

Edmonds' Stealth Bomber

By Todd A.Schotts



Quite a few years ago, while participating at a Fly Fishing Show down in the Appalachian Mountains, I was introduced to a unique fly that caught my attention. It has foam, deer hair, flash and rubber legs. How could you *not* like a fly like this? It is one of my favorite bass flies for both lakes and rivers: "Edmonds' Stealth Bomber."

The Stealth Bomber fly pattern was created by Kent Edmonds, right around the time of Desert Storm, the first Gulf War. The original pattern was tied to resemble the B-2 Stealth Bomber with the very visible Delta Wing. That is exactly how the fly got its name.

After growing up in South Carolina fishing the trout streams of North Carolina and Northern Georgia, Kent moved to Georgia 30+ years ago, and eventually became a licensed full time guide, and a representative for various fly fishing tackle companies. His articles have appeared in national fly fishing and outdoor magazines; he is a member of the Georgia Outdoor Writers Association and is also a fly tyer and designer.

The original Stealth Bomber was tied with black foam and had just a basic tail. It was originally tied for black bass and bream; but also tied in the bigger size (2), it can be used for Strippers, Snook, Tarpon, Reds, Jacks, Pike, and in smaller sizes Trout. This pattern got termed as a "Fence-Rider" type of fly. That is where the fly is big enough to attract Bass, but small enough to entice big Bream (Sunfish).

Nowadays the Stealth's are tied in multitude of different colors with rubber legs, unlike the very first pattern. Over the years the shape of the foam has grown, as it evolved creating a better balance to improve the action.

The pattern is unique, as it is a diver/slider crossover that wiggles and dives as it is stripped. The best way to explain how this fly works was described on the internet as: "The turbulence it creates, along with the dynamics of the wing, causes the fly to move side-to-side and releases bubbles." Back in 2010, the pattern graced the pages of *American Angler* (May/June pg.36). Beside having the pattern, they even had a template to cut out the bodies by hand. You can still use that same template or if you want to purchase cutters. River Road Creations carries a set of three foam cutters for the body in sizes of 10, 6, and 2.

When tying this pattern remember to dub the body very lightly. When tying in the foam, take two or three snug wraps, put a dot of super glue on the thread, then make two more wraps. This will help to secure the foam to the hook so the body does not slide around when it is being fished. Also, the top foam wing must be tied down very tightly so that it flares upward and out. If it lays flat on the body, the fly will not dive or move correctly, plus it may just land upside down and stay there.

HOOK: *Gamakatsu B10S, Mustad 3366, or Allen Hooks B200*
Sizes 2, 6, & 10

THREAD: *210 denier (match foam)*

TAIL: *Bucktail, Flashabou/Krystal Flash, or Marabou (match or contrast with foam)*

DUBBING: *Sparkle Dubbing or Sparkle Chenille*

BODY AND WING: *2mm foam, cut to shape*

UNDER WING: *Krystal Flash or Flashabou*

LEGS: *Round Rubber Legs (contrast or match Foam)*

There are numerous ways to fish the Stealth. In a current - with dead stops and slight twitches in non-moving water, or it can be stripped hard with stops in between, or even stripped continuously causing it to be a continuously diving fly. Three important things to remember when you fish this pattern are: 1st use fairly heavy tippet (or you will have a twisted tangled tippet mess if not); 2nd don't set the hook by lifting the rod tip, but use a strip set as fish don't usually slam the fly when taking it, so with the strip set, you won't pull the fly out of the fish's range let alone its mouth; and 3rd if you can tie a Rapala's Knot with the tippet to the fly, this will give the fly more action in the water.

If you are heading out thinking about chasing some Bass (Smallmouth or Largemouth), make sure you have a few of these in our arsenal in different colors and sizes. Until next time, tight lines.

