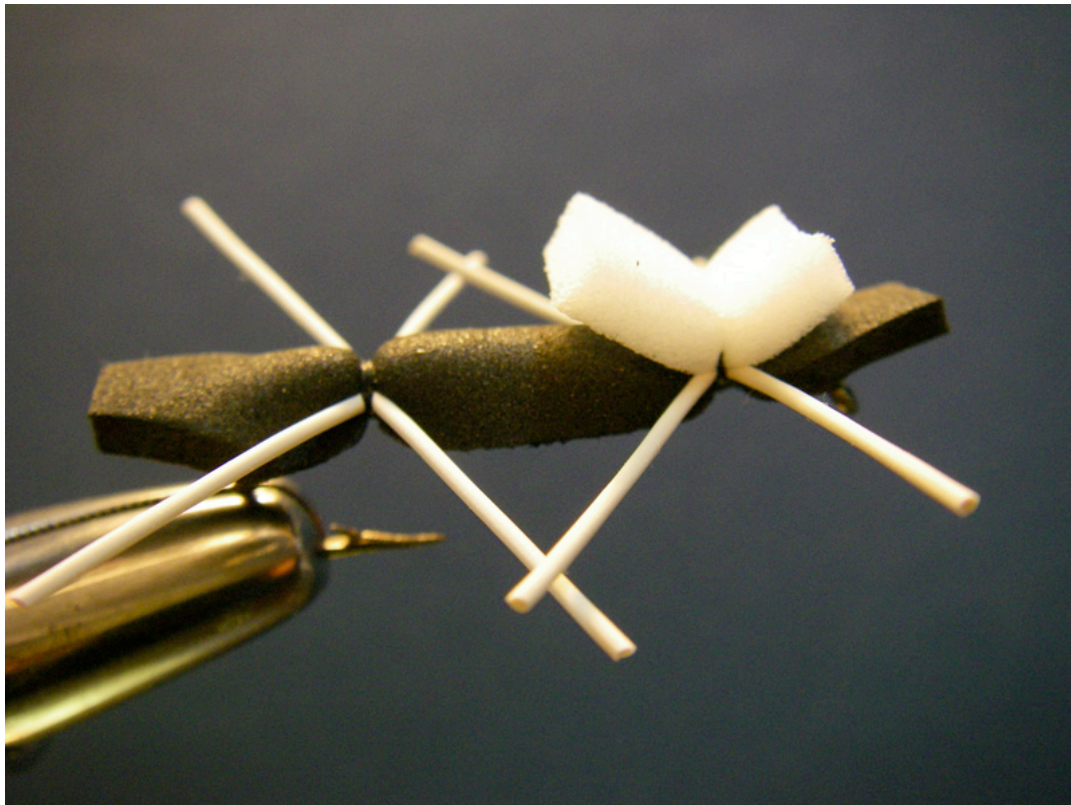


The Chernobyl Ant

Back when Janet and I were first ordering flies for our new store we happened across the Chernobyl Ant pattern. Our first reaction was that it must be some kind of perverted fly tiers joke and then we learned about the fly's remarkable success. The Chernobyl has won the famous One Fly Contest in Jackson Hole 7 times. Even after learning this we were still doubtful that the fly would be effective on our local rivers. On a whim we ordered a couple of dozen. For a while they set in the bin gathering dust and then a visitor to the Valley brought one as kind of a joke. The next day the fellow was back in the shop and he purchased a dozen of them. We knew right off that the fly was no longer a joke.

This year when we started our Saturday Morning Fly Tying Round Table one of the tiers requested that we tie the fly. What follow are the results.

