

# GT's Brood X Cicada

By George Tipker

This is the year of the massive 17-year Brood X Cicada hatch, in and around our area. Full blown Cicada hatch summers are the best fishing times ever!

Here's a good article on Cicada's in Kentucky

<https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef446>

Pictures to right are the real thing (top) and my imitation. Note orange eyes and legs and big wings.



# Materials

**Hook:** Mustad Classic 79580 size 6 streamer hook 5XL long. Shank is approximately 1 inch.  
(between eye to bend)

**Thread:** 3/0 or 210 denier, orange or rust color.

**Under body:** Wooly bugger chenille, medium, black.

**Mid body:** 2 mm orange strip. Approx 5/16" wide

**Upper body:** 2 mm black foam strip(doubled). Approx 5/16" wide

**Eyes:** Spirit River Barbell mono eyes, Hot Orange, large.

**Legs:** Hareline fine round rubber legs, orange. (or any orange, brown and orange etc., rubber legs).

**Wings:** midge flash, root beer/pearl with a few copper krystal flash strands mixed in.

**Hot spot marker:** 1 mm orange foam.

Thread wrap hook, full length of shank to bend.



Tie in Chenille at rear end of shank.



Carry thread to front of hook. Do not crowd the eye. Leave approx 16th inch open from eye.



Wrap Chenille forward to bobbin to cover shank.(approx 9 wraps). Secure and cut off excess.



Tie in 2 mm orange foam strip at same bobbin position.





Carry thread back underneath approx  
1/8 inch at a time to tie down foam and  
"segment" mid body.





Trim off orange foam to a point to length at end of hook.



Cut point on black 2 mm foam strip.  
Then tie in, so black foam extends  
approx 1/4 inch beyond end of hook.



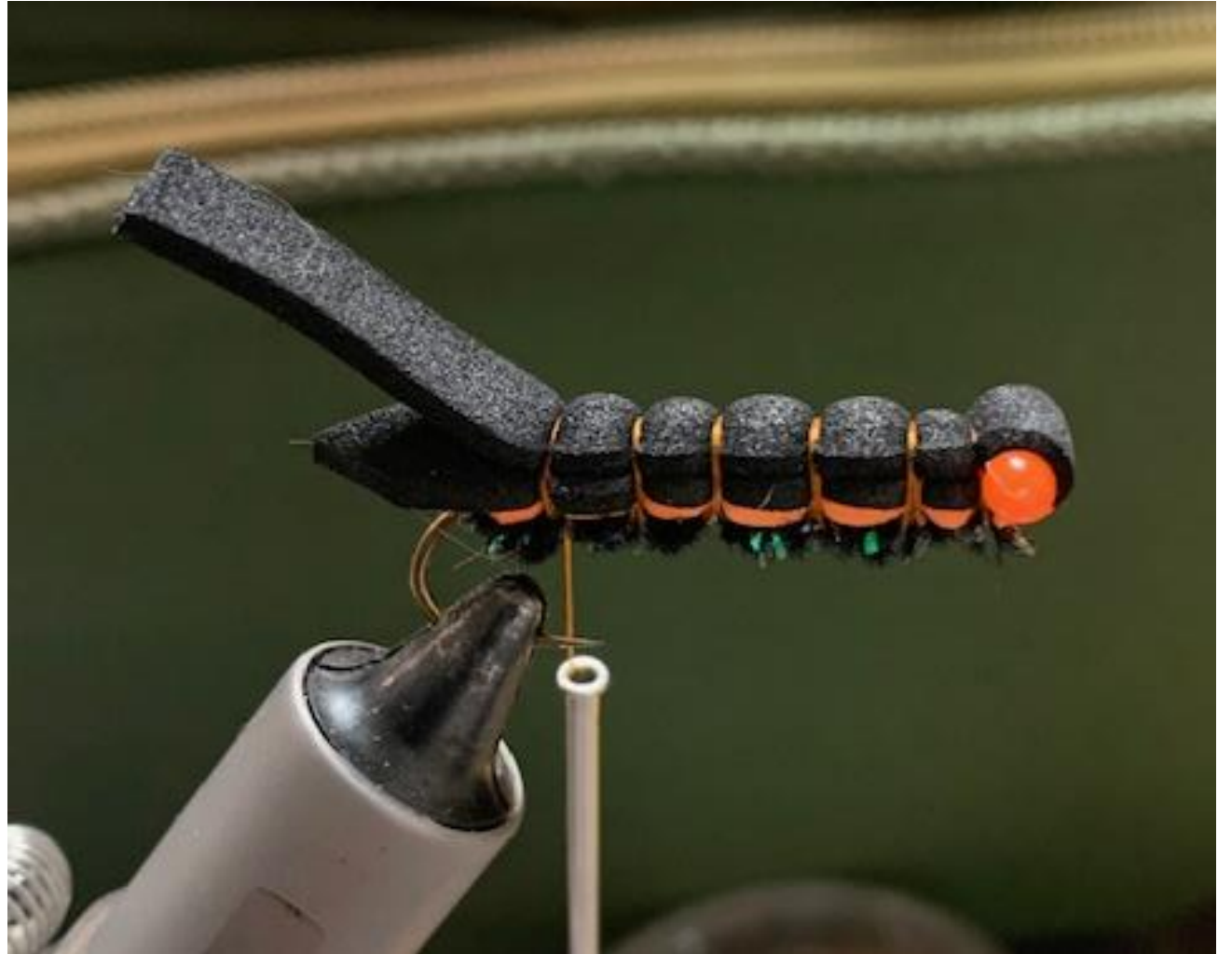
Carry thread forward underneath by "repeat segmenting" (in same exact segmenting positions) until to the point of initial front bobbin position. (Tying note: 1 or 2 maximum thread wraps at each segmenting point is enough to secure foam.)



