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314 words

Foameister

I designed the Foameister to supplement the popular attractor the Bugmeister. In my experience trout like the latter pattern, but it often rides on its side and doesn't float very well. The Foameister floats upright and is difficult to sink, but rides low, just like natural stoneflies and caddis, which its profile suggests. With its peacock body, speckled legs, blond over black wing, and foam head and tail, there are many strike triggers the fish can key on, the key hallmark of a good attractor pattern that's designed to suggest many prey items. Since I designed the pattern last season, the Foameister has become one of my go-to flies on the Yellowstone.

How to Fish

The Foameister is most-suited to large, rough rivers like the Madison and Yellowstone or small, rough and tumble creeks. Usually it should be fished on a dead drift, but an occasional twitch can be worthwhile. Since it floats well and is large and easy to see, the Foameister is a good dry fly to use as a strike indicator for a beadhead nymph.

Tying Challenges

The Foameister is an easy fly provided you use a lot of superglue to secure the foam and the wing butts. Apply it to the foam underbody, to the underside of the head, and to the wingbutts and top of the head just before folding the strip back over the wing butts to complete the head. These steps make the fly virtually indestructible.

Foam-Meister Pattern

Hook: 2XL nymph, #8-12.

Thread: 6/0 brown.

Tail: dark brown 2mm foam strip trimmed to a rounded shape.

Underbody: foam strip overwrapped with thread and coated in superglue.

Body: peacock herl wrapped over the bound-down foam strip.

Underwing: black Krystal Flash.

Overwing: bleached elk hair.

Head: end of foam strip secured at wing tie-in point and head with an X-wrap and folded back over.

Legs: olive barred speckled Sili-Legs.

