

Forest Pest Fly Tying Instructions

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY Closed Wing Version



Consider using hen capes or Whiting's 4B Hen Capes as your source of wing material. The feathers need to be selected for their length and shape. Refer to online sources for actual insect pictures. These provide color, size, spotting detail, and shape. Two identical feathers were "shaped" for each fly. The shaping consists of using head cement (Hard As Nails) to coat feather and then stroke feather to form desired shape. The feather can be trimmed at the tip to achieve rounded shape. Knowing the length of the fly wing makes shaping easy. Wings can be colored with markers to achieve desired spotting.

The actual Lanternfly (closed wing version) is 25mm long (about 1 inch from wing tip to head) and 12mm wide at its widest span. The wings themselves are 22mm long and 6mm wide. The abdomen in the closed wing version is not visible and so detail is not critical. However, it should be constructed along with legs which will be exposed past the wings.

Hook: 2XL Nymph hook, #6.

Thread: UTC 70D Black.

Abdomen: Black 2mm foam strips.

Legs: Large black rubber legs.

Wings: Gray hen feathers, shaped and marked with black marker for both tip area and spots. Consider Whiting's 4B Hen Cape in light dun or pale watery dun. If desired, back side of wings can be tinted with a pink marker to show a slight pink color showing through the wings.

Attach thread and advance to rear of hook. Attach foam and wrap forward to form body. Wrap thread over foam and attach legs at appropriate places, using single strand across for both hind legs and a single strand on each side for mid and front legs. Attach wings near just behind hook eye and form small head and whip finish.

Fly designed by Sam Pleshar of Montana.