Fly Tying Group of the Fly Fishers International

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The Fly Tying Group of the Fly Fishers International is dedicated to the preservation, enhancement and support of the art of fly tying as a historic element of the fly fishing experience. Archiving of historic documents, development of educational and instructional materials, teaching, and demonstrations are fundamental to perpetuating the art of fly tying for anglers who fish with the artificial fly. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please join us today. Please Note: You must be a member of the Fly Fishers International to join the Fly Tying Group.

Photo Credit: Dan Parson, Solitary Angler Guide Service, Green River, Wyoming

Click here to join the Fly Tying Group

Fly Tying Group Facebook Page
https://www.facebook.com/ifff.ftg
Winter is a busy time of year, the holidays, baking Christmas cookies, tying flies, teaching fly tying, and now getting ready for the FFI Annual Fly Fishing Fair, Boise ID. I know this seems far away but planning has started. The “Fair” is located at the Boise Centre, Century Link Arena and The Grove Hotel. Peggy Brenner has started the invitation process for the Fly Tying Demonstrators for the “Fair”, and this year the vendor floor will be three days. Our activities will begin with our Annual Meeting, followed with our Rendezvous, BBQ and raffles of fly tying materials, our Famous Fly Swap Raffle and other interesting items that afternoon. The Rendezvous is our most important fundraising event of the year and is open to all who purchase a ticket. Do plan to attend and bring guests. The raffles are dependent upon donations that you provide; so, watch for notices later this spring from Chuck Collings and his Rendezvous and Booth Committee for where and how to get your donations to the Rendezvous. FFI Staff will be sending out inquires for the Workshops at the “Fair”. 400 vendors were solicited, the FTG Iron Fly Contest will once again test your nerves of steel while you tie and Project Healing Waters will be conducting a casting contest for their disabled veterans. Fly Tying Authors; Greg Matthews and Hank Patterson will be appearing at the “Fair”. We can use a lot of help this year, if you can please contact Chuck or me.

FFI arranged to have a strong presence at all The Fly Fishing Shows produced across the United States in 2018. FFI will be identified as a major sponsor, and will be responsible for all educational activities at the Learning Center. National leadership and or staff will also be available to assist local councils with the set up and staffing of all shows. If you are interested in helping out at the show, please contact your council and/or club president.

Social media has become a large part of getting in touch with our member and prospective members, currently with the help of Bird Marketing, the Fly Fishers International Facebook page is above 20 thousand likes. The Fly Tying Group Facebook at this time has 3,043 likes, if you have anything you would like to share on the page, just post to it.

I have added videos, patterns and upcoming information to the news feed.

Please be aware that nominations for the FFI Fly Tying Awards will be coming due. The following awards are:

- Darwin Atkin Memorial Fly Tying Achievement Award Recipients
- Buz Buszek Memorial Fly Tying Award
- Dick Nelson Fly Tying Teaching Award

Just giving everyone time to think who they would like to nominate and to gather the supporting documents needed.

I sent a few emails to everyone to the FTG Board of Governors showing that our readership of “Tying Times” has been well received, one of the biggest comments was how they liked our newsletter and the way we show tying techniques, fly plates, and material dying. Larry has done a great job putting together a great newsletter, I invite everyone to submit articles, such as simple tying techniques to advanced ones, and anything that pertains to fly tying weather displaying flies or dying materials. I am an advocate for teaching the art of fly tying and helping anyone who wants to learn to become better. Which also points me to the FTG Fly Tying Skill Award Program. I would like more clubs and councils to participate in our program, we have great evaluators who are willing to help and teach. We currently have 79 award winners listed on the FFI website under the Tying Tab. See if you could become one of them.
If anyone would like to contact me, for any reason, the best way to communicate with me is through email, jerrycoviello@gmail.com or Facebook.

Notes from AFFTA Dealer Summit: Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation:

- 47.1 million anglers
- 6.5 million fly anglers
- “Family” a main reason for participating
- Educational outreach - focus whole family
- 45% of new Anglers are women
- People are attracted to sports that look like them.
- REI Video - Women front and center
- Hispanic market is huge and motivated by exercise.
- 50/50 Initiative - Recruit, Retain, Re-Activation
- RBFF Resource Center

Just a few statistics to be aware of.