So here it is, The Simple Chernobyl Ant:



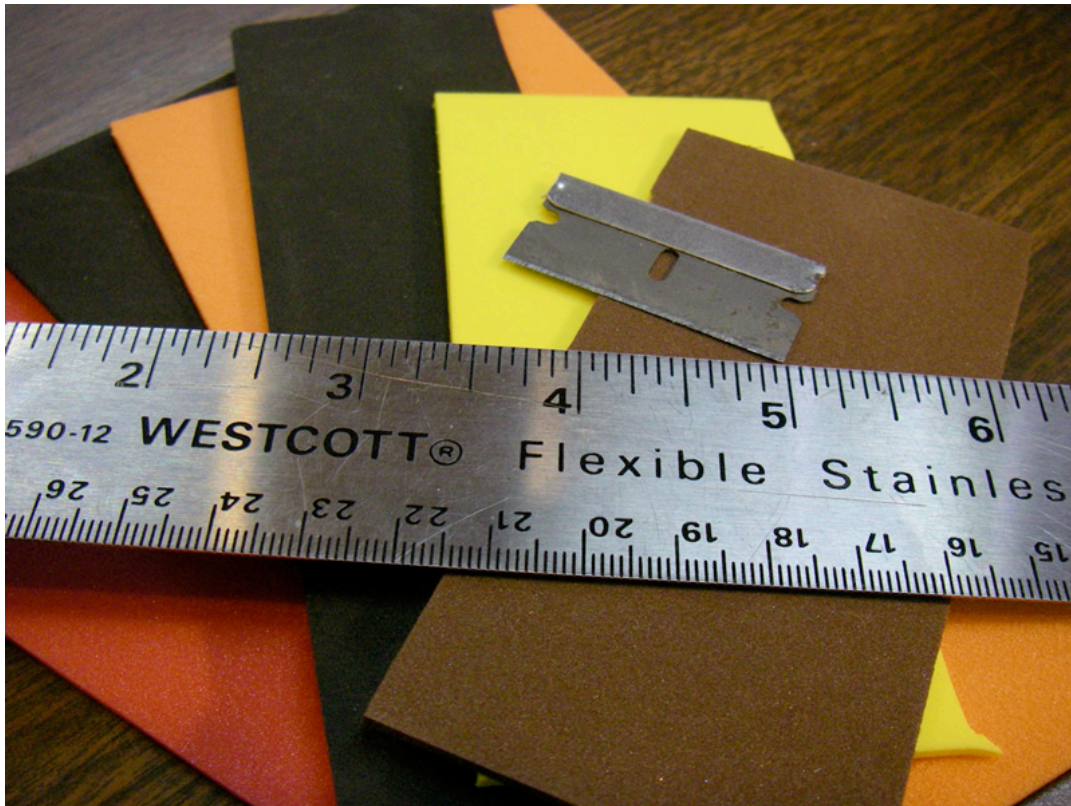
Materials Needed:

Materials needed for the Chernobyl Ant. To start you will need several colors of 2mm fly foam sheets. Black is the most common followed by white or some other bright color for the indicator. For the legs you will need a few different colors of rubber leg material. Use a heavy enough thread that will not cut through the foam.

