

Fly of the Month – May 2020

Bluegill Belly Bean Fly

From Paul Beel and Frankenfly.com comes this very easy to tie and versatile bluegill bug. I'm sure it would work on a variety of warm water fish species and even smallmouth bass, but it was originally designed for bluegill. The jig hook and lead eyes make it ride hook up and adds a jiggling motion when retrieved. In addition, I have seen this fly tied in a rainbow of color combinations and in sizes 6 to 14. I like the original olive in size 8, but play with it on the waters you fish. Remember to take advantage of local waters and local fishes. All of us are within 30 minutes of some kind of pond, creek, or lake that get a lot less pressure than our favorite trout streams.



Materials

- Hook: Standard length 60 degree jig hook size 6 - 14
- Thread: 8/0 color of body
- Eyes: Painted Lead dumbbell eyes
- Tail: Crystal Flash plus 1 strand of leg material
- Legs: Barred Silicone Legs
- Body: Medium or small Estaz
- Thorax: standard nymph dubbing of your choice

Tying Steps

1. Secure hook in vise eye-down and start thread where the hook shank meets the eye bend. I like to superglue it before tying in eyes.
2. Tie on lead eyes on top of hook shank at the eye bend using crossing wraps and then go around the base of the eyes to tighten the wraps.
3. Use one strand on crystal flash per fly. Fold strand in half, tie in at the midpoint behind the eyes with a couple of thread warps. Fold over to the rear and tie down on top of the hook shank back to the hook bend. Trim to the length of the whole hook.
4. Use 1 strand of sili-legs for each fly. Tie in one strand on top of hook shank and trim to just shorter than the tail. Fold the remainder in half and cut. Save for later.
5. Expose the thread core of the Estaz and tie in at the hook bend. Advance thread to 2/3rd point of hook shank. Wrap a full body while stroking the fibers to the rear, tie off at the thorax, and trim excess.
6. Tie in one section of legs at its midpoint on each side so that one half sticks out the side and the other sticks out slightly above the center axis.
7. Dub a full thorax between the thorax and the eyes, then dub around the eyes using crossing wraps to fill in on top and bottom. Whip finish and trim thread. The shank to the hook eye should be left bare.

I fish these both by themselves and as a dropper under a popper. Short quick strips causes the fly to jig up and down and the up-riding hook keeps it from hanging up on the bottom. Use bigger or smaller eyes depending on how deep you need to fish. The jig hook allows for a variety of eye sizes to be used without changing the hook size. Popular colors include olive & chartreuse, black & red, purple, root beer, and plain old olive, but I have seen these in a rainbow of colors.

Mike Ott, Fly-Tying Chair, Ozark Fly Fishers