Lay (do not tie in) orange mono eyes in the "valley" created at said initial foremost segment wrap. Then bend/fold black foam strip back over eyes, slightly pushing eyes forward, to then snugly thread wrap (2 wraps) in said same foremost segment "valley" position to secure the eyes and create "the head with eyes".



Tie down remaining black upper body foam by carrying thread underneath to rear of shank by wrapping thread in the exact segment positions as previously created. (tying note: the underneath of fly, thread wraps, form somewhat of a crisscrossing appearance within the chenille underbody)

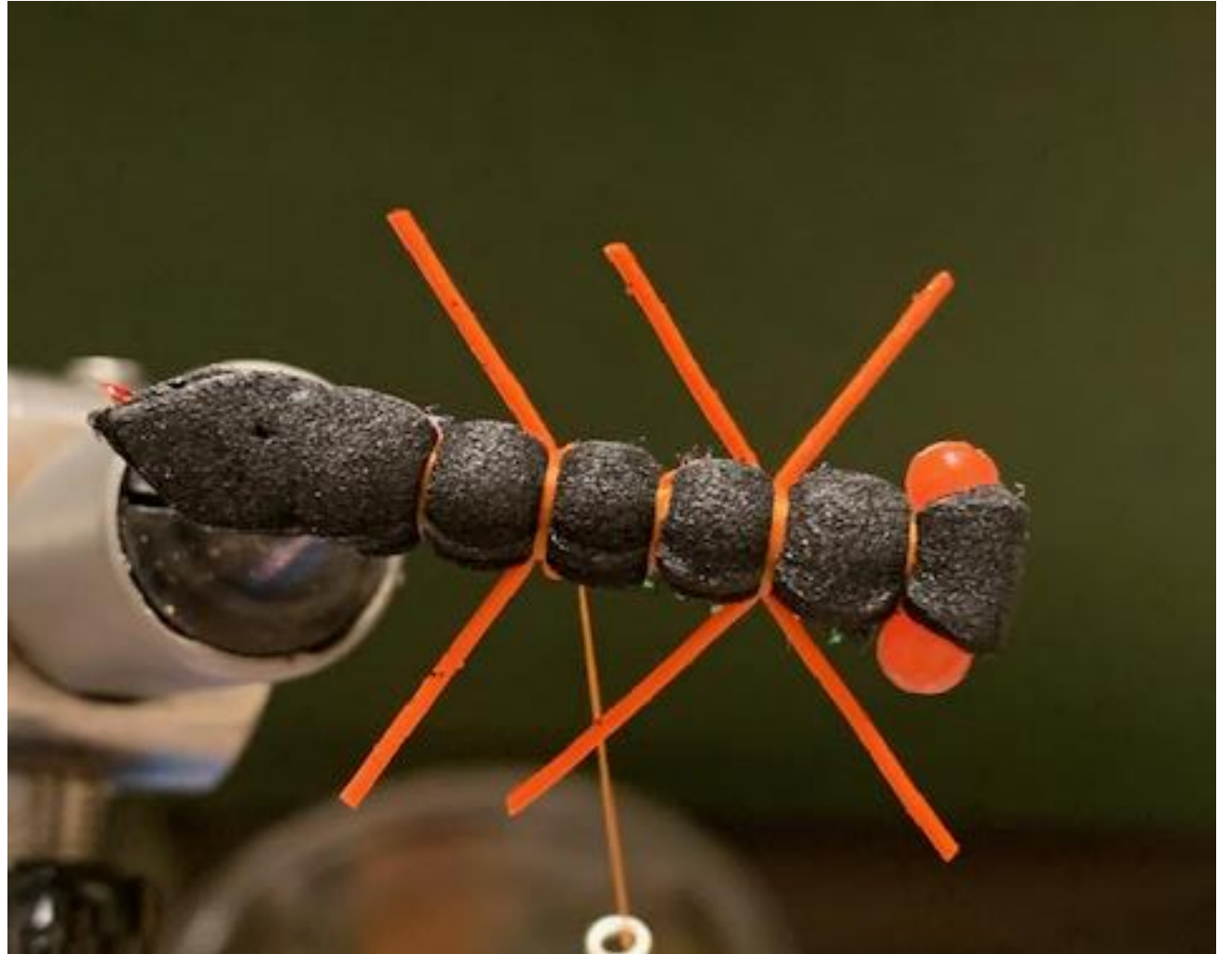


Cut the black foam to a point to the same length as initial length of foam tied in at rear. Apply a small drop of super glue/zap-a-gap/etc to adhere the 2 rear foam points together.





Carry thread back forward 2 segments and tie in a (one) rubber leg facing backwards, on each side of fly. Leg lengths should be about 5/8 inches long. Then carry thread forward to tie in a "double" leg on each side, to make a total of 6 legs. (3 on each side). Looking down on the fly, The front sets of legs will look like an "X"





Gather a group of approx 20 strands (cut at approx 2 inches), of midge flash then adding in 3-5 copper/orange flash strands to mix in. (tying note: the copper strands mixed in are to sort of represent the orange wing veins of a Brood X Cicada). At the foremost "X" legs segment tie in position (which should be approx halfway, to slightly forward of halfway of segmented body wraps), lay the stock of gathered wing material on top, along shank body, and tie in with 2 snug wraps, with half of the wings facing front of tie in point and half of the wings facing rear behind tie in point.