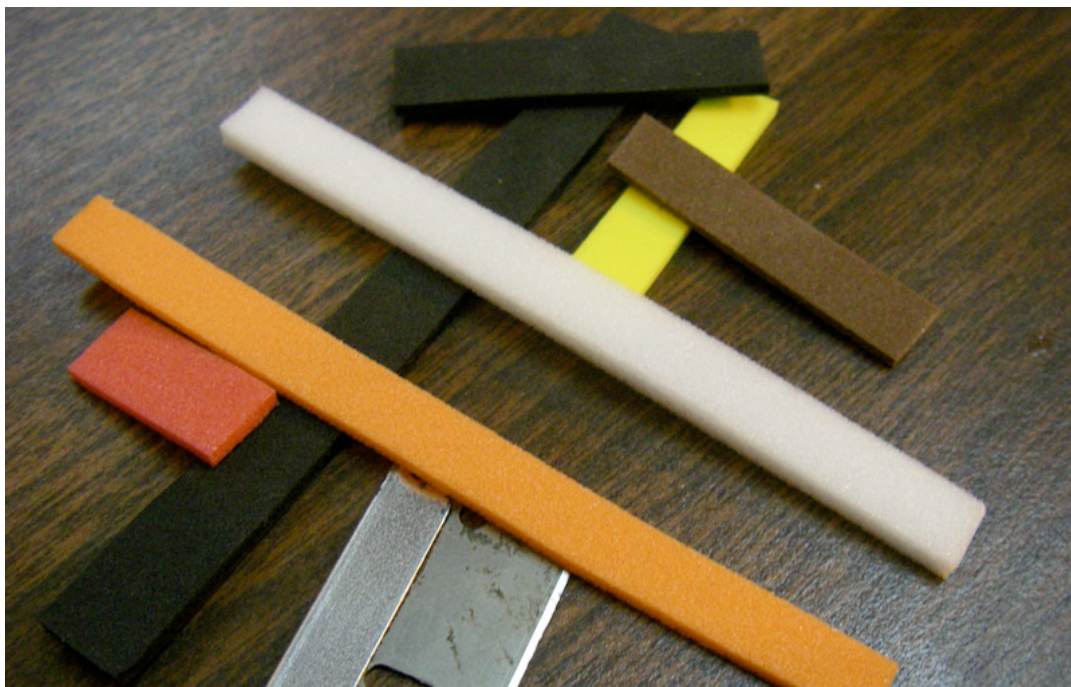
The flies shown here were tied on a Mustad 94831 size 8; however most any long shank hook will do.

Tying Instructions:

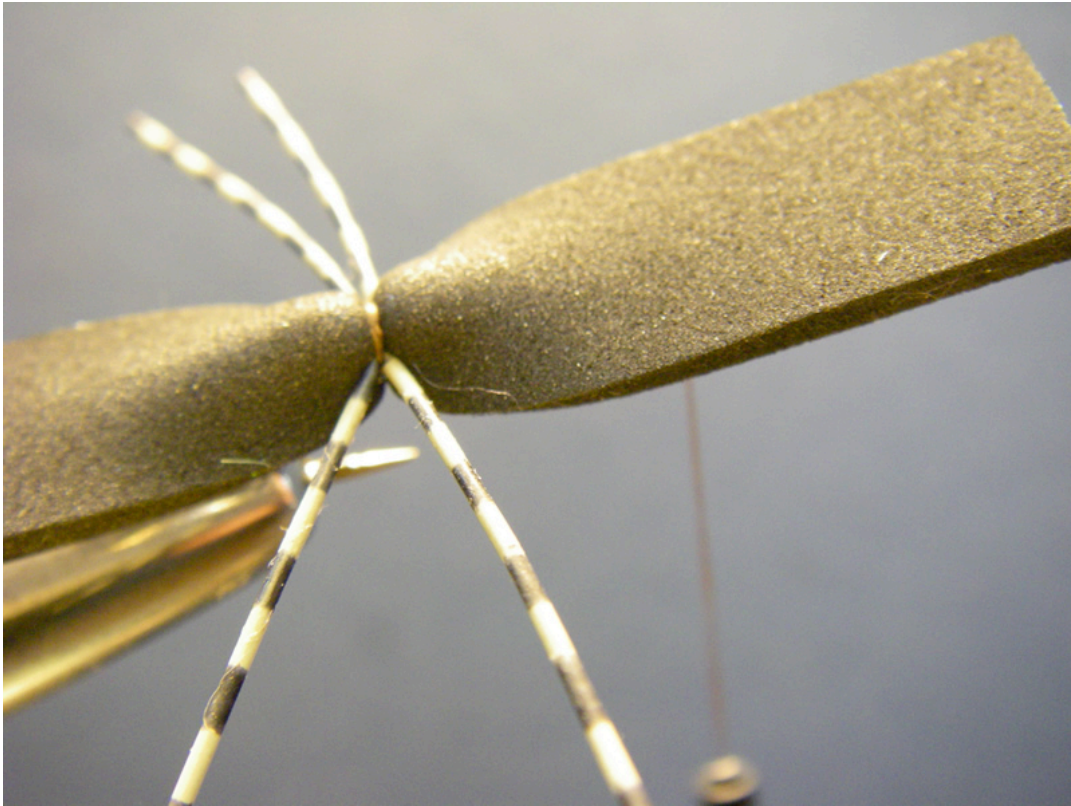
Step 1. Begin by inserting the hook in the vice and start the thread about an eighth of an inch back from the eye, cover the hook shank back to the bend.



