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## “Top Hat” Blue-winged Olive (BWO) Emerger

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Round foam cylinders are a great substitute for Cul De Canard (CDC) feathers in emerger patterns and provide superior floatation. Foam will also withstand more catches. Foam can be used as wing posts for parachute flies as well. Adding a “hat” to Klinkhammer style flies, emergers, or midges allows the fly to sit just below the surface film at just the right angle, providing a great presentation to the fish. Foam is another game changer giving the fly tier the creativity to experiment. You can color it with markers as well to get the color you want.

I prefer soft foam for this application as it ties to the hook much better than higher density foams. We’re featuring the Blue-winged Olive Emerger this month, but any emerger could be tied this way by making the appropriate substitutions. The 3mm thickness foam is best for sizes 18 – 20 and smaller, 5mm for sizes 14 – 16, and 7mm for sizes 10 – 12.

### ***Blue-winged Olive Emerger Recipe***

1. *Hook: Any scud/emergent hook. The Gamakatsu C12 scud hook is very light wire with a large gap. Size 16 is shown in the photo. Set the hook in the vise with the eye level as the foam is added first.*
2. *Thread: UTC 70 in grey brown. Attach the thread behind the hook eye and wrap back to the middle of the hook.*
3. *Foam Hat: Cut a piece of 5 mm soft foam cylinder (color of choice) that is about 3/4<sup>th</sup> inch long. Make another cut in the middle at a 45 degree angle. This will provide pieces for 2 flies. Next, trim a little on each side of the angled end, narrowing the tip to make a nice platform to tie the foam down. Set the “hat” on top of the hook shank leaving about 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch to the hook eye after it’s tied down. Begin by making a light wrap on the foam tip as you hold it down. Once secured and positioned correctly, secure the foam with 4 or 5 wraps toward the hook eye before wrapping the thread back to the middle of the hook shank. You can trim the foam to your liking when done.*
4. *Trailing shuck: Reposition the hook so that the eye is more downward. This makes it easier to attach the trailing shuck to the bend of a scud/emergent hook. Use several fibers of dark olive Z-Lon as long as the hook shank. Attach the fibers and wrap to the tail. Then over wrap the Z-Lon back to within about 1/16<sup>th</sup> inch of the foam tie in point.*
5. *Body: Dub the thread with BWO dubbing of choice. I used BWO camel blend. Dub just enough to finish the slender body at the tail. Make a nice taper to the rear and then use your thread to rib the body back to the foam hat creating a segmented look.*
6. *Thorax: Dubbing of choice. I blended squirrel (dark grey) and ice dub to add a little UV. Dub a few wraps behind the foam and a couple wraps in front, making a distinctive bulge.*
7. *Whip finish, trim foam, and give the body and thorax a little brushing to add some “bugginess.”*