

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild



GAZETTE

JUNE 2005

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 16, 2005, 7:00 P.M.,
at the Catskill Fly-Fishing Center Educational Building,
Livingston Manor, NY.

Andy Brasko will be tying the Professor, from Ray Bergman's *Trout*, first published in November 1938. Bring your vise, tools, and materials and tie along. Andy says this wet-fly pattern has been an old faithful for him on the Willowemoc.

The Professor

Hook: Mustad 3399 or 3906, size 6

Thread: Danville 6/0, white and black (both colors will be used)

Tip/Tag: Gold Mylar tinsel, size 16–18 (small)

Tail: Scarlet red duck or scarlet goose quills (left and right, paired)

Body: Two strands of Danville yellow floss

Rib: Gold Mylar tinsel, size 16–18 (small)

Beard/False Hackle: Brown schlappen

Wing: Gray mallard flank, (left and right, paired)

Tyers Needed

The guild needs fly tyers to work the table at the Trout Parade Festival in Livingston Manor on June 11, 2005. Contact Judie DV Smith at darbee1@juno.com.

Also, the Youth Outdoor Exposition in Grahamsville, NY, will be held on August 7, 2005 from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. We need guys and gals to help kids tie flies. This has always been our biggest event of the year. Last year they had a problem with dates in September, couldn't let us know until the last minute, and we couldn't make it.

We need four or five tyers to help. We supply the tools and materials, and the kids line up! One year we had over two hundred, the year before last about one hundred. They

are predicting over two hundred again for this year. Contact Hank Rope at tyeflys@catskill.net, (845) 254-5904, if you're interested in helping out.

Meet Guild Members in Cyberspace

The guild has recently established an on-line message board for its members on Yahoo. It's a great way to meet other members who may not regularly be able to make it to meetings or to other events.

It is free, but to access it, if you don't have a Yahoo account, you will have to register at <http://groups.yahoo.com>, then join what Yahoo calls the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild "group." Thereafter, once approved, you should be able to access the board by clicking on the guild listing in "My Groups" after logging on or via your Favorites list. You can post questions or responses, interact with other members, check the calendar, and view photos of events. Kurt Huhner, who is in charge of maintaining the board, has posted some pictures from this year's Rendezvous.

All members who have e-mail addresses on file will soon be sent an electronic e-mail "invite" for the board. If you want to join, simply follow the instructions in the e-mail. If you are not interested, simply do nothing and the invitation will expire.

Only your e-mail address is displayed on the site. No other personal information (phone number, address, etc.) is displayed. Feel free to join, and enjoy conversing with other members.

The 2005 Catskill Fly Tyer's Rendezvous

By Mike Hogue

The 2005 Fly Tyer's Rendezvous at the Rockland House was a great success. We again hosted forty-two tyers from across the Northeast. Tyers demonstrated everything from bass flies to saltwater flies, steelhead flies, and traditional Catskill patterns. From the latest crazy vise creation of Ed Engelman to the slick flies of Dick Talleur, we had quite a show. The guild also raised a bunch of money in raffle tickets sold, and we added many new members. We had folks attending from at least six states. We had several very well-known tyers and authors, too.

Hats off to Ken Kobayashi for the great lighting setup. Ken works with professional photographers in New York City and rents this equipment for photo shoots. His setup helped all of us to see, demonstrate, and show off our best for all those who attended. Ken showed me clips of some the guild's videos he has edited, and they were really something. With a bit of luck, we can bribe Ken (each of us sending him a few dry flies) to make a whole set of club videos.

Also, many thanks to Tom and Martha Mason, Hank Rope, Judie DV Smith, and all of the other guild members who helped prepare and set up to make this a great event. With your help, we will continue to have this event for many years to come.

If you would like to participate as a tyer next year, be sure to let me know via e-mail at mike@flytyer.com or at Badger Creek Fly Tying, (607) 347-4946. It is never our intent to overlook or to exclude any person from participating as a tyer. This is an all-volunteer, nonprofit group, and I try like the dickens to respect all and treat everyone alike. As a rule, I try to make room for all would like to attend. I just ask for preregistrations so I can keep track of who is coming and not coming.