Step 2.
Cut several strips of 2mm fly foam about quarter of an inch wide.

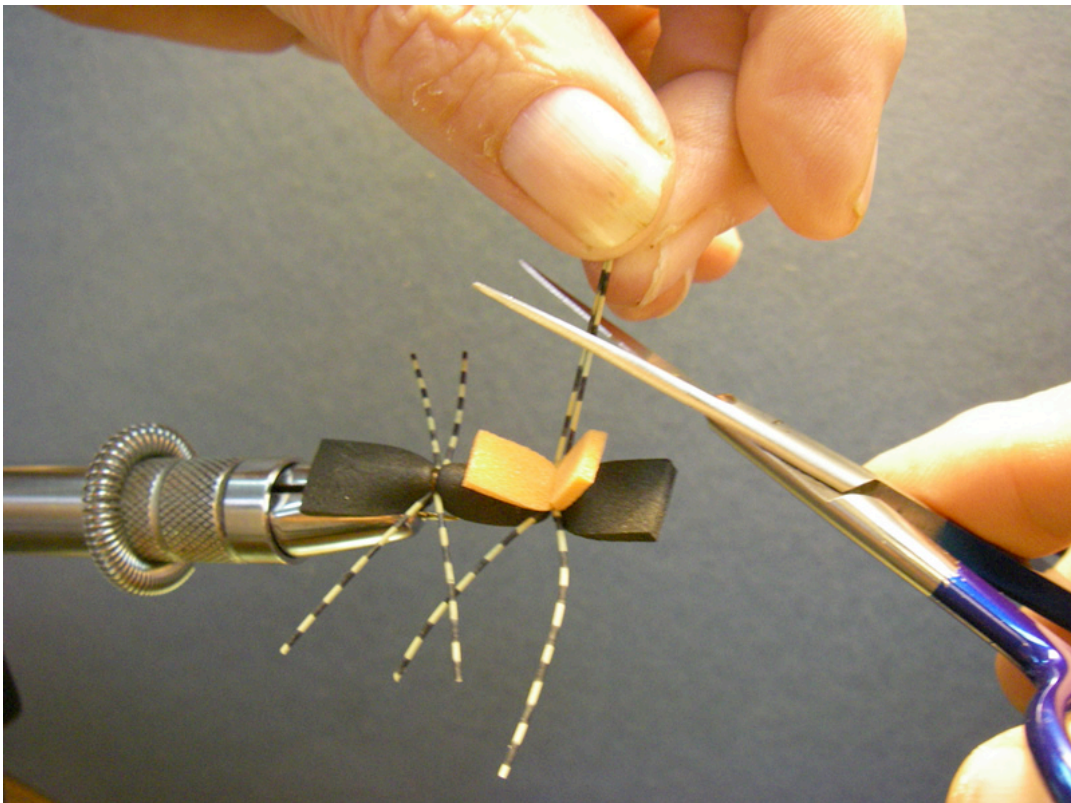


Step 3. Cut a piece of the strip long enough so that it extends about a quarter of an inch past the eye of the hook and about a half inch past the bend. Bend the foam around the hook and tie in place.

