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As Bullseye Bonefishing's preferred and only hotel provider in Spanish Wells, this picturesque hotel features six rooms with two queen beds, ensuite bathrooms and a veranda overlooking the pool and marina, as well as a master cottage with full kitchen, large bedroom, two bathrooms and a living/dining area. Amenities include: pool, laundry room, internet, cable TV, and the Wreckers restaurant and bar.

Step out of your hotel room and our bonefishing guide will be waiting for you in our brand new flats fishing boat right at the Yacht Haven dock, ready to take you bonefishing in the best waters in the Bahamas.

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4 Days Private Boat Charter
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FlyMasters Provides The Finest Service, The Best Equipment, and World-Class Experience for The Sport of Fly Fishing.

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**View our
magazine
online**

FlyMasters of Indianapolis
8232 Allisonville Road
Indianapolis, IN 46250
317-570-9811

WWW.FLYMASTERS.COM
Monday – Saturday 10:00am – 6:00pm
Sunday 12:00pm – 5:00pm



FlyMasters Excellent Staff



FlyMasters Fly Fishing School

Beginning Fly Fishing School

We have folks come into the shop all the time asking "where do you fly fish in Indiana?". Believe it or not you can catch many different species of fish within 1 to 3 hours of Indianapolis. Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, White Bass, Hybrid Bass, Striped Bass, Steelhead, Salmon, Trout (Browns and Rainbows), Muskie, Northern Pike, Carp, and sunfish can all be caught on a fly rod! With just a little instruction you can begin to enjoy fly fishing for any of these species in no time at all. Our fly fishing school is a cut above the rest because we work around your busy schedule and make it convenient for you to learn.



Our school offers an introduction to fly fishing, basic equipment, casting techniques, playing and landing fish. The school is divided into three convenient phases to allow you to gain the most out of each session.

Phase One: Introduction to Equipment and Knots (in store phase we schedule at 7:00 p.m.)

Phase Two: Basic fly casting and still water fly fishing (by appointment Monday through Saturday Morning)

Phase Three: Moving water and stream techniques (by appointment Monday through Saturday Morning)

Check our website for the latest dates for Phase I

Phase one of our school is in the shop so we can start people on their way to learning how to fly fish early in the season. Phases two and three are usually on an individual basis, arranged around your schedule. Sessions will vary in length from one to three hours. It is best to have your own equipment, but equipment is available for use. The cost for the entire school is **\$100.00 per person**. Upon completion of the school you will have the basic skills to enjoy the sport of fly fishing.



Fly Fishing Schools make a great gift for Christmas and Birthdays. Just purchase a gift certificate and beginners book and you have a gift that will keep on giving for years to come!



Steelhead - Muskie - Trout - Bass

ESTABLISHED 1996

Fly Fishing - Conventional

Northern Indiana - Southwest Michigan

St. Joe - Dowagiac - Michiana Creeks - Inland Lakes

JAY W ANGLIN

574-210-2844

jay@anglinoutdoors.com





Fly Fishing Clinics

For additional skills training with fly fishing FlyMasters offers a variety of clinics. Including but limited to,

Advanced Fly Casting, working on distance and accuracy

- Two Handed Fly Rod Instruction
- River Smallmouth Bass Fishing
- Nymph Clinic
- Casting Large Flies

These are offered at different times of the year.
Consult our website or call for detailed information
and exact dates and times.



Orvis Fly Fishing 101 If you want to learn fly fishing and get out on the water as soon as possible then our Fly Fishing 101 class is for you. In this you will learn the basics of fly casting, equipment and techniques. The Fly Fishing 101 sessions are all free and are held through out the summer months. Call the shop or check the web site for the next date that we will

be hosting a Fly Fishing 101 session. Reservations are required. You do not need any equipment just an eagerness to learn about fly fishing. All participants receive a savings card for shop merchandise.



Orvis Fly Fishing 201 This class is a one day event focusing on teaching more of the basics of fly casting as well as fly tying. The event is open to anyone who has taken the 101 class or already knows a little about fly fishing and wants to learn more. It is an all day event where you will learn more about fly fishing and you will learn to tie your own flies. As a bonus you receive a free Rod, Reel and Line combo, flies and lunch for the day. We frequently hold this class in Brown County.

 The advertisement for FlyMasters features a collage of fishing-related items. At the top, a fly is shown in flight. Below it, several fishing hooks are scattered. The central focus is a white zip-top bag of "FM600 All Purpose" hooks. The bag is labeled with "Size: 1/0", a barcode, and "Qty: 25". The FlyMasters logo is printed on the bag. Below the bag, a pile of hooks is visible. To the left of the bag, text describes the quality of the hooks.

FLYMASTERS[®]
OF INDIANAPOLIS

FlyMaster's hooks are manufactured from forged carbon steel which are chemically sharpened with a bronze matte finish. The points are needle sharp with micro barbs to help our customers with awesome hook sets. The quality of workmanship in these hooks is unsurpassed. Only the best at FlyMasters!

FM600 All Purpose
Size: 1/0
Qty: 25

FLYMASTERS[®]

FlyMasters Fly Tying Classes

Whether you are a beginner or have been tying for years, we have classes that will help you learn more about fly tying and keep this aspect of fly fishing fresh. There is nothing quite like catching a fish on a fly you have tied yourself. It is extremely satisfying to take a little bit of fur and feather and arrange it on a hook and then spend a whole evening catching fish on what you created. We have two types of tying classes at FlyMasters to cover all levels of fly tying.



- **Beginning Fly Tying Class** where you will learn everything from setting your hook in your vise to tying your first fly.
- **Intermediate and Skills Development Fly Tying Class** is designed to pick up where the beginning class ends and continue to learn new techniques as well as new fly patterns.

**Check our Website for
dates for the Beginning Fly
Tying Classes.**



Beginning Fly Tying The beginning fly tying class is designed for absolute beginners. We will take you through all the steps of setting up our vise and tools to tying 8 different flies. This is a four part class that meets once a week for two hours. There is a class that is held during the week on **Tuesday nights from 7:00 – 9:00pm.** and on **Saturday mornings from 10:00am – 12:00am.** They are the same class in the series just on different days to

provide greater flexibility. There is formal instruction on tools, hooks, materials, thread as well as how to tie flies. The cost of the class is **\$75.00.** This include all instructions, all tools and all materials. This class is open to children seven years or older and adults of all age. Fly tying is a great activity for everyone and a wonderful way to spend an afternoon (especially a snowy one).

At FlyMasters,
we don't discriminate
against the 6 year old
boy or girl who wants
to go fishing



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conventional tackle



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Nightcralwer
Red Wigglers
& Bee Moths





Intermediate and Skills Development Fly Tying

The goal of this class is to provide instruction concerning various tying skills, use of tools and materials, and fly patterns. This class meets for three hours on **Saturdays from 2:00pm – 4:00pm** (usually). Many tiers want to learn new and interesting fly patterns. Some are more interested in other techniques and skills in fly tying. The flies we tie are usually focused on upcoming

fishing seasons as well as flies requested by tiers. We will also throughout the year be focusing on new tying techniques. Whether

learning to spin deer hair, learning about various dubbing techniques or

learning to work with certain materials, we will have special classes that are focused on advancing your tying skills. The cost of this class is normally \$20.00 and all materials are provided. Students do need to bring their own equipment and can check out our web site for each of the classes to see if any special tools or equipment are required for the class. Usually, we will have the flies posted a week ahead of the class on our web site so you can see what we will be tying.

**Check our Website for
dates for the Beginning
Fly Tying Classes.**



These classes are focused on what our customers are interested in learning and in tying. If you have a particular fly you would like to learn or a particular tying technique you would like to master, send us an email or call us with your request and we will get a class scheduled for you!

If there is a class you are eager to attend, registering in advance is the only way to guarantee a seat. Lastly, always check our web site or call us to make certain the class that is scheduled is still taking place. It is very rare but occasionally we do have to postpone or cancel a class unexpectedly.

LONG HAUL OR
DOUBLE HAUL,
DON'T LEAVE
HOME WITHOUT IT.

HARDY

ALNWICK | ENGLAND

Demon Smuggler



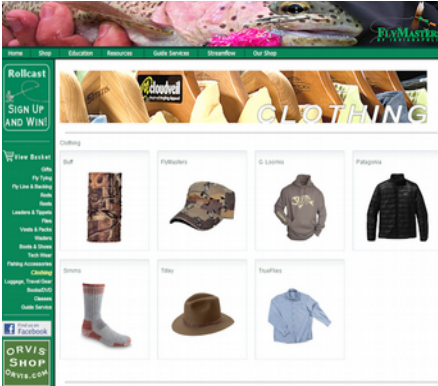
SINTRIX® 330 technology applied to 6 section travel rods delivering unprecedented durability for the adventurous angler. The Demon Smuggler is available in a range of sizes covering many applications in a convenient travel size package. Features include American Tackle titanium stripper guides, medium fast action with high recovery and built-in reel seat hook keeper.