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**Creative Tying of Old Classic Wet Flies**

Ted Crona

To start with, I didn’t start fly fishing or tying until about 1990. Although I grew up in Pensacola, FL, and started fishing when I was 10, fly fishing eluded me for a number of years. I can honestly say that my son is responsible for helping me along the way. And, it goes without saying that any talent that I have acquired has been through God’s blessing.

When I started fly fishing and tying, it has been a “Go” and I have never looked back. Early on, my instructor was my son, Jamie, who had taken an A.K. Best course. From there, I poured over any and every corner of the Internet, looking for flies to tie and use. Along the way, I happened to start finding some old fly patterns from the late 1800’s which were North American in origin. The more I found, principally from “Favorite Flies and Their Histories” by Mary Orvis Marbury, 1892; “Book of the Black Bass” by James Henshall, 1881, “Trout” by Ray Bergman, 1938 and other documents, I was struck by the creativity of the tiers of that period. As interesting to me as the fly patterns were, the provenance of the pattern was important. I wanted to know who created the fly and why they did so. Unfortunately, some of the patterns were either not documented or the information was lost. The Golden Rod fly is a good example of a beautiful old pattern where the history has been lost.

Even more came to light as I studied; it appears that after the Civil War, fly fishing started to flourish here with the advent of the split bamboo rod and better American fly line. I think many men wanted to forget about the war and started finding solace in fishing. History appears to be repeating as I write.

So, in addition to tying flies to be used for fishing, I started working on the old classic wet fly patterns from the 1800’s. I had to master the skill of married wings and through experience, found my way. Whoever said that you need to tie a dozen flies to master a pattern, was off a good bit in some cases. Maybe it was just me, but some of these patterns, are very difficult even after reviewing every step a number of times and pulling half your hair out. I smiled recently when a tier mentioned on Facebook of the difficulty he had in getting peacock swords to sit properly as a fly topping. Davy Wooten answered him that he was starting to understand tying and some things just don’t go smoothly. If you’ve been at it awhile, the sun will start shining again and you’ll get there. Good advice for every endeavor, fly tying or whatever.

Some years ago, I was tying at the Southern Conclave of the IFFF (now the FFI) when Dave Whitlock stopped by and watched me tie a “Babcock”, an old married wing wet fly. He complimented me on the tie and asked me how many fish I had caught using that pattern. It was difficult for me to state that I never really fished with any of the old patterns. He suspected the answer that I had given him by a head nod and said, that the patterns were originally designed to catch fish. He, then, gave me some good advice on tandem rigging the flies and different ways to fish them.

Since then, I will admit that using one of the old fly patterns is not my first choice; but I have fished some of them, at times, and they catch fish. I’ll let any decision rest with this statement and the reader’s desire.
There have been a number of articles written in Fly Tyer magazine and You Tube about the old classic wet flies, with detailed tying instructions of some of them so I will not do a step-by-step here. The points that I will make are as follows:

First, in his book, “Building Classic Salmon Flies, Ron Alcott states on page 12, “the world still awaits that perfectly built fly”. I echo those remarks. If we look closely at any fly, mine included, you will most likely find something that should/could have been done better. I always try to remember this when I am viewing someone else’s work, you should too.

Secondly, proportions of the elements of these flies are not etched in granite. In fact, Alcott, gave some general guidelines for classic salmon flies on page 54 of the book mentioned above. But, there are no specific rules. The only thing that I can find in researching, is that the fly must look presentable. That is to say, liberties can be taken in tying the old classic wet fly patterns as long as they don’t ruin the overall design and integrity of the fly. However, I do try to keep a few parameters in mind, generally the tail should be about the length of the hook gap, maybe a little longer. The wing should extend to the hook bend, maybe a little longer. The tag should be long enough down the hook bend so that it can be seen clearly after the tail is attached.