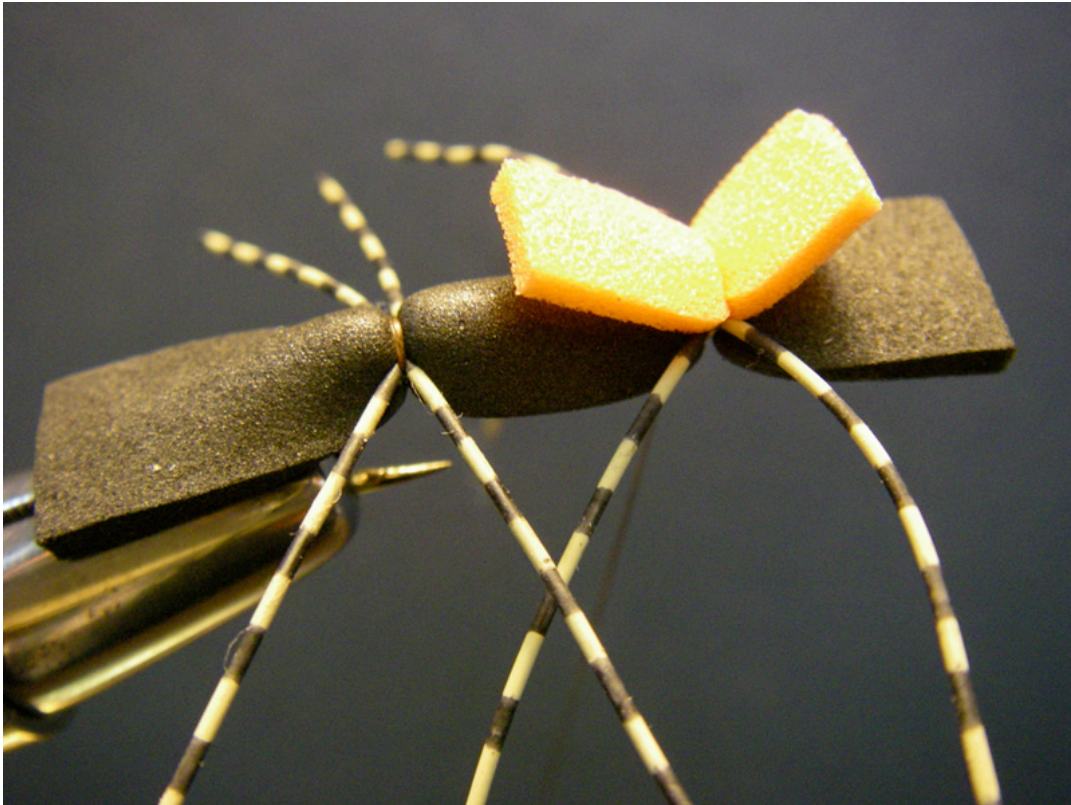


Step
Cut 2 sections of the rubber leg material and tie on either side of the body.

4.



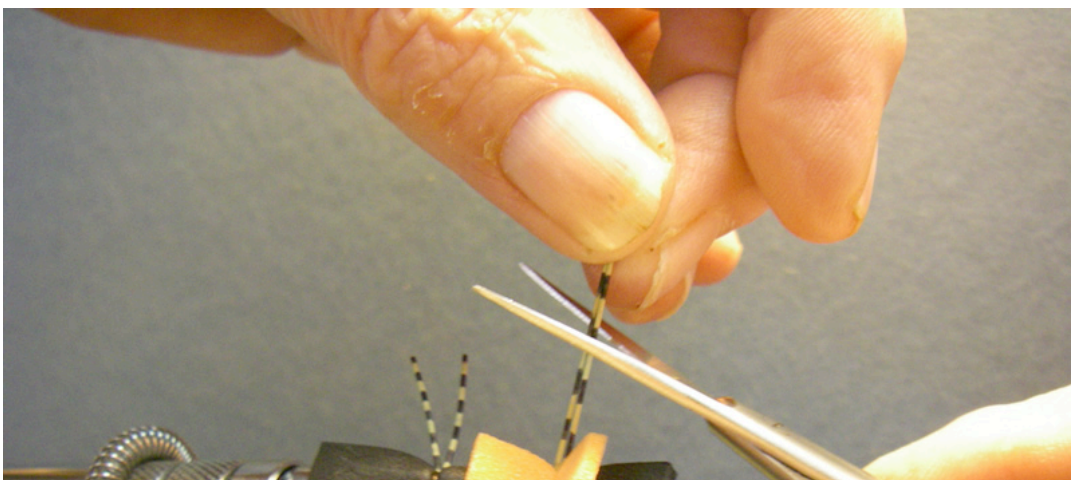
Step 5. Wrap the thread back to the starting point and tie the body foam down.