FlyMasters Destinations & Events

At FlyMasters we are constantly investigating new and different places to fish, both near and far. You can count on FlyMasters to research and evaluate waters to fish, guides to hire and lodges for rest. Warmwater, Coldwater and Saltwater are all destinations we fish and help our customers fish every year. We also recognize you might be interested but not know about places to fish. As well you may simply need some exposure to techniques, waters, guides and lodges. That is why we often schedule special "Events" that help keep you connected to fishing when you can not be actually fishing. Some of these events are a few hours in duration and some last all day. All are fun and informative.



Shop Online at FlyMasters.com

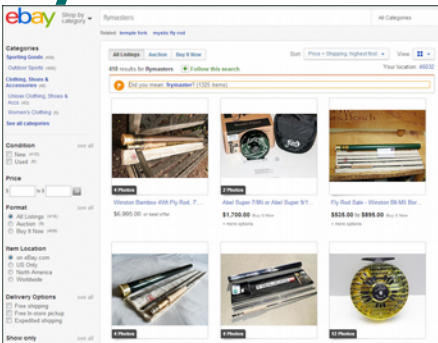


The best shopping experience you can have is to come into our shop in Indy and spend some time with us. However, we understand that is not always possible. Especially, if it is late at night and you are tying some flies and run out of something and want to order it at the moment. It also isn't convenient for all of our out of town customers that always stop by when they are in the neighborhood.

Because of this we have developed our online presence to include shopping. We have many products online currently and are getting more and more each day. You can also elect to have your entire purchase picked up at our shop. Saving you any additional shipping fees. Remember that the next time you are coming to Indy; make your purchase at FlyMasters.com and simply drive in and pick it up. But don't forget to at least say "Hello".



FlyMasters TradeUp Program



Apparently, there are a lot of fisherman and women that have old unused gear collecting dust that they want to put to good use. That is exactly what we do with our Trade-Up program. You bring (or send) in your old rod, reel, tying vise, etc... and we will clean it up and sell it for you on eBay. This is not limited to just fly gear either. All bait casting and spinning gear is welcome. The great thing is you don't have to do anything. We do all the work of cleaning it, photographing it, listing it and handling the sale. You get 100% of the selling price (minus eBay fees) as a FlyMasters gift certificate. You can then shop in the store or online and use it to upgrade to newer and better equipment. Bring all that old dusty



gear from the basement or garage and let us turn it into some green stuff for you. You can then fill that space back up with new and shiny things. Head over to flymasters.com/tradeup.asp for details on Trading Up your old gear.

INDIANA FLY FISHING COMPANY



CENTRAL INDIANA'S PREMIER FISHING GUIDE SERVICE.

Are you new to fly fishing? are a seasoned fishing veteran? We offer something unique to you. Come and spend the day with us, let us row you down one of our scenic rivers in search of some of the finest warm water fish the Midwest has to offer. We will tie all the knots, pick all the right flies, provide all the gear, we will even make sure your well fed!

Indianaflyfishingcompany.com (765)366-3888

About This Years Issue, By Derrick Filkins

This year for our magazine we asked a few people to write about fishing experiences. We are very pleased with the variety of stories that people put to pen. Angling is the oldest sport and the stories about the experiences of fishing are full of adventure and sometimes wisdom. One of the most common expressions we hear in the store is that anglers did not get enough fishing time over the past season. When fishing is not readily available the armchair angler seeks adventure.



Armchair angling takes the form of videos on the web, television angling shows on cable channels, an occasional movie, dvd, or a traveling film show. With these different forms of armchair angling, the writing and reading of fishing stories has declined. What has not declined is the appreciation for a written story or a handwritten thank you note from a friend. It is very easy to hit the delete button on your email but much harder to toss a letter or note from a friend about their last fishing trip.



Angling is a great remedy to reduce the tension and stress of the working days. Writing and reading notes, letters, and stories can be a useful way to rest our minds from a busy day when we cannot wet a line. It is also a way we pass on the sport to our family, friends, or other prospective anglers. The "Angling Seed" can be planted and begin to grow

long before someone picks up a rod. Share your adventures on pen and paper and help others catch the passion of the angling!

FlyMasters Rollcast

The best way to keep up with Angling Events at FlyMasters is The Rollcast, our bi-weekly newsletter about all things happening at FlyMasters and around the Midwest. At FlyMasters we understand all too well just how busy life can get. Work, families, homes, friends and relatives all take up a slice of our precious days. That is where the Rollcast comes in. When you can't spare the time to graze our website, The Rollcast will keep you up to date.

Here is what you will find in the Rollcast.

1. A generalize fishing report for the Midwest. What opportunities exist for fishing and who to contact for more info.
2. Upcoming Fly Tying Classes at FlyMasters, both Beginning and Intermediate Classes!
3. Notices for Fly Fishing School or special Fly Fishing clinics.
4. Announcements about guest speakers at FlyMasters or 4. Midwest Clubs.
5. New products that have arrived in the shop.
6. Upcoming Trips to a variety of destinations
7. Links shop at FlyMasters, eBay or Orvis that take you directly to Fly Fishing products.

FlyMasters Rollcast - 12/11/2015

Greetings!
Tis the season, the shopping season not the fishing season. FlyMasters can help ease your holiday burdens and make your season a little brighter. Whether you shop in our store or online we have plenty of items for the fisherman and woman you love. Stop by the shop, we're glad to see you or see us online. Either way, we hope you are having a wonderful Christmas season.

The Staff of FlyMasters

Things To Look Forward To
Here you will find a quick list of things happening now and in the next few weeks. Plan your calendar accordingly.

December
Steelhead Fishing - With the cool rain this week the Lake Erie Tribe and the Michigan Rivers are seeing more fish in the system. Some guides are not as busy during December since many people have other holiday activities. But that means fewer people on the river. Give yourself a special day during the month of December and go Steelhead fishing. Call the shop for places to go!

Brookville Trout Fishing - With the cooler temperatures the trout in the Brookville Tailwater will start to disperse more along the entire stretch of the tailwater and even into the Whiplash River. Small nymphs still produce well. This time of year streamers can also be effective if the Brookville Reservoir is being drawn down to winter levels.

Tailwaters in the Southern States - Lots of fish and fewer fishermen in the tailwaters in Arkansas, Kentucky, and Tennessee. December is a great month for trout fishing tailwaters. Marc Poulos, 478-405-8789, is a guide in Arkansas who fishes the White and Norfolk Rivers. Give him a call if you would like a couple of days on the river.

New 2016 Product - The boxes are piled up in the store with new product. It will be out by the time November 21 comes along. Reels, rods, clothing, tang materials hooks etc. for you to look at and take home. It is going to be a great year for the novice to expert angler!

These are just the highlights of what is going on. Always check our [web site](#) for the latest news, events, times and dates.

FlyMasters Makes Your Shopping Easier

ORVIS Shop Online

FlyMasters is an Orvis dealer but we do not carry everything here in the shop (not enough floor space). However, you can shop for anything Orvis offers online! Currently, they have all sorts of specials going on for discounts and free shipping that make it more than worth going to holiday shopping online with Orvis. If you or someone you know is just starting out in fly fishing the New Orvis Encounter Outfit is a great way to get started. A well balanced kit with everything you need for only \$1558! There is plenty more Orvis offers that will make your shopping much easier this season.

If you are uncertain just what to get that special someone (who already has everything) then get them a Gift Certificate to FlyMasters! Just like in the shop, you can purchase as many as you like and in any amount you like. You can purchase these online, print them at home and stuff them right in the stocking. Certificates purchased online can be used to purchase products in the shop or on FlyMasters.com. What can be easier? No crowds, no driving around in traffic, and no searching for that "perfect" gift. Purchase a FlyMasters Orvis gift certificate, are perfect for the person who "already has everything" or you are not certain just what they have or what they need.

We love to see everyone in the shop but understand you can not do it all. But you can shop online and save money while saving your sanity. Happy Holidays!

Beginning Fly Tying Classes for 2016
We have had a wonderful turn out for our [Beginning Fly Tying Classes](#) this

Shop Online!

SHIMANO & GORRIS Apparel

ORVIS Shop Online

2015 Magazine in the shop and online

Fly-Fishing for REDFISH

Charlie Crocker's Basic Fly Tying

Fish of Indiana

8. News about new items in our Trade-Up Program.
9. Plus, fun videos and links to other quality Fly Fishing resources on the World Wide Web.

Signing up for the Rollcast is easy. Simply click on the link in the upper left of our website. You can scan the QR code below of this page and you'll be taken to the page to sign up. It is also very easy to unsubscribe if you ever choose too. But who would want to do that? Look for our new Mobile Version of the Rollcast for 2017!