Steve's Vise:

A Fly-Tying Vise You Can Build for \$4.50

By Ed Engelman

A Neat Idea for Getting Kids Involved in Fly Tying



When I demonstrate fly tying on easy-to-build fly-tying vises at public fly-fishing gatherings, I am commonly asked, “Do you really tie your own flies on them?” The answer is “Yes.”

“Why would you do that?” is a frequent follow-up question. I have led Boy Scouts and 4-H youth in introductory fly-tying lessons. These sessions in fly tying have begun with vise building. When students build their own vises, they invest their sweat in the finished product. This sweat equity instills a sense of pride and ownership in the finished product. There is also the benefit that the student can tie flies when the course is completed without the need to invest immediately in equipment.

I feel that entry-level equipment should be priced so that fly tying is accessible to youth from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds. I have read a variety of articles that state that an entry-level vise costs from thirty to sixty dollars. At those prices, there are many young people who are priced out of fly tying. That is unfortunate. I tie on low-cost, homemade equipment partially to demonstrate that it can be done. Also, by tying on these extremely low-budget devices, I continue to improve and redesign them. I am already working on plans for another vise that I hope will be even less expensive to build.

I also tie flies on a variety of novelty vises that are built from unusual items. They include an old frying pan, a barn door hinge, a telephone, and half of a bowling ball. Some of these vises are whimsical. Others are attempts to simplify and reduce to the essence of what a fly-tying vise needs to be—that is, a device for holding work in a secure manner so that thread, feathers, fibers, beads, and the like may be secured to it in order to create a fly for fishing.

This vise is named in honor of a friend who suggested that one of my earlier vise designs might be difficult for many to construct. His comment prodded me to develop this vise.

The critical component in this vise, as in any vise, is the mechanism that actually holds the hook. For this vise, an X-acto Knife handle holds the hook for tying. It is held to the piece of plywood with a 5/16-inch wire rope clip (sometimes called a cable clamp). The wire rope clip is held in place underneath by a wing nut and a flat washer on one side. The other side of the wire rope clip is left without a nut. The plywood is attached to three pieces of 2 x 4 to provide a stable base. Nails and glue or screws and glue can be used to attach the wood pieces together.

A rectangle of 3/8-inch plywood is much stronger when the direction of the grain of the top and bottom plies runs along the longer sides of the rectangle. A piece of nonslip rug cushion or nonslip shelf liner attached to the bottom of the vise will keep the vise from sliding on a smooth surface.

Follow these steps to place a hook in the vise. As with any tool, there is a learning curve. By following this sequence, you can become comfortable with this vise after just a few tries.

1. Loosen the knurled sleeve on the X-acto Knife. Loosen just until you can squeeze a hook into the jaws of the knife handle.
2. Position the hook so that the angle formed by the hook shank and the centerline of the knife handle is approximately 45 degrees
3. Tighten the hook by pulling the knurled sleeve toward the hook while rotating the knurled sleeve. (Remember: righty—tighty!)
4. After the hook is sufficiently tightened, position the hook in the vertical plane by inserting the knife handle in the wire rope clip and tightening the wing nut on the wire rope clip.

