposite side of the thorax.
- Make several more thread wraps around the thorax, to secure and separate the leg pairs and whip finish the fly.
- Trim the legs such that the rear pair are slightly longer than the forward pair.