Three Principles for Bonefish Fly Selection

by Darin Ebanks



Fly selection is arguably one of the most frustrating elements in any saltwater anglers quest to consistently catch bonefish. You can spend several hundred dollars and most certainly have what you need for wherever you go. Or you can buy assortment packages online and discover that four out of the three dozen was all the guide wanted. But the rest could be used for bluegill flies. The best method for choosing the best fly patterns for your next bonefishing trip is to apply three principles for making your choices.

1. Carry bonefish flies in various weights.

Sink-rate is the most important factor in a bonefish fly. Bonefish are (usually) bottom feeders. That's where their prey lives—crabs, shrimp, worms, clams, mud-minnows, etc. You want your bonefish fly to sink quickly to the bottom, in 2-3 seconds. This is especially true on sandy flats. Your fly should already be on the bottom when the fish reaches it, so that first strip makes it look like the natural

behavior of frightened prey. If your fly sinks too slow the bonefish can literally swim under it.

WADING vs SKIFF: In most bonefish destinations— Florida Keys , Bahamas , Belize , Mexico —you'll be fishing from a skiff, which means slightly deeper water than wade-fishing. This is where flies like the Gotcha, Crazy Charlie, Clouser Minnow and Merkin really shine. They are generally heavier patterns and will get down to the fish quickly in 2-3 feet of water.



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Wading usually requires lighter bonefish flies. Since you're in shallower water, often mere inches. Bonefish in wading scenarios are often the most exciting, tailing and feeding aggressively. However, they also require a more delicate presentation, and therefore a lighter fly. The flies mentioned above still work, but they need to be tied with tied with bead-chain eyes rather than lead dumbbells. In extreme cases—say calm water, no wind and tailing fish—you might even want “blind” patterns with no weight at all. However, bear in mind that most bonefish flies are actually designed to ride hook-point-up because of how the eyes are tied on. Removing the eyes means the fly will flip over, riding point-down. In areas where there is lots of grass, that means you'll need a weedguard.



Really thick turtle-grass flats requires an entirely different type of bonefish fly.

Turtle grass flats are found in the Cayman Islands, Honduras , Belize , the Florida Keys and some parts of the Bahamas . Unlike conventional bonefish flies, these flies need to sink slowly, giving the fish plenty of time to see the fly before it gets lost in the grass. These flies also **need** weedguards or they will catch grass, hang up and spook fish. You can still use traditional bonefish patterns like Crazy Charlies or Gotchas, but you'll want them tied with small bead-chain eyes. You'll also want to tie them on smaller hooks than usual to eliminate weight—say, a #6 instead of a #4.



2. Match a Variety of Species.

A significant part of their diet is clams and worms, neither of which is known for speed. Bones also feed on crabs and shrimp, both of which are very mobile, but these pray species tend to hide when threatened. Ever walk along a shoreline and seen crabs dart out toward deeper water? They only swim a foot or so then dive to the bottom and hide. If the bottom is soft enough they bury themselves. Shrimp utilize a similar strategy, darting at the approach of danger and then holding still to hide. But, sometimes they keep up a continuous darting retreat.

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Mud minnows also dart from danger, and these are what many guides think bonefish are eating on Bahamas sandy flats. They are also common around coral-rubble flats throughout the Caribbean where short, continuous strips will often entice cruising bones.

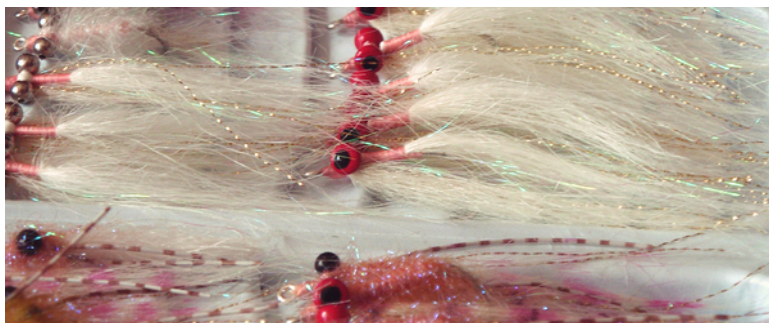
SHRIMP/MINNOW FLIES:

Clouser Minnow
Gotcha
Crazy Charlie
Bonefish Crab
Strip Tease/Rocketman
Bonefish Junk
The Usual
Kwan Simple Shrimp
Vaverka's Mantis Shrimp

CRAB FLIES:

Kung-Fu Crab
Merkin
Del Brown's Bonefish Crab
Simple Crab
Simple Shrimp
Cracy Charlie

As you can see, some flies work for both. Charlies, for example, are suggestive of lots of prey species



from shrimp to sand fleas to minnow and even tiny crabs. However, **not all flies can be fished the same way.** Crab flies, for example, often spin when stripped too fast, putting spooky fish off the bite. That's why a crab fly works best with a slow strip-and-stop retrieve, watching the fish for the pickup. Clousers, on the other hand, work great when stripped quickly, and have an enticing jigging action when fished with a staccato strip-stop-strip-stop retrieve. However, they don't work as well lying on the bottom.

Bottom line, you need to have flies that fish well when stripped quickly and flies that work just sitting there. Here are flies broken down by retrieve:

STRIPPING FLIES:

Clouser Minnow
Strip Tease/Rocketman

SLOWER/SITTING FLIES:

Vaverka's Mantis Shrimp
Bonefish Junk

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Gotcha
Bonefish Junk
Crazy Charlie
Kung-Fu Crab

The Usual
Strip Tease/Rocketman
Del Brown's Bonefish Crab
Kung-Fu Crab
Simple Shrimp

Again, some flies work well for both, usually patterns with lots of realistic elements—rubber legs, eyes, splayed/defensive posture, etc. These elements are convincing when a fly is left to sit on the bottom



for the inspection of a picky bonefish. However, unless incorporated correctly, they can make a fly ride sideways or spin when stripped too fast. That's why only a few flies work well for both types of presentation. The Bonefish Junk, Strip Tease, Kung-foo Crab and The Usual are examples of this versatility. They can all be tied with lead dumbbells or bead-chain, and track straight when stripped. Of these The Usual is probably the best

for delicate presentations to tailing fish, since it's tied from softer, fuzzy materials that lessen the impact.

3. Know Your Flats.

Not all flats are the same, and that means the fish on those flats will feed differently. For example, over sandy bottom a bonefish fly will silhouette very well, so bones can see it from maybe 10 feet away. Also, on these flats the pray is more likely to run than hide, since there is little structure to hide behind. (The exception to this is crabs, which will try to bury themselves in the sand. So, crab flies can still be fished with a strip, stop retrieve, and watch for the pickup.)

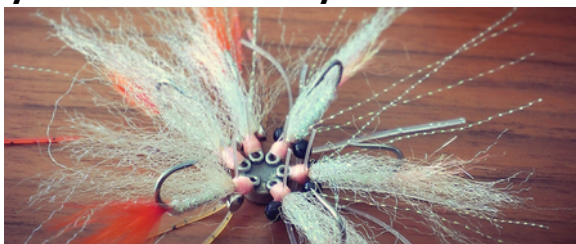
This is why classic flies like Gotchas and Crazy Charlies work so well over sandy bottom: they are great when stripped and have a strong silhouette. They are also usually heavier because you're casting farther ahead of the approaching fish and the fly needs to be near or on the bottom



before the fish sees it.

On the other hand, **grassy flats call for very different flies.**

Imagine a knee-deep turtle grass flat. Now imagine that the grass is ankle height. That leaves a window of about 12-18 inches over the grass for the bonefish to see your



fly. Once the fly sinks into the grass it's lost. Also, the fly won't silhouette over grass the way it does over a clean, sandy bottom. That means it's harder to get the fish to see the fly. Finally, fish simply can't see as far ahead in those conditions, so the fly has to be presented a lot closer to the fish in order to get them to see it. This calls for much lighter flies that land quietly.

SANDY FLATS

(HEAVY/SPLASHY FLIES):

Gotcha
Crazy Charlie
Clouser Minnow
Merkins
Kung-Fu Crab.

GRASSY FLATS

(QUIET/TAILING FLIES):

The Usual
Yarn Crab (bead-chain)
Simple Shrimp
Kwan

Bottom line: you don't have to carry a hundred bonefish flies with you. You just need a variety of weights, sizes and shapes. Get them with weedguards if you can—you can always cut them off, but they're hard to add—and make sure they're tied on strong hooks. Given variously weighted shrimps, crabs and minnows, I feel confident about catching bonefish almost anywhere in the world.



