

# Foam Ant

By Micah Dammeyer

Late summer is a great time for fishing terrestrials on the east coast. Grasshoppers, beetles, and ants all run the risk of having their flights blown off course or a having a swinging branch cause them to drop into the water. Breezy days can be a great time to fish ants below overhanging trees and bushes. There's nothing as satisfying as spotting fish looking up for falling food and matching that "hatch" with a well-placed ant on the surface. The fly below is easy to tie and strips of craft foam can be cut with a rotary cutter and a straight-edge. One-eighth of an inch by one inch long seems to fit nicely on a size 14 dry fly hook. Having a good number of them in your box lessens the sting of breaking them off in the trees.

## Materials

**Hook:** #14 fine wire dry - Mustad 94833

**Thread:** Black 6/0

**Body:** 1/8" x 1" black foam

**Hackle:** Black or grizzly hackle



## Tying Steps

1.



Begin by arming the hook and wrapping the front ¼ of shank with thread. This will aid in keeping the foam tied on top of the hook. Tie in foam strip pointing forward of the eye. Secure "butt" of foam with thread wraps.

2.



Fold the foam strip towards the rear and, while pushing down and forward slightly to form bubble of material, secure to create head. Bring thread to rear of hook shank.

3.



Fold the end of foam under and secure. Pushing forward slightly before securing, will create a fatter mid-section.

4.



Tie in a hackle at the rear wraps, butt first.

5.



Wrap hackle 2 to 3 turns between segments and secure at front thread wraps. Whip finish behind the head and in front of hackle. If desired, apply cement to underside to add durability. I prefer not to trim hackles below the fly leaving the option for streamside altering.