

Fly of the Month: Kyle Burrell's Parachute Beetle

By Russ Shields

Kyle Burrell is a professional guide on the upper Green River in Wyoming and the Chattahoochee River north of Atlanta Georgia. Art deTonnancourt and I fished with Kyle on the Green River and Terry McCormick fished with him on the Chattahoochee River. Kyle developed this beetle as a versatile terrestrial for general use for trout and pan fish. I can attest to its efficacy. It's a great fly to have in your box or on your line.



Materials:

Hooks: Mustad 94833 size 10 or 12

Wing: Black dry fly hackle to match hook size

Thread: 6/0 black

Underbody: Peacock herl

Body: 3mm black closed cell foam*

Wing Post: White or pink Antron Yarn

Steps:

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| 1 | | Before you begin to tie this fly, cut out several foam bodies as shown in the photo. The body should be about 7/8 in. long, 3/8 in. wide at the back and taper to 3/16 in. at the front. Round off both ends. (I made a simple die from stainless steel to stamp out identical copies.) |
| 2 | | Flatten the hook barb and mount the hook in the vise. Wrap a thread base from the hook eye to the hook bend. |
| | | Attach the wide end of the foam body at the rear of the hook with the narrow end of the body extending in back of the hook. Wind the thread forward to a distance 1/3 hook shank distance back from the hook eye. |
| | | Cut about a 1 1/2 inch piece of Antron Yarn from the skein and tie it on top of the hook shank with figure 8 wraps. Pull both ends of the yarn up to form the wing post. Wrap several tight threads turns around the base of the post to stand it up. Return the thread to the rear of hook at the body tie on point. |
| 3 | | Tie on three or four nice Peacock Herl fibers at the base of the body and twist them into rope. Wind the herl rope forward around the post and up to the eye, forming the Under Body. Tie off at the just behind the eye with several half hitch turns. |

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| 5 |  | <p>Cut a slit in the body foam to allow the body to go around the post as the body is pulled forward. Tie down the foam body just behind the eye, about 1/16 th of an inch, and trim the foam to form the head of the beetle. Make several half hitch turns behind the head and take the thread up to the bottom of the post.</p> <p>Wind several tight turns around the post to form a secure attachment point for the parachute wing. Strip a few fibers from the end of the wing hackle and tie feather vertically at the bottom of the post with several wraps going up the post and then back down to the bottom.</p> |
| 6 |  | <p>Wind the hackle feather, with the concave side down, starting at the top of the tie in point on the post and working your way down. Use three or four turns to form the Parachute. Carefully wrap the thread around the base of the post close the foam body and over the tag end of the hackle. Make several tight turns to secure the hackle and cut off the tag end close to the post. Make several half hitch turns behind the head of the beetle staying underneath the parachute. Cut thread and carefully place some head cement on the final thread wraps.</p> |
| 7 |  | <p>Cut off wing post leaving a fairly tall section for visibility. About $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{5}{16}$ inch on a size 10 fly seems to be about right.</p> |