FLOATER TO FAST SINKER
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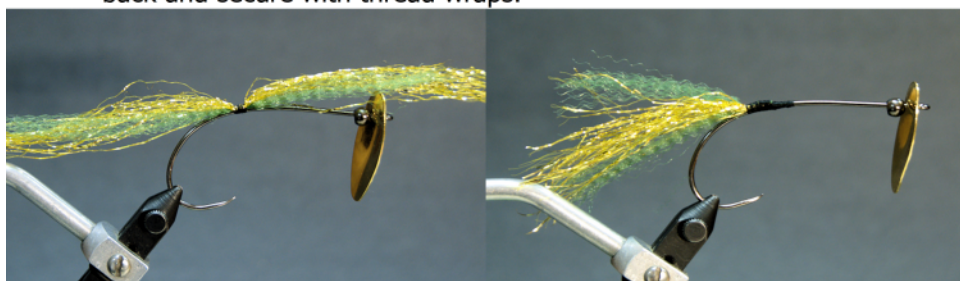
Spinner'd Minkie

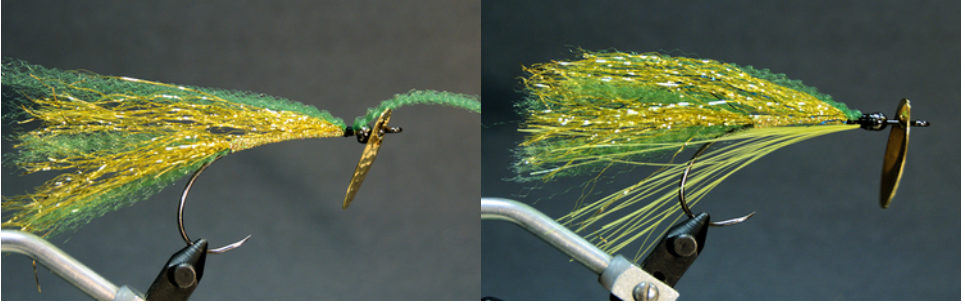
For Pike and Muskie

- Hook:** Ad Swier 6/0 Black Nickle Absolute Pike Hook. It is a Partridge Hook made by Mustad—Barbless hook with offset point and perfect size wire to penetrate easily without surrendering strength. It is the perfect Pike Fly Hook, IMO.
- Thread:** Black FlyMasters + or 210 Denier
- Blade:** #4 or #5 Inline Gold Hammered Blade.
- Bead:** 1/4 or 7/32 Black Bead.
- Tail:** Gold Holographic Flash. No substitute. Olive to Black/Olive top wing of your choice. I use Green Supreme hair because of its durability. On a sunny day I will darken the top of the wing with a black marker.
- Body:** holographic gold braid
- Overwing:** Gold Holographic Flash, Olive to Black/Olive top wing of your choice
- Underwing:** Fl Yellow Supreme hair or similar product. When I fish this fly in low light I use glow-in-the-dark flash for the underwing. Spirit River has Fl Yellow glow mylar that is very phosphorescent.

Instructions:

- 1) Use a 3/32 drill pit to make the hole in the spinner blade larger. Drill it at the same angle and leave the burred edge facing forward. You want the back side of the hole smooth so that it rotates with less friction on the bead. Slide the blade over the hook with rounded portion forward. Then slide on the bead with the larger opening facing to the rear.
- 2) At the end of the hookshank tie in Supreme hair for a tail. Then tie the holographic gold flash on top of the Supreme hair. Fold both of them back and secure with thread wraps.





- 3) Tie in the holo gold braid on top of the tail section and wrap it forward. Stop the wrap $\frac{1}{2}$ " behind hook eye. That measurement includes the hook eye.
- 4) Tie in more gold holo flash, fold back and wrap over the fold. Just four or five wraps is enough. Super glue will bind the wraps and secure the bead. Tie in your Olive Supreme hair, fold back and secure with 4-5 wraps of thread.
- 5) Then tie in your Fl Yellow Supreme hair and/or the Spirit River Fl. Yellow glow mylar. Put super glue on the thread, push the bead over the wraps. Sometimes it helps to pinch the wraps and material into a round profile.

Make them as long as the baitfish you are imitating. A fish eats what is most abundant. And the young of the year species outnumbers matures by the thousands. (The other color combination used frequently is A silver blade with black over white using silver holo flash. We call it the Policeman!!!)



Joe Zienowicz May 2010 on Gould Lake in Ontario, Canada
 Fox Statler was the creator of the Spinner'd Minner fly. Thanks Fox!

Fishing With Eli

by Garry Zick



My father taught me to love the outdoors and of all the different skills I have learned fly fishing has been my favorite. For me helping people familiarize themselves with the sport has been an interest of mine for some time. When it is a son, daughter or grandchild it is even more special. My eleven year old grandson Eli has taken to fly fishing these past couple of years learning to cast, fly tying, and skills of hooking a wide variety of fresh water fish.

We have taken trips to the upper peninsula of Michigan, Canada and lakes, rivers and creeks around our home in Michigan. He is gifted in tying and the ability to follow instruction which makes the appreciation of fishing all the more enriched even at a young age.



Recently I asked him what is the best day of fishing he has experienced so far. Without hesitation he said northern pike fishing in Anjigami Canada last summer. It is a place my father Harry took me 45 years ago that has been a special go to spot all these years. It is a secret water that I like to take good friends and family to that brings warm memories to the soul. There is a spot we call Harry's hole that is a perfect scenario for pike with

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stumps in shallow back water at the convergence of three rivers.

It was a morning you would dream about when the wind was quiet, bugs

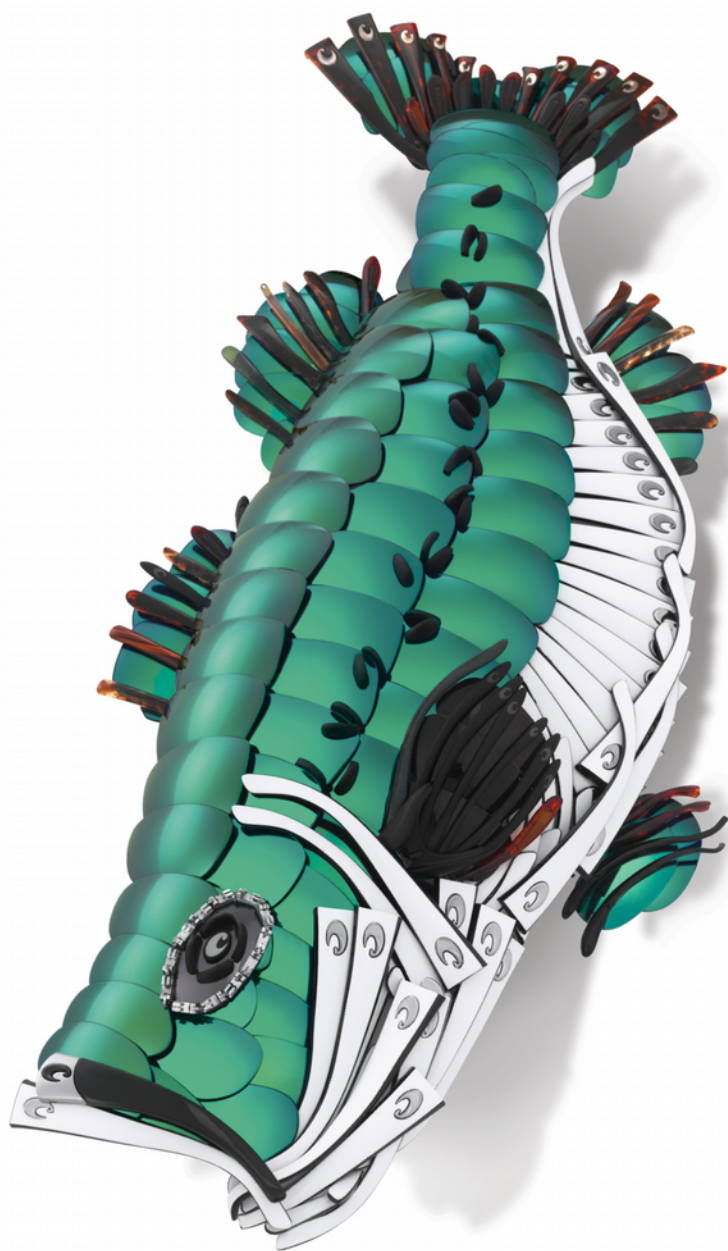


were down, and the water was clear. We quietly poled around the flat when Eli saw a nice fish laying next to some structure. Without hesitation he laid a cast just within the predators feeding area. The next second his red and white zonker the he had tied disappeared with a flash. He strip set and the fight was on with Grampa cheering him on. Eli is a young man of few words but you could read his

eyes and what he was experiencing. After a picture and some high fives he slipped the pike back in the water with a big smile and one word, "WOW!".

As he hooked more fish through out the day his confidence and skill increased with each fish. I wonder if my father ever thought that his great grandson would be hooking pike in the same unchanged waters that he discovered many years ago? When I asked Eli what he likes most about fly fishing he said " I like catching different kinds of fish " but he will always remember his first pike at Harry's hole.

Garry Zick
December 2016



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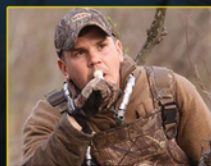
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JUST PLAYN IN THE MUD

by Jay Anglin

If you are reading this, there is a pretty good bet you are an avid angler. You love fishing and go through life with a near constant urge to go fishing and do anything related to fishing. You swing by "the shop" to wander through the aisles filled with stuff you want. And if all goes well, you buy something. You talk about fishing as often as possible.

We anglers spend time on the internet and follow Social Media pages that deal with current fishing related issues or better yet, reveal new, great spots to fish - better ways to catch fish. We are members of clubs and organizations that focus on conservation and the environment and even use fishing as a way to heal our minds and bodies.



We hire guides to take us fishing. Sometimes, we even take a kid fishing as most avid anglers have a near insatiable desire to spread the word of fishing. Fishermen take vacations with friends and family and often travel to distant destinations with them. Fishing is one of the greatest excuses there is to take time off of work and thankfully, most bosses understand that.

Yet, so many of us try to choose the fishing path for our friends, family and

perhaps most importantly, the youngsters in our midst. We decide for them, what type of fishing they do – the kind of equipment they use and the species they target. It's a tad bit authoritarian when you think about it.



In the big scheme of things, any fishing is better than no fishing at all. As my friend, Brent Wheat puts it, "Kids just want to catch fish and play in the mud". Trust me, no truer words have ever been spoken. Brent should know, he grew up tromping up and down

the banks of Sugar Creek near Crawfordsville, Indiana. Many of us can tell similar tales of our childhood. Charlie Creek in Wabash, Indiana was my wonderland.

Sadly, society has become so pedestrian and addled with modern technology that makes the natural world seem trivial. Entire generations never caught crawdads in "the crick" out back or wrecked a perfectly good pair of jeans playing with their neighborhood buddies.

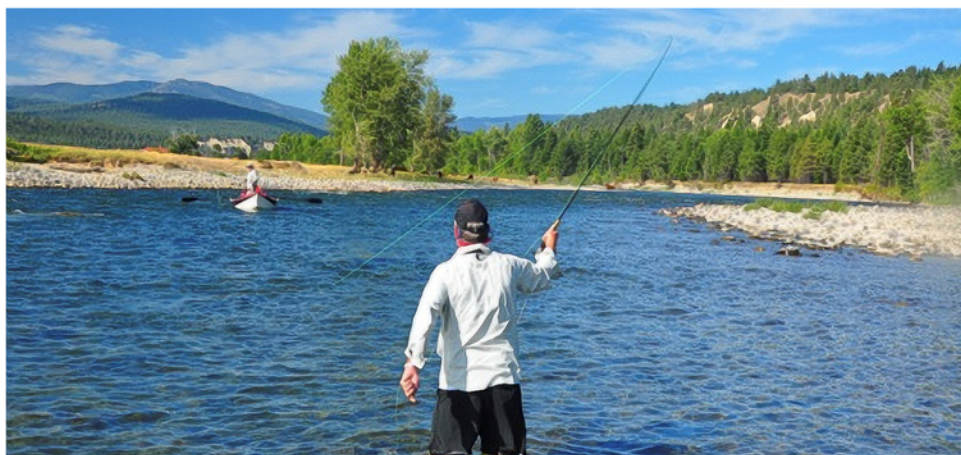
I have a pretty good pulse on these things - I've been guiding for over twenty years and I have five children of





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my own. Of course, I do my best to make sure my kids “get it”. But, even with all the resources my kids have including boats and all the fishing equipment imaginable (not to mention a fishing guide for a dad), it’s difficult for them to get away most of the time. Their lives are filled with after school activities such as clubs and sports. As soon as one thing ends, something else starts. It often pains me that they don’t have time to do the things I did as a kid.

While my parents enabled my fishing, nobody truly chose my pathway for me. I figured things out for myself. My fishing odyssey started with a cane pole, a can of worms and a fifty-cent bobber. I caught bluegills off a dock on Lake Tippecanoe in Northern Indiana and to this day it was one of the greatest things I’ve ever experienced. It was magical.

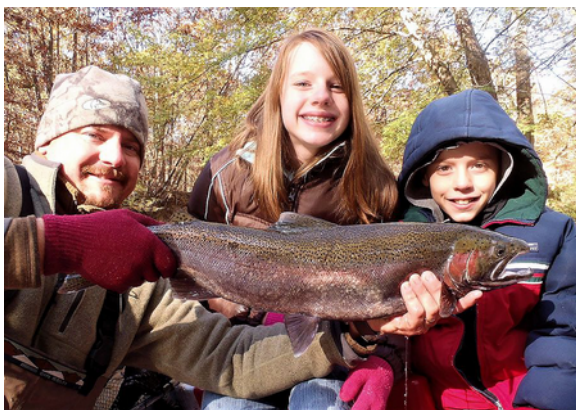


My brother referred to them as “blue-gales” and we caught them as fast as we could bait our hooks. Most of them weren’t “keepers” but that wasn’t the point for us. We weren’t doing it just to catch fish to eat, we were doing it because it was fun.

I was immediately obsessed with fishing. I couldn’t get enough. I baited my own hook and handled the fish I caught. I’m quite certain my parents assumed their eldest son was not an average fisherman, and maybe even

exceptional. But, the truth of the matter is I was just like most other kids that liked to fish. In fact, many of my buddies had more fishing experience than I did.

Once I caught the fishing bug, I was nearly insatiable. My friends and I would ride our bikes down to the river in our hometown Wabash, Indiana. Sometimes, we'd fish the main river but usually we'd stick to the side-channels and



tributaries such as Treaty Creek. I don't think too many kids do that anymore. You don't often see them riding bikes with fishing rods strapped to the handle bars.

That's where I caught my first smallmouth bass. My first walleye and crappies. The Wabash River bottoms filled my dreams but one summer I learned to fly fish in Northern Michigan and everything changed for me. While I didn't live in trout country, I was anxious to try flies on the smallmouth closer to home. My parents gave me a fly-tying kit for Christmas and I feverishly tied during the winter months. Some flies



worked and others, not so much. Fly fishing became my new passion and eventually lead to my profession.

Looking back, I realize a few special individuals prodded me along the way.

But, not once do I remember anybody telling me that fishing had to be

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done a certain way. No mentor ever forced me to fish with specialized equipment or only fish at exotic destinations. Fishing could be done just about anywhere using any style of tackle. I was never shamed for catching fish one way or the other.



I didn't have a fancy rod or reel and I didn't have waders or a polarized-sunglasses. None of those things mattered to me though, I just wanted to go fishing. As a guide, I am fortunate enough to occasionally see

glimpse of that magic in others eyes. Even adults, with all the stresses and responsibilities of life act a lot like kids when they first learn how to fish or catch a species they've never caught. It seems like it always works that way. It's kind of amazing really.

Most guides will tell you they do it for the occasional glimpse of how we once felt when we caught the fishing bug. Our fortune is not measured with dollars and cents but we are rich with memories. Year after year we are recharged with a little bit of that energy when we see the big smile as an angler lets a fish they just caught slip back into the water. Maybe kids smile a little bigger but when it comes to fishing but it's never too late to get started and there a lot of folks out there that need anglers like you and me to show them the way.

Jay Anglin
Anglin Outdoors

Threads, Feathers and a Goodnight's Rest

by Son Tao

After 16 years in the United States Army, I've seen terrible things that Mother Nature and human beings can do. I've seen young men taken away before they even started their lives. It's difficult to fathom the



innumerable sufferings that many people go through in the world but once faced by these difficulties, it becomes a challenge to live with those memories.

From the atrocities in Serbia to the ongoing fight with Islamic extremists, my nights were often sleepless. After my last combat deployment to the Middle East, I returned a different

person. From the multiple combat deployments, to losing Soldiers to recovering from multiple surgeries, my mind said enough was enough. I crawled into a dark place.

That was when I was introduced to fly tying. As I was drowning my pity in alcohol one night, a retired veteran noticed the pain I was going through and had the courage to ask me if I enjoyed fishing. In which case, I answered, "Yes. I haven't fished in years but I used to love it as a kid." He proceeded to ask me if I fly fish. I informed him I had started to fly fish prior to joining



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the service but haven't touched a fly rod in over a decade.

I was born in Vietnam, lived in a refugee camp in Malaysia for 17 months and finally settled in Pennsylvania. During my youth in Pennsylvania, I experienced the joys of fishing. From bass to trout, there were no waters or species that I didn't go after. Life was easy until September 11, 2001. Following 9/11, I gave up a career as an electrical engineer and enlisted into the US Army.