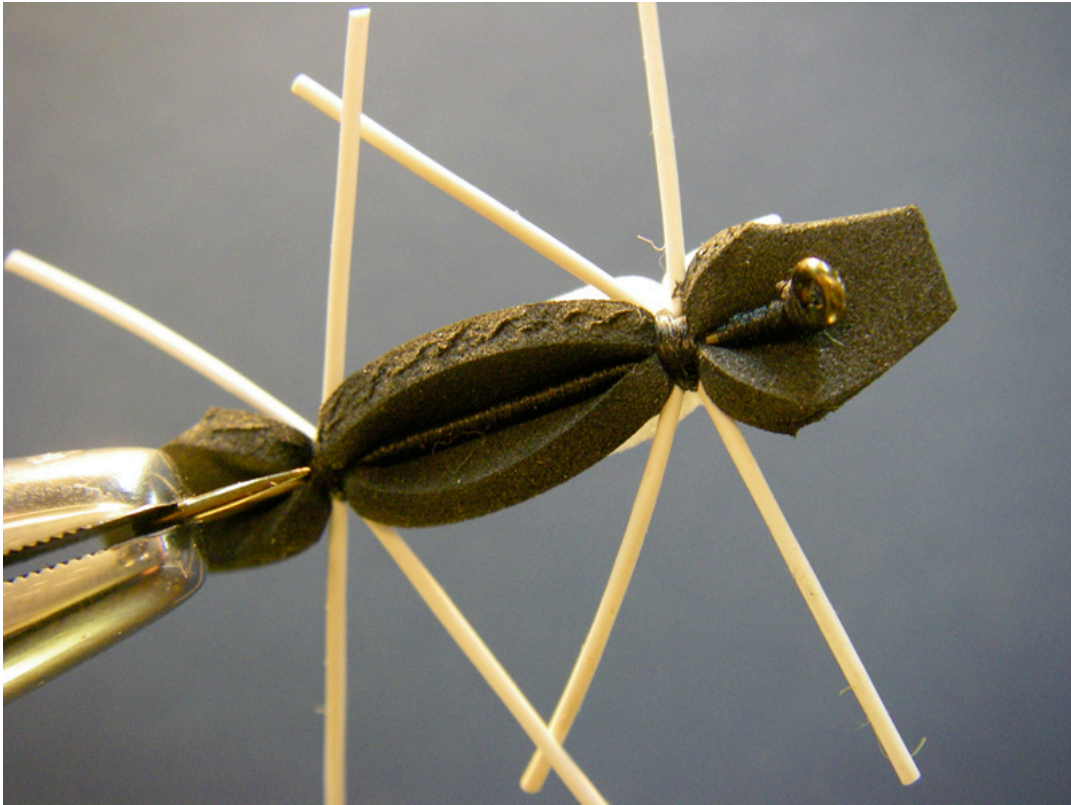
Step 6. Add the front legs and tie in the strike indicator. The foam strip for the indicator should be cut slightly slimmer than the body strip.

Step 7. Bring the tying thread forward to the eye and whip finish.

Step 8. Trim rubber so that they are even in length.



Step 9. Remove fly from vice and trim the head and rear portion to give a rough ant shape.



Step
Add some head cement at the tie in points.

10.



Other variations are shown:

