

# Bluegill Belly Bean

Tied & Photographed by Mark Kolanowski



Original pattern by Paul Beel

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imkphotography.com

Original pattern by Paul Beel [www.frankenfly.com](http://www.frankenfly.com)



Tim Flagler's excellent video @ [www.tightlineproductions.com](http://www.tightlineproductions.com)

1. Hook: Size # 6 Daiichi 4640 60 degree jig hook
2. Thread: Danville 70 Denier 6/0 Olive
3. Eyes: Spirit River Real Eyes Plus 5/32 Chartreuse
4. Tail: Crystal Flash / Chartreuse
5. Tail & Legs: Sili legs Hopper Yellow
6. Body: Tinsel Chenille / Chartreuse & Pearl
7. Thorax & Head: Ice Dub / Olive



Step 1. Mash barb and place hook in vise. Lay down a thread base and secure dumbbell eyes one hook eye space behind jig head bend. Use a combination of X, under over, & post wraps. Optional: Add a drop of glue or head cement to wraps. Advance thread to barb of hook.



Step 2. Cut a single strand of Crystal Flash and double it over so tips are aligned. Wet to have better control. Tie in so aligned tips are about 2 hook lengths from hook bend. Fold the other (loop section) of flash back towards the rear of the hook and secure with thread wraps. Trim the 4 strands to length. About 1 1/2 hook lengths.



Trimmed Crystal Flash



**Step 3. Cut a single strand of Sili leg and secure to rear of hook where Crystal flash was tied in. After a few tight wraps trim tail to length and cut the excess. Save the excess Sili leg for later.**



**Step 4. Cut a 3" length of chenille. Clean one end by stripping the fibers off the under cord. A hook eye portion is all that is needed to secure chenille to the hook. Tie in at the same place the flash and Sili leg were. Advance tying thread to one hook eye length behind dumbbell eyes.**



**Step 5. Using touching wraps wind chenille to where thread is positioned behind eyes. Secure with a few tight thread wraps.**



Step 6. The excess Sili Leg from step 3 should be about 3" long. Cut it in half. Tie in one half to near side forming two legs. You may need to tug and pull a bit to position them. Repeat on the far side. Trim the four legs to about half the length of the tail.



**Step 7. With your thread just behind the dumbbell eyes form a noodle of Ice Dub about 2" long. Wrap dubbing to cover chenille and leg tie in point. Build up a thick body behind eyes.**



**Step 8. After dubbing behind the eyes form another noodle on your thread. Wrap around and over eyes to fill in. Add a five turn whip finish and your Bluegill Belly Bean is ready to fish!**





The Bluegill Belly Bean is designed to ride hook point up and help prevent snagging on the bottom. Despite its name this pattern could easily be modified into a killer bonefish, carp, crappie, or sand bass fly by changing up the color scheme of your materials and weight of the eyes. I'm thinking crayfish color for an upcoming Smallmouth bass trip. The jigging motion of this pattern is greatly enhanced by a loop knot connection to your tippet. Cast this pattern out and count it down to the desired depth or bottom. It can be jigged, twitched, or stripped, depending on the mood of the fish. Fished under an indicator or tight lined in standing timber or brush piles its twitching rubber legs and flash proved effective in bringing fish out of the woodworks.



**Bluegill & LMB on Bluegill Belly Bean**