That old, crusty Korean War vet asked me to come back to the VFW the next night to show me how to tie flies. I agreed and met him the following day. After three hours of listening to fishing tales and facts about threads and feathers, I went home and had the first restful night sleep in 6 months. I was hooked.



That conversation took place less than two years ago and since then, I purchased my first vise in April 2016 and have tied hundreds of flies. No doctor or medication can compare to the mental therapy fly

tying has provided me. The sense of calm, the concentration and the enjoyment has made me a bearable person to be around with once again.

The traits I learned from the service naturally transferred to fly tying. My first flies were a wreck but determination, attention to detail and the desire to succeed kept me going. I was not about to let threads and feathers beat me.

Son Tao, Fishers, Indiana US Army Sergeant First Class, Active Duty





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MAKING THE BEST OF LESS THAN IDEAL CONDITIONS

Some days the best laid plans go awry. In early October 2016 I had a trip booked with Derrick to float the White River north of Noblesville for smallmouth. There had been a lot of rain the previous week but we anticipated the river would have had a few days to settle down. When we got to the put-in the river was the color of chocolate milk and neither one of us said anything but we were both thinking "No Bueno", but we decided to make the best of it. Derrick went to a hole that was very good a few days before but unfortunately this was a different day and after an hour of trying several different presentations with no takers it was time to move on. Drawing on some of my conventional bass fishing experience I decided to try to hit tight little pockets in the cover and fish the fly as slowly as possible. The conditions dictated that with the poor visibility the fish weren't going to chase or probably even see a fast retrieved fly. By making this adjustment I was able to



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hook and release 12-14 fish over the next 4 hours or so including a few solid fish in the 2-3 lb range. All of them came on the same chartreuse/white weighted fly dead drifted into small pockets tight to the cover.

After a very nice stream side lunch of smoked duck, seafood pasta, and a glass of white wine [Derrick knows how to do it right] we moved on. Continuing with the same fly and presentation we caught a few more smallmouth and rock bass. It being a 13 mile float and the days getting shorter we were pushing through an S-bend when I caught a glimpse of a few bait fish skipping across the surface. We decided to row back up and investigate. My first six casts up current and dead drifted or very slowly stripped resulted in six smallmouth caught and released. Over the next 60-90 minutes [we lost track of time] we brought somewhere between 40 and 50 smallmouth to the boat from an area not much bigger than my 40' x 22' swimming pool. It was so crazy we couldn't stop casting and laughing. We kept thinking it had to quit but it didn't until we decided we had to stop because it was getting dark and we still had an hour row out in the dark by flashlight.



The lessons to be learned are several. First, have a plan but be prepared to change the plan to fit the conditions. Second, don't give up. Patience and perseverance are often rewarded and turn a potentially bad day into something much better than expected. Lastly, be observant and let Mother nature help you. If I hadn't seen those few bait fish skipping across the surface we would have rowed right by that school of smallmouth. For a day that started out "No Bueno" it ended "Muy Bueno"!

Thanks Derrick.

J. Michael Perez MD

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1) Make thread base & leave thread on rear kink



2) Cut slit in foam for rear kink



3) Two wraps of thread around foam and pull thread down



4) Three wraps around four rubber legs and pull thread down



5) Make thread head, whip finish and cement head



6) Slide legs to the sides of foam body



10 Fly Tying Tips

by Ian Anderson

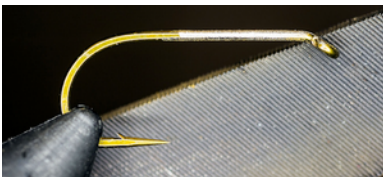


About the only thing that fly tiers love more than new fly tying materials is a tip or trick that will make tying flies easier, quicker, or just plane more enjoyable. After tying flies for many years I have learned my fair share of tips and tricks but am always amazed at often news ones come around. I even pick up new things from the beginning fly tying students that I teach. Maybe that's what makes tying flies so wonderful, you are always learning new things.

That said, this article is all about some tips and tricks that will help you with you fly tying and make your time at the vise more pleasant. Some are simple and well known tricks and others are things most tiers don't think about. Either way, I am certain this is one or two tips in here that will help you.

#1 File Your Shank

Have you ever had a fly, one you tied or bought, that after catching a few fish starts to spin on the shank? It behaves as though it wasn't quit tied on the shank of the hook tight enough. Which might be the case but sometimes this phenomenon is a factor of the hook itself rather than how well the fly was tied. There is a way to safeguard against this. Simply file the shank of the hook before you start tying your flies.



All modern hooks are made out of steel. However, steel itself corrodes very quickly when exposed to water. Because of this, hook manufactures apply a lacquer coating to the steel hook (I am talking about the freshwater 'bronze' hooks here to make them more corrosion resistant. If you tie your fly right on top of this lacquer coating then your fly will not really be attached to the hook if the lacquer coating breaks away from the steel. This is the reason (one of them) why many tiers apply a base layer of thread to the hook before they start to tie their flies.

The easy solution is to file away the lacquer coating before you start tying your fly. There are files for sale through fly shops that are made for this job but you can also use a common steel file you get at your local hardware store. Take a few swipes at the hook shank trying to remove just the lacquer around most of the hook shank. When you start tying your fly, cover the now bare shank with a layer of thread. This will provide better friction and keep the resulting fly from sliding around the hook shank.



#2 Only One Thread Color



Fly tiers are pack rats by nature. This might be due to the fact there are so many flies to tie and we never have all the materials we need so we hoard what we have. Or maybe we are fly tiers because we are hoarders. The Zen of fly tying! Big questions aside, there is one particular fly tying material you can simplify, if you want. All you need is one thread color to tie all your flies; white.

Roughly, 95% of the flies you tie end up where the only thread showing on the fly is at the head of the fly. So why not simplify your tying by using white thread

and coloring it with a permanent marker when completing the head and whip finish. Really, most of us only use about ten different colors in our fly tying and five of those cover 80% of our flies. So, get yourself some Copic markers, Prismatic Markers or Sharpies in the colors you use most. Then color about 3 to four inches of the thread to complete the Whip finish. Now your fly has a head in the color you want and you have less threads to manage.

One note, make certain you check to see if your favorite head cement is compatible with the particular permanent mark you use. Some head cements will cause the ink in the marker to run and the white



What is Our TradeUp Program

by Don Rollins



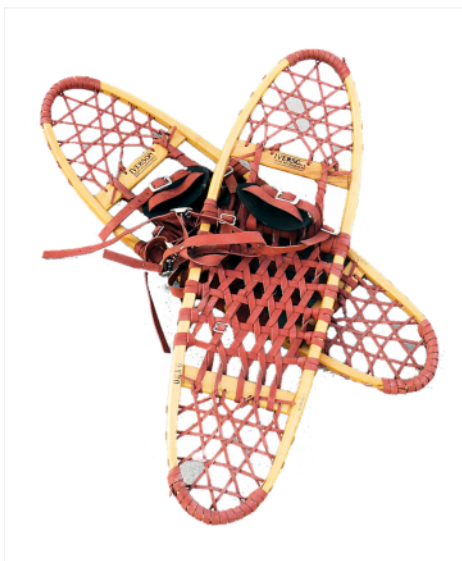
Soon the FlyMasters TradeUp Program will begin its 7th year. Never did we dream that so many people would have used, and sometimes very lightly used, outdoor equipment that they wanted to convert to a FlyMasters TradeUp Certificate that they could use to buy new equipment.

FlyMasters TradeUp Certificates can be used to buy anything in the shop, any item that we can order for you from the many name brands that we carry (including Orvis), and any item that is listed for sale in our FlyMasters Web Store.

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thread will show through. Usually, a Copic marker works well because it is an alcohol based marker. There are also oil based Sharpies available that will keep the ink from running. You could also put a base coat of head cement on the stained head and top it off with another coat of your favorite head cement.

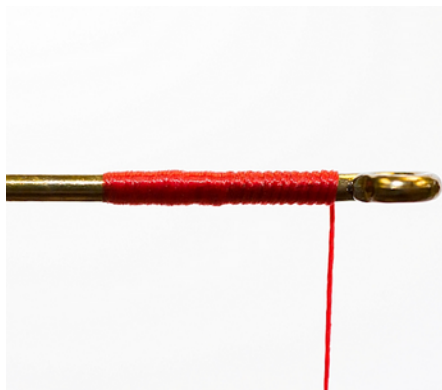


#3 Keep it Flat or Have A Twist

Your tying thread is the proverbial glue that holds your flies together. Being such a simple thing you would not think that fly tying thread could be a complicated issue but there are many facets to thread that effect the durability and quality of your fly. One such property is whether the thread comes off the spool twisted or flat. A twisted thread is stronger but a flat thread is smoother so, which should you use?