Finally, I know there are tiers who are all about using the correct materials of the original pattern. I applaud them for this effort. But, I don’t feel that way. I use modern hooks rather than the blind eye hooks of the period. And, I will substitute materials when I need to as long as it doesn’t ruin the design and integrity of the fly. My opinion is that if the old tiers were alive today, they would be doing the same thing.

Now, after tying many of these old classic wet fly patterns, I have evolved to the point where there is a desire on my part, to do the same thing that the tiers of the 1800’s had done. They were, as history records, creative tiers. John Shields, Charles Orvis, James Henshall and others sat down and came up with beautiful American designed flies. They had a vision of what these flies should be like and weren’t afraid to make them. This passion is still alive today with tiers who now use modern materials to create a new generation of flies. Jay “Fishy” Fullum exemplifies this creativity.

To this end, I am on a journey to do my own creative reenactment of the old classic wet flies. And, taking myself to task, I am documenting my efforts so hopefully, they will not be lost. The other thing that I have tried to do, is to name the flies after Native American entities. There are three listed here: (1) The Mendota, Dakota language meaning the junction of two rivers (2) The Kiamichi, attributed to Choctaw, a river in SE Oklahoma and (3) The Weoka, Creek language meaning rushing water.

I am probably not unique in my passion and desire to be a creative tier. I am humbled by the fact that there are a lot of tiers who I look up to and have helped me along the way. If there is anything of value here, then please accept my sincere thanks.
Kiamichi

Thread: 6/0 green and 6/0 black
Hook: No. 10 TMC #8089
Tag: Flat gold tinsel
Tail: Married black/cinnamon/orange goose
Body: Green silk floss
Rib: Gold thread
Wing: Lady Amherst side tail slip
Topping: Peacock swords
Hackle: Orange hen
Head: Black thread and head cement

Weoka

Thread: 6/0 white and 6/0 black
Hook: No. 10 TMC #8089
Tag: Round silver and red silk floss
Tail: Small bunch of peacock herl from tip
Butt: Peacock herl
Body: Yellow silk floss
Rib: Round silver tinsel
Wing: Brahma hen and pheasant church
Hackle: Black hen
Collar: Black ostrich
Head: Black thread with head cement

About the author

Ted is a retired metallurgical engineer and quality manager who resides in Scottsboro, AL, near Lake Guntersville. He started fly fishing in about 1990 and credits his son, Jamie, as instrumental, in getting him into fly tying. He has developed into an accomplished tier with numerous invitations to do demonstrations at various events including the FFI International Fly Fishing Fair in Livingston, MT, the Sow Bug Roundup, and Orvis and Cabela’s stores. He is a member of the Fly Fishers International, Trout Unlimited and The Tennessee Valley Fly Fishers. He supports both Projects Healing Waters and Casting for Recovery. He specializes in tying old classic American fly patterns from the 1800’s as well as creating new flies following the old patterns and some other flies.
Nitro Caddis Variant
as tied by Dewey Freeman

Hook:  TMC 2499SP-BL  Size 14

Bead:  Black painted, or black nickel; 7/64” tungsten or brass

Thread:  Red 8/0, or 70 denier

Abdomen:  Pearl core braid, size small, olive
(color options: root beer, brown, gray ghost)

Antennae:  2 natural mallard flank fibers

Thorax:  SLF “Spikey Squirrel” dubbing (Natural Fox) blended with a pinch of Hareline Ice Dub in UV Cinnamon
(Option: use only SLF Prism synthetic in chocolate brown color)

Wing/Collar:  Natural Hungarian partridge

Hot Spot:  Tying thread

Tying Steps:

After mounting the hook and bead assembly in the vise, attach the thread behind the eye and wrap back a few wraps. Burn the core braid to prevent fraying and make a small tapered end. Tie in the core braid rather close to the front (this fly should be more forward on the hook) with an extended body approximately equal to the space between the bead and the start of the bend. Add the antennae on each side extending back about ¼” past the end of the braid and slightly upward. Blend the dubbing at a ratio of three parts squirrel and one part UV ice dub. Dub a plump thorax leaving a little room to apply the collar. Choose a partridge feather that has fibers long enough to reach the end of the core braid, tie in by the tip, and make two wraps around the fly and secure. Tie back and add hot spot behind bead. Head cement, if desired, for durability.

