

## **Tying a dubbed fur ant by Don Fine**

### **Materials**

- Hook – Mustad 94840 or equivalent in sizes 12-20.
- Abdomen & Thorax – black beaver (or black/brown mix) dubbing
- Black 6/0 thread
- Legs – black or dark brown neck hackle

### **Tying Steps**

- Start the thread immediately behind the hook eye and lay down a single layer of thread from hook eye to about 1/3 distance back from the eye. Dub the thread and begin to build up the thorax by first winding forward toward the eye and then return until a ball-shaped thorax is created.
- Continue wrapping bare thread to the bend at the rear of the hook. Again apply dubbing to the thread and wrap forward, this time building an extended football shaped abdomen.
- Advance the thread to the area between the abdomen and thorax (which was not dubbed).
- Select and measure a hackle feather corresponding to the hook size, stripping away a few fibers to expose the stem at the butt end. Then use diagonal thread wraps to secure the hackle feather (with the shiny side facing the tier).
- Wrap the hackle 4-6 X around the hook shank packing it tightly with each successive wrap.
- Anchor the hackle stem on the underside of the hook with several thread wraps, whip finish and clip off excess tip end of the hackle feather.
- Trim the hackle both on the top and bottom of the hook, so that the fly will float in the surface film.

## **Tying a Foam Ant by Don Fine**

### **Materials**

- Hook – Tiemco 100 – size 14-16
- Abdomen – 2 mm foam strip and black course fly dubbing (e.g. haretron)
- Thorax - 2mm foam strip
- Black 6/0 thread
- Wing – orange poly yarn or equivalent
- Legs – black or dark brown neck hackle

### **Tying Steps**

- Lay down a single layer of thread from hook eye to bend of hook and return 2/3 way forward
- Trim one end of a foam strip ~ 2" long x ¼ "wide and tie the trimmed end in where the thread is hanging. Begin thread wraps over the foam to the rear of the fly stopping just slightly beyond the hook bend.
- Dub the tying thread and wrap the dubbing around the hook shank over the section of foam which was secured in the previous step. The thread should now be at the point where the foam (point) was first secured.

- Fold the rear-facing foam strip back over the section, already tied down, and secure it with several thread wraps. Bind down and clip off the remaining foam strip.
- Tie a 1" length of poly yarn securing it at half the length, then fold the forward-facing end back over the rear facing piece and secure with several thread wraps. Trim the poly yarn short of the length of the abdomen and at a slight angle such to represent a wing.
- Select and measure a hackle feather corresponding to the hook size, stripping away a few fibers to expose the stem at the butt end.
- Secure the hackle feather (with the shiny side facing the tier) with several thread wraps, clipping away any residual butt stem.
- Wrap the hackle 4-6 X around the hook shank packing it tightly with each successive wrap. Secure with several thread wraps, whip finish and clip off excess tip end of the hackle feather. Wrap thread forward stopping short of the hook eye.
- Take another section of foam (~1" long x ¼" wide) and cut a point at one end. Hold the foam with the point facing toward the hook eye and starting at the foam tip make tight thread wraps over the foam to the rear stopping at the point where the hackle feather was tied in.
- Return thread wraps forward to the hook eye. Then fold the foam strip forward toward the hook eye and tie down ~1/8" behind the eye (this creates a thorax).
- Lift the remaining portion of the foam up and make thread wraps up to the hook eye. Fold the last portion of the foam down and secure with thread wraps, creating the head of the ant. Clip off the remaining foam. \*Then make several more thread wraps before ½ hitching the thread, then clipping the thread.
- \*For those familiar with whip finishing, an alternate method for finishing the head of the fly is to make light thread wraps back over the head section (toward the thorax and then whip finish ~ 1/8" to the rear).