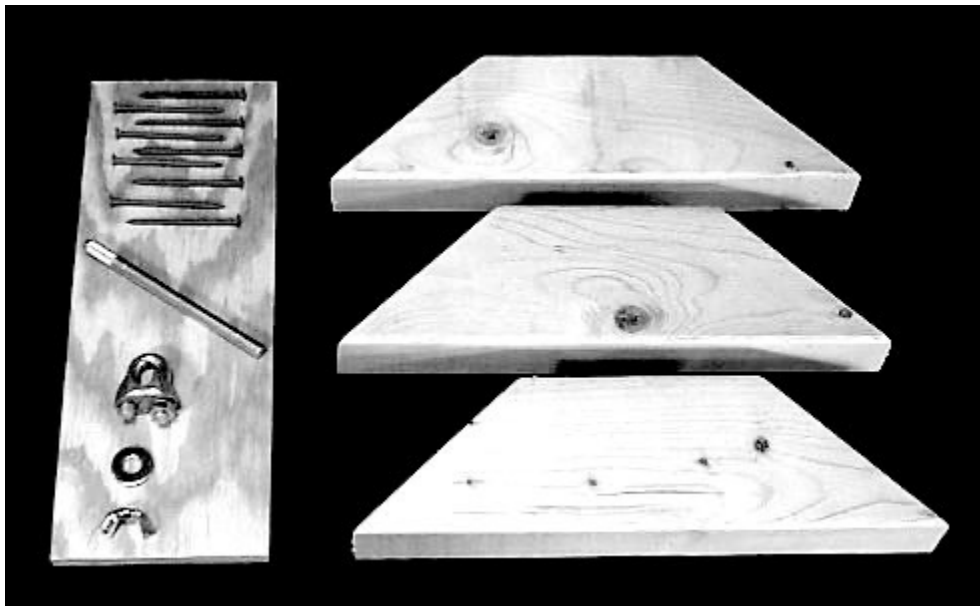
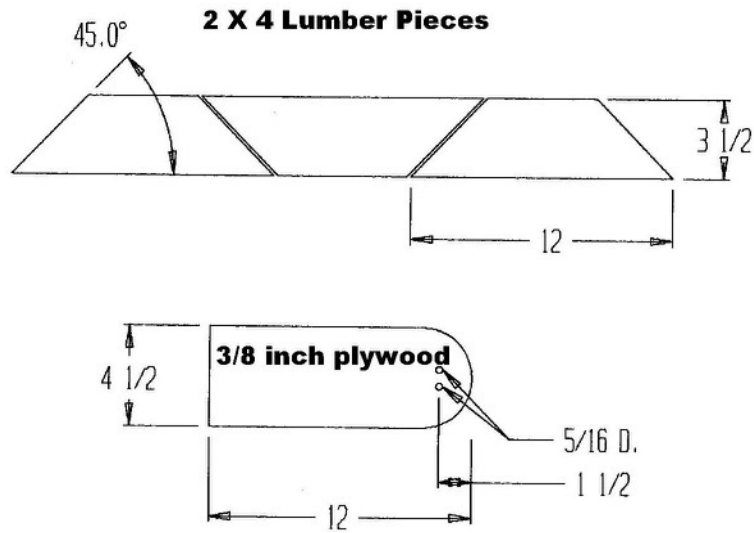
Happy tying

Steve's Vise Parts List

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | X-acto Knife handle: Type A (5/16" handle diameter) |
| 1 | 5/16" wire rope clip |
| 1. | 5/16" flat washer |
| 1 | 5/16" wing nut |
| 1 | 3/8" plywood, 4½" x 12" |
| 3 | 12" pieces of 2 x 4 lumber |

1. 4" x 11" rubberized cushion or shelf liner
1. wood glue
- 9 10-penny box nails (screws can be substituted)

👉 For schematic illustrations and a parts photo, see the next page. 👉



Sorting out Dubbing

By Mike Hogue

Dubbing can be confusing to many people, because there are so many different colors, textures, and kinds on the market. Let's take a look ways to label some of these materials to make the applications easier and the choices simpler.

The simplest way to categorize dubbing is to distinguish between natural furs and synthetic materials. Natural materials can be grouped into two subcategories: sinking/nymph furs and dry-fly furs. Materials such as seal, goat, and rabbit usually are used as nymph or swimming-fly furs. The old rule of thumb was that if an animal's fur came from the water, it was considered a dry-fly material, since it was supposed to contain natural oils that repel water. This makes little or no sense, however, since seal fur is perhaps one of the most popular wet-fly materials, and the seal is a marine animal. Nevertheless, animal furs such as muskrat and otter are typically considered dry-fly dubbings.