Editor’s Note: Dewey Freeman of Little Rock, Arkansas, was a new fly tyer at the 2017 Southern Council Fly Fishing Fair in Mountain Home, AR last October. I met and visited with him during the event and wanted to share a newcomer to the world of demonstration/presentation tying. Mike Stewart - North Grandby, Connecticut - remarked “That this was Dewey’s rookie appearance as a demo tyer. I think he did a great job tying and engaging the public.” And I concurred with that and added “We were quite impressed with his skills and abilities.” So don’t be surprised if you also end up being featured here someday too.
Olive Fan Wing SBS
Son Tao, fly tyer, author and photographer

Introduction:
Quill Fan Wing SBS. Difficulty level is 7/10. Although fan wings aren’t fished regularly anymore due to the difficulty associated with the casting, one can’t deny their beauty. They aren’t the easiest Fly to tie but with a little bit of practice, you can tie them as easily as you’d tie any other dry fly.

Son Tao won the 2017 Healing Waters Fly Tying Contest and maintains a blog on Facebook call the Tao of Flies. Still active duty in the Military and holds the rank of Master Sergeant, he is always eager to teach fly tying to anyone.

Materials List:
Hook: Tiemco 100 or any standard dry fly hook in sizes 8-18. This one is a size 12.
Tail: Coq de Leon. You can sub with hackle barbs
Body: Stripped peacock quill with a light brushing of Solarez Bone Dry UV resin
Hackles: Brown Whiting Herbert Miner saddle and Grizzly Whiting Pro Grade cape
Wings: Wood duck breast feathers
Thread: 70 denier or smaller. I used Semperfli 18/0

Step 1:
Start the thread. Ensure it ends at the 3/4 point.

Step 2:
The hardest part of Fan Wings is selecting the right feathers. You need to find 2 that are about the same size and have a slight curve to them.
Step 3:
Strip the fluff off the breast feathers. Ensure that once the tips are aligned, both feathers are identical to the amount of fluff stripped off. Then pinch both stems together with your fingers.

Step 4:
Transfer the stems to both sides of the hook shank. You want the tie in point to be the last portion of the stem before the barbs begin.

Using a pinch wrap, do 2 loose collecting wrap. Then 2 tighter wraps.

Step 5:
At this point, see if the wings are relatively even and aligned. They do not have to be perfect. We will stand them up and split the wings appropriately later.

Step 6:
Once you’re satisfied with the wings, cinch then down tighter with your thread wraps. Then jump to the front of the wings and do a few tight wraps there to save your work. Then begin building a thread ramp to stand up the wings.
Step 7:
Work your thread back to the stem and while putting tension on your thread, break off the stem waste. You could also snip them off with your scissors.

Step 8:
Now to split the wings. I first do two wraps around the base of the wings to bring them together. Then I proceed to do 2 - 3 figure 8 wraps to split them. At this point, if your wings are still not straight, continue manipulating your thread to get them in the right position. If that still doesn't work, take a razor to it and tie a woolly bugger instead. I'm kidding. It takes a little bit of practice but eventually you'll get the wings aligned. Your thread is your biggest friend.

Step 9:
Once you get the wings split properly, it should look like this.

Step 10:
Take your thread to right before the bend.
Step 11:
Measure out the tail. It should be approximately a hook shank’s in length.

Step 12:
Tie in the tail and smooth out the body and build a taper with your thread.

Step 13:
Tie in the stripped peacock quill.

Step 14:
Wrap the quill. After snipping off the waste, put a light coat of your favorite UV resin to make it more durable. You want a resin that’s very thin line Bone Dry or Loons UV flow.
Step 15:
Prep a grizzly and brown hackle. If this is your first fan wing, just use brown for now. Get the fundamentals down first then move on to 2 or more hackles.
Wrap the brown hackle first. Trim the waste. Then wrap the grizzly hackle. Trim the waste.