Grab the rear "bundle" of wings with thumb and forefinger and pull/rotate towards you to make wings come/turn perpendicular to body shank. Then do 2 additional thread wraps, going behind the wing bundle still held in your grasp and crisscrossing over top to the front of far side bundle. This will make a crisscross or "figure 8" thread wrap over the top of wings, to secure the position of the wings to remain perpendicular to the body. (tying note: Securing of the wings can be a little tricky because the far side wing strands tend to splay out everywhere. Try not to get too many of them caught in your thread wraps. Patience and practice cures this)



Wings properly secured in perpendicular position. Trim to make wing length equal on each side of fly.





Carry thread forward 1 segment and tie in the 1 mm orange "hot spot marker" foam strip. (tier note: this small top foam strip makes the fly easier to see in the water at a distance.)



Wrap back a couple of segments (using care not to catch the legs and the wings in your wraps) to tie in/secure the hot spot marker.



Cut the orange hot spot marker to a point and leave it sticking up slightly for visibility. (ie: Do not glue it down). (Tying note: It is best too only have no more than about a quarter of an inch "sticking up" and it is best to use the thinner 1 mm foam for this marker. Both of the aforementioned recommendations cut down on wind resistance when casting.) Carefully carry thread forward to avoid legs and wings (always wrapping in the same segmented "valleys") to the eye of the hook and tie off under the Cicada head. Two (2) whip finishes or similar terminal knot will suffice.



Finished fly.





Finished fly in hand to show actual size. (Approx 1 & 1/2" long). (Tying note: for smaller targeted fish (bluegill, redear, etc.), shorter hooks, resulting in a smaller fly, can be used)

