

# Spotted Cucumber Beetle



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## ● Materials

- Hook : Mustad 3399 size 10
- Thread : Black size 8/0
- Body : 2mm craft foam
- Wing Cases : Swiss straw w/ epoxy
- Legs : plastic coating from craft wire and Japanese Nymph Legs
- Antennae : Black hackle feathers

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- After tying on .cut three pieces of craft wire one inch long

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- Craft wire comes in various colors and thicknesses. The size we will use here is .025 inches

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- Remove the wire from it's plastic covering. And save the plastic

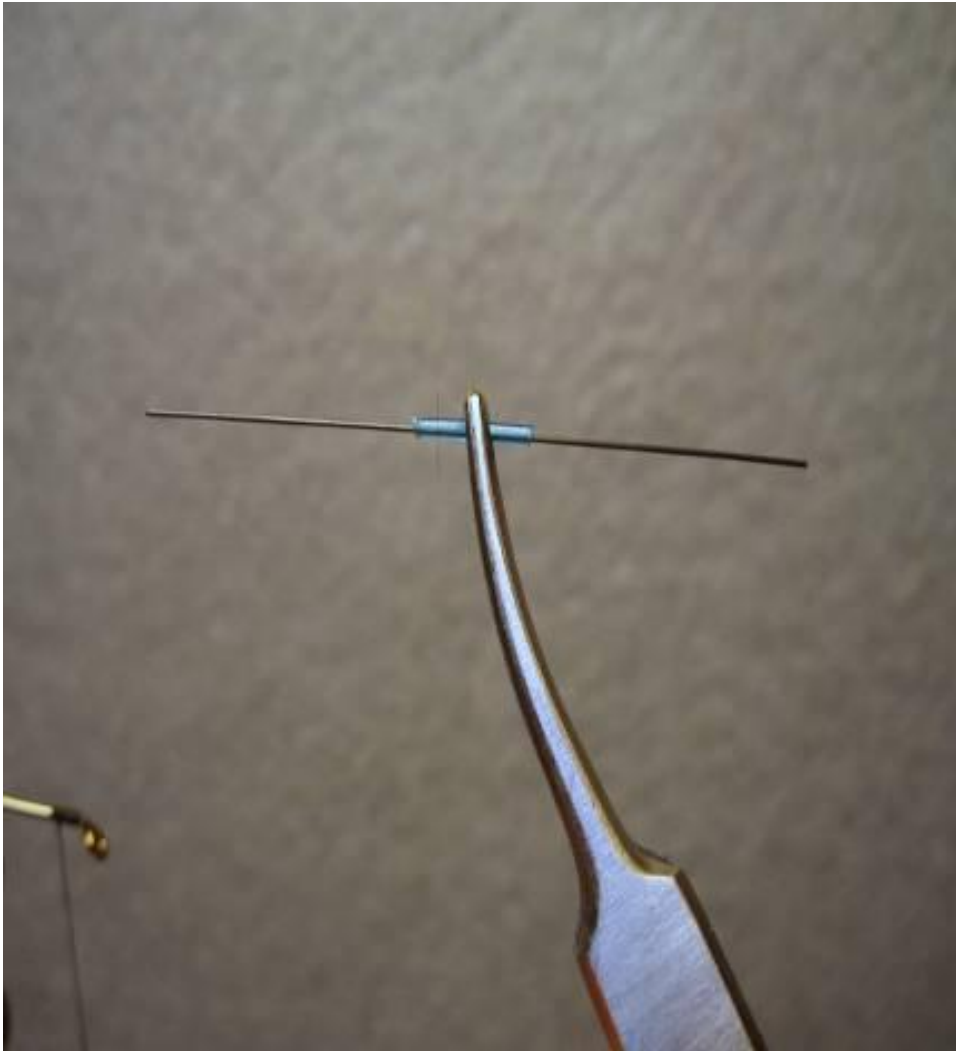


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- Cut the tubing to size. the first one at  $\frac{1}{4}$ . The other two at  $\frac{7}{16}$ .