Step 16:
When wrapping the hackles, the fan wings will get in the way. There’s really no avoiding it. However, you can grab both wings so that you can get easier hackle wraps. They’re not as delicate as they appear. The wing fibers may also splay during this process. If that happens, just use your fingers and marry them back together.

Step 17:
Whip finish and be sure you apply a small amount of head cement. Good luck! I love tying fan wings.

Son Tao is a Master Sergeant in the US Army. He got his start with fly fishing and tying through Project Healing Waters. Son was given a book about classic Catskill flies 19 months ago and was immediately fascinated with the history and beauty with each of the classic fly patterns.
Son’s attention to detail is evident in his passion for tying Catskill dry flies, nymphs and various trout patterns. He was the winner of the 5th Annual Project Healing Waters National Fly Tying Competition and is on the pro staff for Whiting Farms, Regal Vise, Semperfli, J.Stockard, Moonlit and Hazard Fly Fishing.
I can remember sitting in my first fly tying class with my friends. We were all anxious and eager to learn the basics in order to tie our own flies. We fished for panfish, bass, trout and species in our state lakes and streams. I can distinctly remember the instructor telling us what we would be covering during the weekly classes. He was careful to cover the equipment that we would be utilizing and briefly covered the basic types of feathers, furs, or other materials we would incorporate with six basic patterns. More detailed instruction was forthcoming as we tied each specific pattern. Each session was filled with questions and answers regarding materials, tools and techniques incorporated.

Some instructors/classes will provide the basic equipment to learn from while others will provide a list of supplies necessary to acquire before the class begins. Some classes are offered as a free service while others require a minimum fee to cover the materials and instructor’s time. Since this course was a paid course, the instructor required us to make a purchase before the start of classes. Fortunately, details of the basic tools were provided and could be purchased from a local fishing shop vendor. However these days, many fly fishing clubs have limited numbers of kits available to offer the students the option of learning before purchasing.

**Basic tools**

Basic fly tying tools should include vise (pedestal base or clamp, stationary or rotary), bobbin, bodkin, hackle pliers, and scissors. There are commercial tying kits containing basic components plus some optional tools (available through local or mail-order vendors beginning at $30 and higher). I strongly recommend offering students an opportunity to learn from loaned equipment you are experienced with, especially if you teach on a one-on-one basis as I often do. My preference is a weighted pedestal base stationary vise over clamp stationary vises which require a table edge on which to fasten and is not always a viable option in some locations. Table top thicknesses can be a problem.

**Vise**

A vise must be able to firmly hold a variety of hooks with ease of tightening or loosening the jaws. Adjustment of the vice jaws is important for maintaining the proper grip on the multiple hook sizes used. I started with a Thompson clamp vise originally but quickly moved to a pedestal base (cutting the post length to accommodate a proper height while sitting on a table top in place of being held at a lower position on the table’s edge). Since then I have graduated to using a Renzetti Traveler (rotary pedestal vise) and a Dyna King Professional pedestal vise. And I own other basic pedestal or clamp vises, some with more adjustments than others. Therefore I can show a student the variety of vises available. The key is to keep this stage simple and inexpensive for the student. A material keeper (coiled spring) can be a bonus option for holding loose materials while tying.
Bobbin
A hand-held device that holds thread or floss. One that offers the ability to easily switch thread types is best. Thread control is vital. Thread distributed from the spool centered is best to allow for spinning of the bobbin to loosen or tighten the thread for better control. Often the thread will flatten and need to be twirled to tighten it. Preference of a bobbin tip being ceramic or metal is the often the tier’s choice from experience. The more a tier uses this tool they will find a need to consider multiple bobbins, especially when they incorporate multiple thread colors or types in a given pattern.

Hackle Pliers
This clamp can hold a feather called a “hackle” in order to wind it around the hook with ease. Often the hackle pliers have a ring in which to insert your fingertip providing ease of looping the material around the hook shank. There are other styles of hackle pliers which swivel and are held by a post. Some have vinyl bands or serrations on the jaw tips to improve the holding power. Short feathers will be much easier wrapped when using hackle pliers than your fingers. The most delicate of material can be wrapped closer to its entire length from tip to butt, or vice versa.