First, understand that a thread is twisted (clockwise) on the spool to simply help the thread from drifting apart while you are using it. Any twisted thread that you use can be flattened by spinning the bobbin counter clockwise. Also, be aware that as you wrap your thread around the hook you are putting in a 1/2 clockwise twist for every revolution around the hook. So if you are already using a twisted thread you are twisting it tighter as you wrap thread on.



There really is no one solution because for different flies or at various stages of tying a fly it might be better to have a twist and at other to have the thread flat. I prefer a thread to come off flat so if I need a twist I can put it in. This way I can untwist is when needed, like when putting in the whip finish. The thread in this image is UTC Ultra thread and it has a very slight twist in it (take a look at the fist image) but for the most part

comes off flat. I can use it to have a nice flat base or even for the bodies of small flies but if I need something stronger or something with more of a segmented look I can easily twist it up. As you can see the thread is very different whether it is flat or twisted when it is wrapped on the hook. The end decision is both have their place in your flies.

#4 Keep Materials Separate



If you want to keep your natural materials in good condition make certain to keep them in the original bags they come in and separate from your other materials. Natural materials, we're talking fur and feathers, are harvested from live animals. Sometimes these animals are breed and raised for human consumption or use and the fur or feathers are a byproduct of the harvest. Various chickens, turkeys, pheasant, deer, rabbit, and cows are a few of the common animals

that fall in this category. However, many "wild" animals are also processed and used in fly tying. Bear, Moose, Elk, wild Turkey, grouse, Wood Duck, and partridge are some of the common 'wild' fly tying materials. Even though all of these are processed (meaning washed or bleached or dyed or tanned) sometimes small creepy crawly bugs remain. Mostly eggs that somehow survived the processing of the materials. If you buy your materials and then throw them in a bin with all your other feathers or furs you run the risk of these little buggers chewing up all of your other materials.

When you buy your furs or feathers they come in a air tight bag. Make certain to place them back in the same bag as they came in in order to insure they are preserved for as long as possible. If you happen to harvest and process your own materials make certain to place them in an air tight plastic [Ziploc] bag. This will make certain if they have any insects they will not get into you other materials.

If you keep your materials in their original packaging you can preserve them longer. Plus, you'll know just what the heck you have in your box of furs. If you lump them all together you might not be able to tell the Arctic Fox, from the Temple Dog, or the Red Fox fur. Make it easy on yourself and make them last.

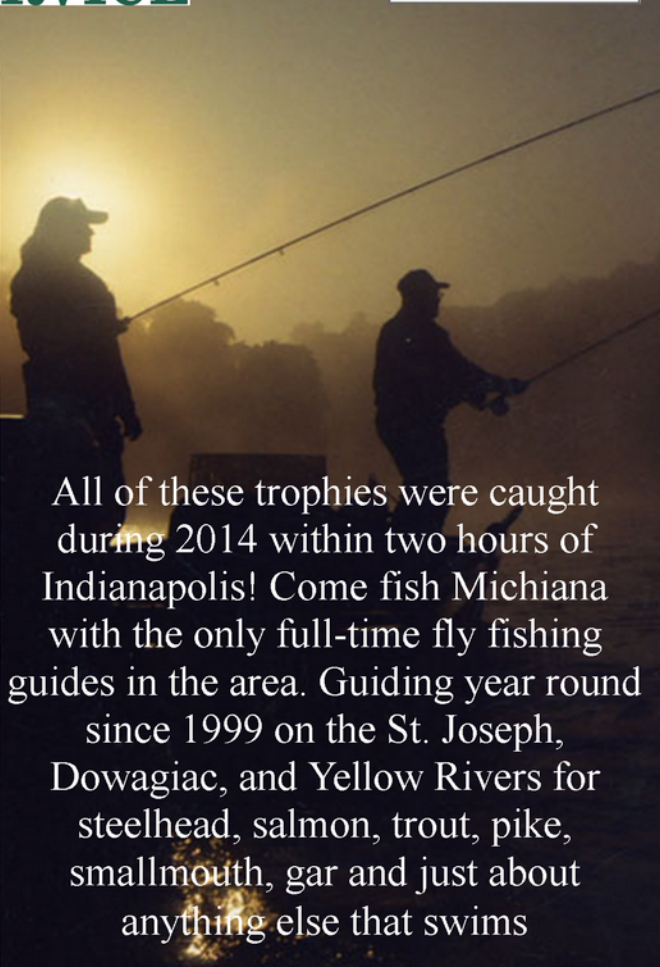
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#5 Inventory Your Materials

I first wrote about the following method of inventorying and keeping track of your fly tying materials on Dressed Irons for FlyMasters. The short version of that article is that you can use a spreadsheet to keep track of (inventory) your fly tying materials. The process is quite simple. The actual follow through on keeping up with it can be more difficult.

[illegible]

Here is how it works.

1. Create a new spreadsheet.
2. Label worksheets for different categories of materials (i.e. hackles, dubbing, hooks, threads, etc...)
3. Place the various colors for the specific materials across the top.
4. On the left place the name of the specific material.
5. Where the color and the name intersect you can place an 'X' to indicate you have it or a number to indicate how many units of that item you have.

Now you have to go through all your stuff and add it to the spreadsheet. The nice thing is you can upload it to a Dropbox folder and keep updated copies on you smart phone at all times. That way when you are in your favorite fly shop picking up some materials for a new fly you can check to see if you already have the Estaz you need instead of buying yet another one.

#6 Learn About Dubbing

There are many different techniques that are used to produce flies. One of the most common techniques involves applying dubbing to flies. There are many different types of dubbing and almost equally as many ways of applying it to a hook. This tip is about helping you learn all about dubbing and how to use it in your fly tying.

One very common practice, one that most beginning fly tiers learn, is to place some wax on the thread before you twist your dubbing on the thread. This type of technique is very common in smaller flies. However, a

better method is to not put the wax on the thread but on your finger instead. The dubbing material stays on the thread due to the act of twisting the material on the thread not because of the wax. When you place the wax on your fingers (thumb and index) it actually provides the "grip" you need to twist the dubbing materials on the thread. Plus, by not putting the wax on the thread it makes it easy to slide the twisted dubbing material on the thread up to the hook to start wrapping it on the hook.

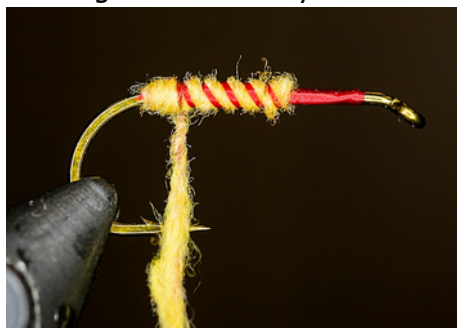
If you want to know more about dubbing and the various way of applying it (and you should) then you can read the article on The Limp Cobra (thelimpcobra.com), A Complete Dubbing Techniques Tutorial. You'll learn more than you thought there was to know.

#7 Dub in Layers

For some fly tiers, dubbing can be a complete mystery and full of frustration. Dubbing loops are not too difficult. It is an easy process to place some stuff between two pieces of thread and then twist it up. But when it come to twisting dubbing on thread they can never seem to get it quite right so they have



a nice tapered body. Usually, way too much dubbing material is placed on the thread and the resulting body looks like a dust bunny from under the couch. The easy solution is to think in terms of layers; like onions and Ogres. If you dub you body in layers your can get it perfect every time.



When you begin to apply your dubbing to the thread make certain to put on about half of what you think you need and then half of that. Make your dubbing noodle very sparse and about 1 to 1 1/2 inches long. Wrap the dubbing on the hook up to where the body ends. Then wrap your thread back down about 3/4 of the body to the tail. Apply another dubbing noodle (a little shorter) to build up the body and the taper. Then bring



your thread back down between 1/4 and 1/2 of the body. Apply another short dubbing noodle to finish off the body and the taper. If needed, you could even apply a small amount at the end of the body to get the taper just right.



By applying your dubbing in small layers you have greater control over the resulting body. It might take a little more time but in the end your flies will look better, last longer and you will gain more experience in this method of dubbing. Eventually, you will be able to apply the correct amount of dubbing on

the thread in the correct manner to complete the dubbed body in one attempt.

#8 Save Your Cement

As fly tiers we have all experienced it at one time or another. A time when you are not tying flies as often as you would like or have the opportunity. Months go by and you have been busy with other aspects of life. Then the day comes you have to scratch that itch. You get your materials out and tie up a fly and your having a great time. Until you go to open your bottle of head cement and the remaining contents are not liquid anymore but are as solid as a rock. Chuck it, bottle no good. To bad too, because it had hardly been used.



