
Foundational Fly Tying

Fly Tying Tools

I've broken the tool definitions into two videos. The first covers most of the tying tools and the second jumps into the knot tying tools with how to tie the knots. This is a list of the essential tools for tying flies. You can get many more gadgets. I recommend a couple items as you proceed through the course.



Fly Tying Vise

The vise holds the hook allowing you to tie all kinds of fun stuff on it. Less expensive vises usually clamp directly onto a table. The key feature is being able to quickly secure a hook.

Bobbin

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A bobbin holds and dispenses the thread for tying. Setting the thread tension is usually done by bending the arms in or out. The tension should be strong enough to allow you to hang the bobbin freely below the hook.

Scissors

Fly tying scissors have a fine point for reaching into snip thread and feathers. Good scissors have a fine serrated blades to grip the material while cutting. Your scissors are going to dull pretty fast so don't fight them when they get dull. If possible, get some "regular" scissors for cutting hard stuff like wire and lead.

Hackle Pliers

Hackle pliers clamp onto feathers and thread providing a method of grabbing tiny items. The large loop opposite the jaws is great for sticking your finger into and twirling around the hook.

Hair Stacker

Stackers are cylinder shapes used to align hair tips. Remember to remove the "under-hair" or fluff when stacking.

Dubbing Needle

A long fine pin used to apply head cement and pick hair and feathers out to make flies look "buggy". Also used to pull out feathers accidentally tied down.

Light

A good light with a flexible shaft is great to help see what you're doing. Get a bulb that is full spectrum and 5500K