Bodkin
This tool is simply a needle attached to a handle. Often used for picking out or separating materials. Helpful in the final positioning of feather fibers. Used to tease dubbing, furs, freeing trapped hackle, apply head cement, or clearing hook eyes after applying head cement. A wooden toothpick (round and pointed) can be substituted for this tool as well.

Scissors
A good sharp pair of scissors is critical. There are a multitude of styles available. I prefer a pair with a fine serrated edge and a smooth edge on opposite blades. The finger loops on the ends of the scissors are important for fitting your fingers into, so make sure there is adequate room. There are heavier scissors better suited for cutting or trim-
ming deer hair or other animal materials. Often two pair are best, reserving the finer scissors for your hackle and threads while using the heavier scissors for rougher materials. I use the serrated edge to saw hackle stems instead of cutting. This avoids cutting the hackle fibers by mistake. Wires are best cut with a pair of snips instead of using your delicate scissor tips. Some folks cut wire on the inside jaw area next to the hinge point.

Optional Tools

Other tools such as flat nosed pliers, bobbin threader, dubbing twister, whip finisher, half-hitch tool, tweezers, hair combs, hair stacker, hair packers, razor blades, wing burners, dubbing brushes, magnifiers, light, hackle gauge, sharpening stone, fly box, hooks, tool caddy and notebook are also handy but not necessary for beginners. There are a variety of these tools which can be purchased or even made.

Dental threader for denture flossing work as well. It is just as simple to trim the thread ends, wet the thread slightly, insert the thread into the bobbin tube and suck from the open end drawing the thread out of the tube.

Flat Nosed Pliers

Flat nosed pliers are used crimping the barb on hooks and other useful purposes. Some water resources are protected by restrictions requiring use of only barbless hooks. The jaws should be smooth and flat surfaced to better handle the variety of hook sizes you may use.

Bobbin Threader

Often consists of a wire loop that slips into the bobbin’s thread tube to draw out the thread from one end to other.

Dubbing Twister

This tool helps you to use your thread to hold fibers and fur between two strands and then twisted. The twisted thread is then wrapped around the hook shank to create a specific style of body. Commercial products are available. Home-made tools can be easily made as well. Or you can utilize a twisted paper clip as an improvised tool.

Whip Finisher

There are multiple types of whip finishing utilized in fly tying. One method used by many skilled tyers incorporates using their fingers only and manual method without other tools. Commercial products include the Matterelli, Griffin and other styles. Notice there are even extended reach whip finishers available. All of these are used to finish the thread on the head or other positions on the pattern.
Half-Hitch Tool

Just as with the whip finisher, there is a method that can be manually applied without tools. Even the simple ballpoint retractable pen tip can act as a half-hitch tool. Sometimes there are graduated sizes of tools and ones with bobbin threader ends or pointed needles. Half-hitches are used to secure material in place before adding more materials.

Tweezers

Small items are picked up easier with this tool. Can be used to separate the feather fibers on married wing patterns or to pick up seed beads for threading onto the hook point.

Hair Stackers

This tool is used to even the ends of hair fibers, either tips or butts. Using a hair comb before removes the underfur before stacking is begun. Hair fibers are then inserted, tapped, and separated to allow the material to be used conveniently in consistent quantities.

Hair Packers

Fingers or tools press the packed or spun hair tighter before additional hair is attached to the body of a fly pattern. Commercial grade packers or even homemade packers aid in compressing deer hair or similar materials. Notice the homemade hexagonal rod, it has different hole sizes in either end to accommodate different hook sizes. After the deer hair or other material is secured to the hook shank, the packer compresses the hair back toward the hook bend direction. More deer hair is attached and the method continues until the hair covers the entire body area.

Hair combs

A fine comb such as an eyelash comb or special hair comb helps with the removal of the underfur from the deer hair before it is used on deer hair patterns. Also used occasionally when dressing a fly pattern. Some folks just use their bare hands to briskly remove the underfur.
Razor blade and shaping tools

Single edge or double edge razor blades are extremely useful for trimming deer, elk or other hollow hair. Commercial blade holders are also available to help contour bass bugs, mouse or other deer hair patterns.