Obviously, the reason the head cement dried up is because the lid is not sealed up all the way, even when you screw it on as tight as you can. The problem has to do with the paper gasket in the lid. When the lid is first screwed on the gasket compresses onto the imperfections of the bottle and creates an air-tight seal (think of canning jars). When you unscrew the lid for the first time it breaks this seal and it will never go back on exactly as it was before. Therefore, you have lost your air-tight seal. Lucky for us there is an easy way to remedy this problem.



You can easily regain that air-tight seal by applying a small amount of petroleum jelly (Vaseline) to the lid threads on the side of the bottle. Using a Q-Tip you can smear a thin layer of jelly on the outside of the bottle along all of the threads that keep the lid on. Now when you reattach the lid the jelly will create an air-tight seal.



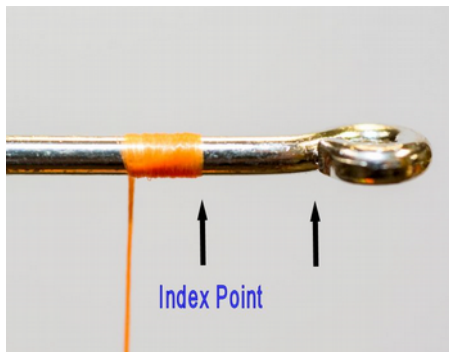
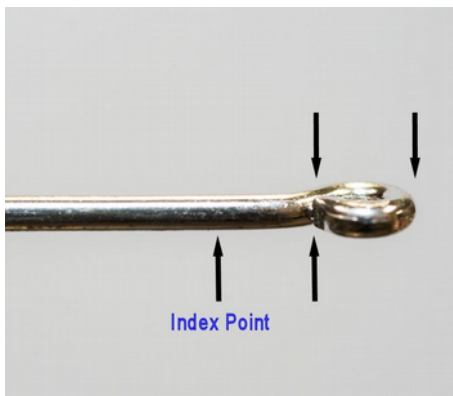
A word of caution though... make certain you do not get any petroleum jelly around the top rim of the bottle. Otherwise, when you place your bodkin in the glue and rub it on the inside of the rim of the bottle to remove the excess you will be picking up petroleum jelly and applying it to your fly. Also, take some care in placing the lid back on as you can get some of the jelly from the inside of

the lid onto the rim of the bottle if you are not careful.

#9 Watch Your Index Point

It seems one of the most common mistakes fly tiers make, especially those just starting out, is to crowd the eye of the hook. Crowding the eye is the process of finishing off the fly you are tying by wrapping the head or the finish knot over part of the hook eye instead of behind the eye. Not only does the fly not look like a well completed fly but it leaves

less room for the tippet to get through the hook eye to actually fish the fly. The easiest way to correct this is to watch your index point when starting your fly.



It is a natural tendency when tying in the final materials to bring the thread too close to the eye of the hook. Something in our brain tells us we have to be closer to the eye of the hook. Fortunately, there is a simple way to correct this. When you attach your thread, attach it at the index point on the hook and make certain

to not bring the thread past where you attached it when positioning to complete the fly.

The Index point on the hook is one eye width behind the hook eye. When you attach your thread with a jam knot attach it at the index point. You can then either cover the hook shank with thread if needed or simply move the thread to where you need it on the shank to begin the fly. Now when you bring the thread towards the eye on the hook for the finishing steps you don't go forward past the index point.



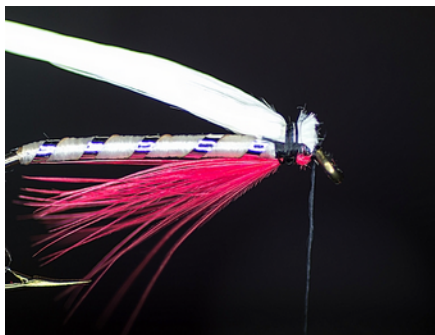
You can bind in your remaining materials and still have enough room for the head of the fly. In time it will become second nature to not move forward past the index point and all your flies will be looking much better.

#10 Smooth Heads Start at The Eye

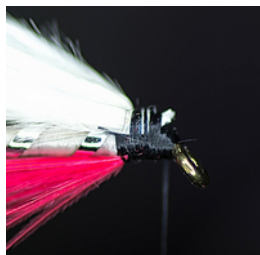


A very common issue for many fly tiers is the heads of their flies are either too big (as in bulk or length behind the hook eye) or simply not that neat and clean. Maybe there are loose thread wraps poking up between other thread wraps or too many threads wraps are applied in an attempt to control the whole mess. Nice neat and smooth heads can easily be formed if you remember to start the finished head at the eye of the hook.

The head of the fly is created to cover up butts end or clipped ends of materials that we have used in the creation of the fly. Most tiers will begin forming the head of the fly by applying wraps of thread on the materials ends and advancing the wraps forward. The problem with this is the thread invariably slips off the abrupt end of the material and we then try to



continue to wrap thread while "climbing" back up onto the materials. This will always end in a larger and sloppier head than we want.



Instead, once all of your materials are bound in and you are ready to make the head and cover up the material ends, reach your thread forward to behind the hook eye and start applying thread wraps away from the eye of the hook to form the head

and cover-up any remaining materials. This will help create a taper up to the materials as you are forming the head and thus have more control on your thread placement and the shape and size of the resulting head.



Two Final Tips

As most people know in fly tying there are two finish knots we use to secure our thread when the fly is complete. These are the half hitch and the whip finish knots. This tip involves using the half hitch knot but not just when the fly is finished. Many of the flies we tie involve a number of steps to put the whole thing together. Unfortunately, we sometimes break our thread or otherwise goof up a step that results in the previous step also getting bugged. The half hitch knot also doubles as a security knot as well as a finish knot. At any time during the tying process you can apply a half hitch knot to the fly to secure the fly up to that point. Doing so will insure that if you screw up the next step everything before the half hitch will remain intact. [Note: you can do the same with the whip finish knot too!]

The final tip involves the whip finish knot and simply applying a double whip finish knot on your fly as an alternative to using any glue. Big meaty flies like the ones we like to tie can afford a little extra glue to help hold them together but often on small dry flies it is better to use a double whip finish (one on top of the other) instead of glue. For small dry flies (#14 or smaller) you want to make certain you do not add any unnecessary weight. Even though a little glue seems like it does not weight much it can make a difference on such small flies. Plus... even on bigger flies you can use a double whip finish instead of glue.

Ian Anderson, Fly Tying Instructor FlyMasters of Indianapolis



"I'm stuck..." The words were becoming an anthem for the two student anglers in the boat after getting hung up on trees, grass and even docks. But I will never forget the switch from those defeated words to "Wait, it's a fish!" And the excitement of pulling in his first bass caught during a tournament after multiple unsuccessful outings. For the first time in our club every student was able to weigh in fish and we left Geist feeling great. I am so thankful to have been apart of this moment and looking forward to many more as the club sponsor.



Westfield High School Fishing Club was formed to give students opportunities to fish and learn about fishing year round. Getting kids active in the outdoors and providing a place to be involved with fellow students that share a common interest were also major goals for our club. We also emphasize that regardless of past fishing knowledge, any student should feel welcomed and have a great experience. In just a few years of existence, I can confidently say we have hit those goals and beyond.

Our first event was at a local hidden park with a stocked lake that many students had never been to and I could already tell this club was going to provide kids with many new experiences. During the winter the club acquired two ice augers and we braved the cold for our first ice fishing trip. A couple hours on a frozen Morse Reservoir with no bites didn't seem to faze the kids, most were pumped just to cut some



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holes in the ice for the first time. In the spring we ventured into the world of high school bass tournaments and 11 members competed in a couple in-house practice events. For most of the anglers, this was their first time bass fishing out of a boat, let alone in a competition.



Since that first year we have moved beyond just giving students fishing opportunities. The kids love going to the fishing and outdoor expos during the winter. We enjoy volunteering at Indiana D.N.R. family fishing events. On our radar are some environmental stewardship projects such as joining the White River cleanup events and adopt-a-ramp.

With grade checks, we encourage our members to focus on academics. One student in particular really struggled his freshman year but once we set up grade requirements in order to participate in club activities he hasn't failed a class. Our anglers now have the potential to earn college scholarships



through some of our expanded tournament options including national B.A.S.S. opens. When we started the WHS Fishing Club, I had no idea the scope of what we were getting into.

So why a high school fishing club? To pass on a lifetime passion and love of the outdoors, to give students the opportunities to give back to younger kids, to give students a



place to belong and release the stresses of high school, to give some students a reason to show up to school and put forth a good effort. And I feel this just the start.

Eric Bland

WHS Fishing Club

blande@wws.k12.in.us



A man in a blue and yellow wader suit and a cap is wading through a river. He is wearing a life vest and yellow gloves. In the background, another person is visible in a red inflatable boat. The sky is blue with some clouds.

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