Usually it is preferred to get fur on a patch. The main reason is so that you can remove the guard hairs. You clip the fur tight to the leather to remove the fur and then hold the clipping between your thumb and forefinger and pinch out the guard hairs with your other hand. Muskrat, beaver, and otter underfur makes some of the best dry-fly material because the fibers are fine. I try to use natural materials on dries and use synthetics on nymphs or swimming flies. Fitch, Australian opossum, nutria, fox, and mole furs are also ideal for dries. I like to use squirrel fur for nymphs, and it is one of my preferred choices to use instead of hare's ear.

By far the most popular natural material, though, is hare's ear, which comes from rabbit faces that are dried or tanned. Most folks assume that this material comes from the ears of the mask, but in actuality, the cheeks offer the best dubbing fur on the mask. I generally like to use premixed packs of hare's ear, since it is such hassle to clip, mix, and blend this fur, although if you do this by hand, you can vary the colors between light and dark.

Synthetics are by and large plastics, which often come from the glitter trade or from yarns that are split and combed out. For the most part, all of these materials are way too bright and should never be used as straight colors. One major exception is superfine dry-fly dubbing, which is fine-combed yarn. Usually I use this as is. I like to combine very bright materials with either dyed rabbit or dyed squirrel. Sometimes I use these synthetic materials as highlights, while other times, I mix several colors together, since most often, colors that occur naturally are blends of several colors. I often mix black, claret, and rainbow Lite Brite for black stoneflies. I also often use clear, cut Anton and mix that with natural furs, mixing several colors of the natural material. The "motor oil" color is great for smallmouths. I use brown, rust, olive, and a bit of yellow to create that color.

Within the category of synthetic materials, I group various products under the headings "transparent," "reflective," "iridescent," "ultraviolet-enhanced," "holographic,"

and “flat sparkle.” Polar Dub is a transparent material from Hareline. It has finely shredded fibers that can be mixed or used straight. Reflective materials include Light Brite, which is shredded Mylar. This is a coarse fiber that I mix with other materials. It comes in hanks or as dubbing, and you dub with either kind. Iridescent materials include Master Brite (aka Veniard’s Glister). This is coarse pearl Mylar that is dyed different shades, and it is a very bright material. It can be used as collars, on steelhead or salmon flies, and as streamer bodies. Popular colors include pearl, black, olive, and brown.

Ultraviolet-enhanced materials include are the very popular Ice Dubbing, which has a UV cast to it. In low light, it takes on a slight purple or lavender shade. It is one of the most interesting materials available. The material itself is soft and can be used for small flies.

Holographic materials like Holo Brite are shredded Mylar holographic tinsels that will practically burn your eyes because they are so bright. I think this material is best used mixed with other materials or furs, since it is so bright. Flat sparkle materials include Anton and STS. These materials have a sparkle, but they are not themselves reflective, and they are for the most part opaque. Antron is best known for its use in the Lafontaine caddisfly patterns. STS (Hareline’s Salmon-Trout-Steelhead) and Psuedo Peacock and Arizona Sparkle Dub are very similar and are segments of shredded opaque Mylar. These are very useful materials that can be mixed and used on small flies. Arizona Sparkle Dub is mostly a substitute for peacock and is a great dubbing for nymphs. A new entry in this category is Quick Decent, which is literally shredded aluminum. It allows the user to forgo lead weight, applying the material straight on, as is.

Mike Hogue is the owner of Badger Creek Fly Tying. You can look at all these dubbings at www.eflytyer.com and can contact him at: Badger Creek Fly Tying, 622 West Dryden Road, Freeville, NY 13068 or (607) 347-4946.

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild *Gazette* is issued five or six times a year to members. Membership is only \$10.00 per year. New, first-time members also get a **FREE** copy of the booklet *Favorite Rivers, Favorite Flies*, as well as discounts on guild patches and pins. **WANT TO JOIN THE GUILD or GIVE A FRIEND a GREAT GIFT?** Just complete this form, then mail it and a check to: **CFTG, PO Box 0663, Roscoe, NY 12776-0663.**

*******Remember, memberships renew in February. *******

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