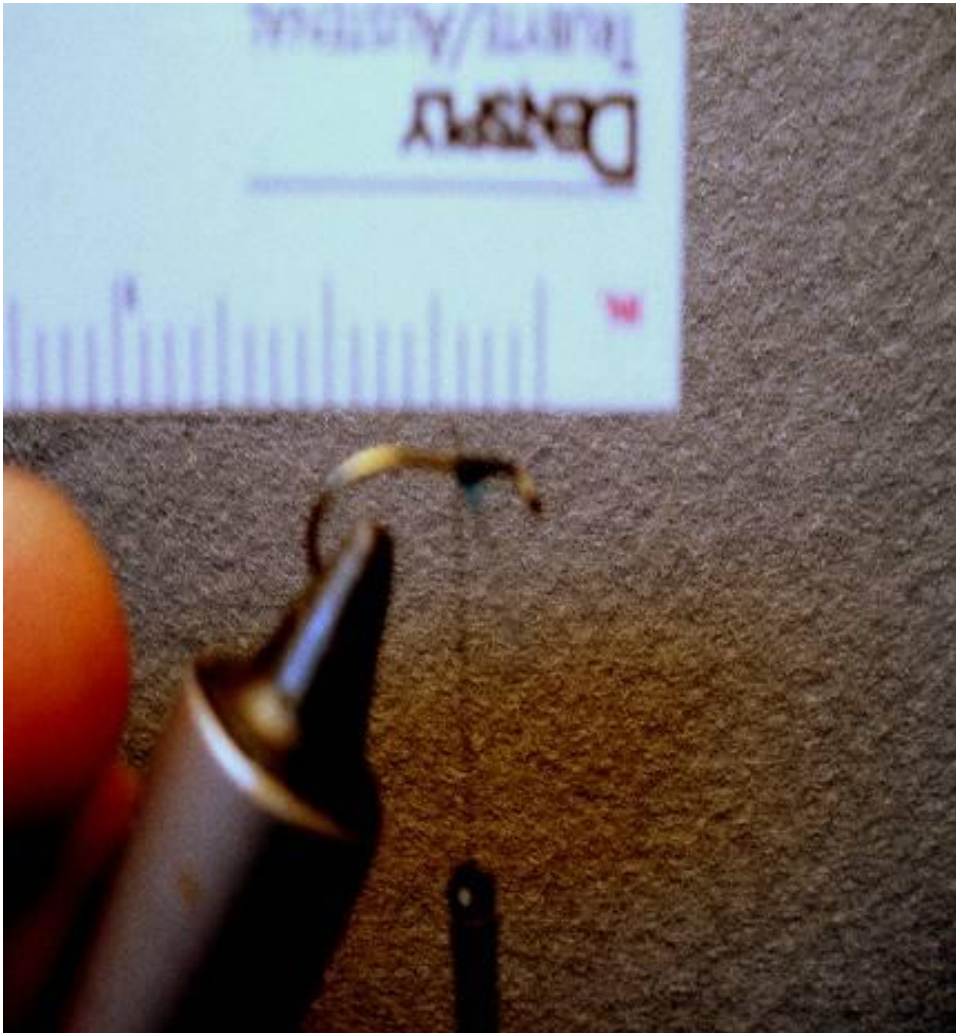


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- Take a Japanese Nymph leg or paint brush bristle and insert into the plastic tube as shown

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- Tie on the prepared leg section to the underside of the hook shank using figure eight wraps. 3/16 from the hook eye.



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- Tie in the second and third pair using the same method . Tie the second pair 1/4 inch from the first. Tie the third pair just behind the second.

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- Move your thread to each leg one at a time and wrap around the plastic tubing on the leg to give it shape.
- On this bug it is not as critical . But you will need this tech as you progress.

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- Don't worry if you do not cover all of the plastic . The important thing in this step is the shape of the leg.

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- Cut a piece of 2mm craft foam 6mm x 16mm. With curved scissors round off one end to form the rear of the abdomen. Then at 10mm from the rear cut away foam to leave a tie in tag.

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- The tie on point for the foam is 6mm from the hook eye. Loose wrap your thread to the end of the foam and back to the tie in spot.



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- Cut a piece of Swiss straw larger than it will take to cover the foam.

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- Here I'm laying the Swiss straw in position to ensure it is wide enough and long enough. The Swiss straw will be used as the wing case which is called the elytra.

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- Now tie down the Swiss straw covering the front section of foam while also ensuring it has coverage on the sides and extends past the rear of the foam by at least 3mm.

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- After trimming the Swiss straw . Mix up a small portion of 5 minute epoxy and add a thin layer to the top and sides of the Swiss straw only.

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- Cut a piece of Swiss straw for the front covering called the pronotum 8mm x 16mm



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- Place this piece over a bodkin or paint brush handle and cover with epoxy. This will allow it to have a curved form when cured.

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- When the epoxy loses its tackiness push down on all four sides bending the wing case into position then trim the excess.

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- Paint the wing case with two coats of yellow paint.
- We use paint instead of markers because paint will give us an opaque finish where as markers would give us a translucent one.



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- After the yellow paint has dried we can add the black spots on the wing cases . There is a total of twelve.
- I like to use a paint brush pen. This is a good one by Sakura. It can be found in many arts and craft stores.

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- Place the spots in rows of three as shown. Vary the shapes of the spots they should not be completely round and some will have at least one straight side.



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- Now cut to shape the portion with epoxy for the pronotum . Be sure to leave a tag to tie in when trimming to shape. Finished dimensions should be 4mm long plus tag X 10mm wide

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- Tie in the tag behind the eye. Ensure the pronotum slightly overlaps the wing cases. We will then use a Sharpie marking pen to color the pronotum.

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- Notice how the marker used over the epoxy and Swiss straw has a translucent effect.

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- To make the antennae trim a hackle feather close to the quill leaving a small amount of feather on each side.



- Cut the hackle feathers you prepared to 12mm in length and tie on in front of the pronotum

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- Now as you wrap thread to build the head . Position the antennae as shown . Wrapping in front and behind to acquire the position desired.

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- Once the thread head is built you can whip finish and coat entire body with a coat of head cement.

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- Now we cut the legs to size and bend them into the position .
- At this point use your fingers or tweezers to bend the legs .

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- To flatten the leg ends and to heat kink the legs into final position we will use a pair of tweezers and a lighter.

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- Important:  
Experiment with scrap material .
- Hold the flame on the tweezers or pliers and count the seconds. Two seconds is perfect for my tweezers it may take more or less for yours.



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- After final positioning of your legs your beetle is complete.
- This is a simple beetle we can be more detailed in many aspects of its construction as your skills progress.