Wing Burners

Wing shapes are achieved by holding the feather and trimming or burning the excess material. Various shapes depict specific wing types or wing cases. This tool requires the use of a cheap butane lighter available at most convenience stores. These often are available in multiple sizes per style.

Dubbing Brushes

Dubbing brushes are used to dress the dubbing on specific fly patterns. Commercial tools are available from a variety of sources. Or you can use Velcro strips to make your own homemade tool.

Magnifier

Using magnifier glasses to improve the sight of the fly tyer is beneficial especially as we age. A magnifying lens mounted on a large arm is appropriate for consistent detailed work. Some have their own built-in light source. Either one will enhance the users ability to tie better and consistent flies.

Light

A light source that focuses light on the fly tying area is often beneficial. Quality light helps in tying. Keep additional lamp bulbs or batteries handy especially when teaching or demonstrating your fly patterns. Battery powered light
sources are more mobile. Electric lamps require a nearby power source. Avoid using extension cords on a long term basis for safety reasons.

**Hackle Gauge**

A simple device which fits the vise rod and suspends in place allowing the measurement of hook and hackle sizes. This tool is helpful when a fly tyer uses a full or partial neck from which to select an appropriate size of hackle based on the hook currently being used.

**Sharpening Stone**

Sharpen the hook point prior to attaching thread, hackle, dubbing or other fly tying material to the hook. A sharp hook is imperative to fly fishing success according to Lefty Kreh and others.

**Fly Box**

An important item in which to deposit your newly tied fly patterns. There are a multitude of styles and shapes. In order to keep your flies clean and neat, it is best to use a slotted or plain foam area in which to attach your flies. Some fly boxes provide water tight protection as well.

**Hooks**

A wide selection of hooks are available catering to the specifications of the fly patterns. This is an essential part to producing a fly. Shown above are hooks that include barb, de-barbed and barbless hooks. Factors like brand (manufacturer), size, hook gap, hook length, hook bend style, weight (wire diameter), eye position (or eyeless types) and material composition are usually specified in a given pattern whether it be for a wet, dry, nymph, streamer and salt water fly pattern. There are even comparison charts available for cross reference of hooks from the major manufacturers.

**Feathers, fur and other tying materials**

The variety of tying materials is endless and will be covered in future publications. Yes, these too are essential to create accurate representations of natural insects.
Head Cement and Adhesives

Cements and adhesives play a role in maintaining the finish of the fly pattern. Most common is head cement applied as the last step of fly tying. Other adhesives such as Superglue and epoxy based products are often used to prolong the life of the fly. UV resins (require UV light source to activate) are applied to coat, seal and provide the finished appearance to certain fly patterns.

Tool Caddy

Commercial tying benches, foam or homemade tool caddies are handy for organizing your work space. These are not entirely necessary because tools and materials could be kept in plastic tubs, bags and boxes just as easily. This homemade version holds tools, threads, hooks, adhesives conveniently. It was made with materials and paint on hand without additional cost except labor and time. It’s small and portable too.

Notebook

Keeping track of my notes is an important step for me, especially the older I age. I sketch images to portray the various steps or construction of a specific fly tying pattern. I add thoughts on how the fly is used in specific situations. If the instructor gives advise for use and cautions those are included. The finishing touch is having the fly tying instructor sign his autograph and date the page.

Conclusion

There is much to teach and learn in fly tying classes. It can become quickly overwhelming for a student. The best instructors provide the information at a pace suitable for all students and give progressive steps to build up knowledge, adding layers from the foundation established earlier. After all, fly tying is more than fastening feathers, fur, dubbing or hide to a hook. You are creating a representation of a natural insect that fish will feed upon. Knowing and maintaining proportions is vital.
January 2018

- January 12-13, 2018 Western Idaho Fly Fishing Expo, Boise, ID http://www.boisevalleyflyfishers.wildapricot.org/BVFF-Expo
- January 19, 20 & 21, 2018 The Fly Fishing Show, Royal Plaza, Marlborough, MA www.flyfishingshow.com/marlborough-ma

February 2018

- February 2 & 3, 2018 The Fly Fishing Show, Infinite Energy Center, Atlanta, GA www.flyfishingshow.com/atlanta/
- February 3, 2018 Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show presented by Buckeye United Fly Fishers The Oasis Conference Center in Loveland OH www.buckeyeflyfishers.com/expo2018/default.html
- February 9 & 10, 2018 Florida Council Expo, Crystal River, FL http://www.ffi-florida.org
- February 17 & 18, 2018 The Fly Fishing Show, Lynnwood Convention Center, Lynnwood, WA www.flyfishingshow.com/lynnwood-wa/
- February 23, 24 & 25, 2018 The Fly Fishing Show, Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, CA www.flyfishingshow.com/pleasanton-ca/

March 2018

- March 2 & 3, 2018 Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association Annual Show, Isle Casino Hotel,1800 Isle Parkway, Bettendorf, IA www.hawkeyeflyfishing.com
- March 3 & 4, 2018 The Fly Fishing Show, Lancaster County Convention Center, Lancaster, PA www.flyfishingshow.com/lancaster-pa/
- March 9 & 10, 2018 NW Fly Tyer Expo, Albany, OR http://www.nwexpo.com
- March 10 & 11, 2018 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, hosted by The Michigan Fly Fishing Club, Macomb Community College Sports & Exposition Center, Warren, MI www.midwestflyfishingexpo.com
- March 16-18, 2018 Upper Midwest Council will be organizing the casting instruction and fly tying for the Great Waters Expo to be held at Hamline University, St. Paul MN http://greatwatersflyexpo.com/

May 2018

- May 4 & 5, 2018 Washington Council Expo, Ellensvurg, WA Details to be provided at a later date.

July 2018

- July 13 & 14, 2018 Contraband Fly Casters 2018 Fly Fishing Expo, Isle of Capri Casino Hotel, Lake Charles, LA. Email contrabandflycastersinc@gmail.com for more information. Check out their website for updates.

August 2018

- August 6-11, 2018 FFI Annual Fly Fishing Fair, Boise ID. Boise Centre, Century Link Arena and The Grove Hotel. Watch for more details in the coming months. Visit http://flyfishersinternational.org/Portals/0/FlyFishingFair/Documents/BoiseHotel_ShuttleInfo.pdf?ver=2017-09-08-160747-630 for more information about making your reservation at our host hotel, The Grove Hotel. Camping and RV information visit https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1NHXL_enUS701US701&q=rv+camping+boise+id&npsic=0&rfllag=1&rlha=0&rla=43613091.116300680.9141&tbm=icl&ved=0ahUKEwiMo-4fa6oTWAhUI22MKHAc9DPUQtgMIKA&rsb=1r2m11e2!3sIAE,lfe1,lf ui:2&rlcloc=1#rlf=hd:si;mv:1m3!1d71710.5474618421!d:116.448562849999973d43.63416164999996!2m3!1f0!2f0!3f0!3m2!1i823!1i298!4f13.1!tbs:rlf:1m11e2!3sIAE,lfe1,lf ui:2.
*Tying Times* is the official newsletter of the Fly Tying Group of Fly Fishers International (FFI). It is published quarterly as a major venue for informing members of projects and upcoming events of interest to them.

Each issue also contains articles that include planning and teaching tying workshops, helpful tying techniques and descriptions of tying materials and their unique characteristics that make them especially suitable for specific tying applications.

It is intended that members may learn something new from each issue that will help them expand their fly tying skills and thus contribute to our mission, which generally is to preserve the art form of fly tying for all fly fishers.

If you are not a member and would like to receive the benefit of *Tying Times*, please join the Federation by using the following URL: [http://flyfishersinternational.org/Membership/MembershipOverview/tabid/779/Default.aspx](http://flyfishersinternational.org/Membership/MembershipOverview/tabid/779/Default.aspx).

Are you interested in contributing to the newsletter? For assistance or to send articles, send them to ftg@flyfishersinternational.org.