



Introduction to Fly Tying

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Agenda

- [Why Tie Flies?](#)
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- [Tools](#)
- [Materials](#)
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Lots of resources and videos online

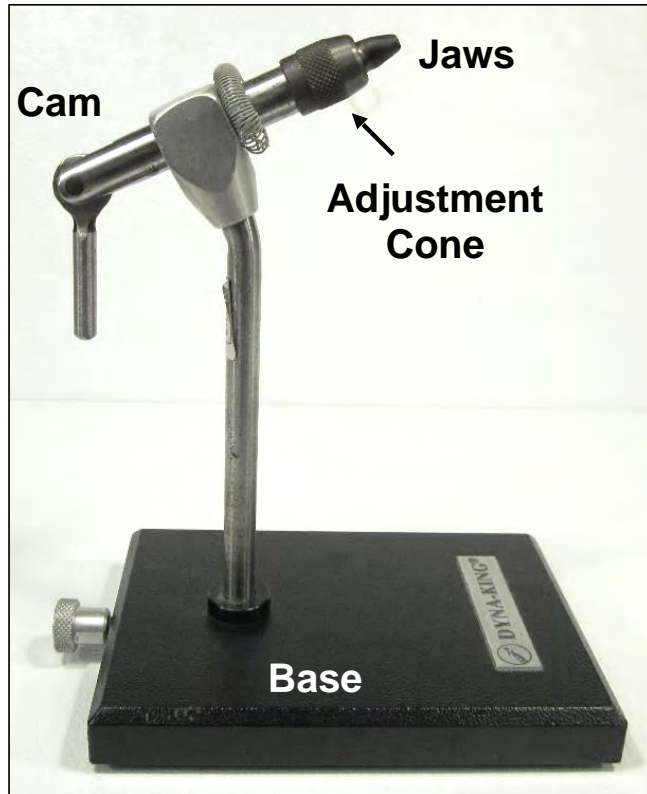


Why Tie Flies?

- Its fun!
- Sense of pride and accomplishment catching fish on a fly you tied yourself
- Be creative and develop your own custom fly patterns
- A great activity for the winter and “down” months to get ready for fishing season
- Fly tying is a great social activity – get together for a beer and tie some flies!
- Increased dexterity and fine motor skills



Fly Tying Vises



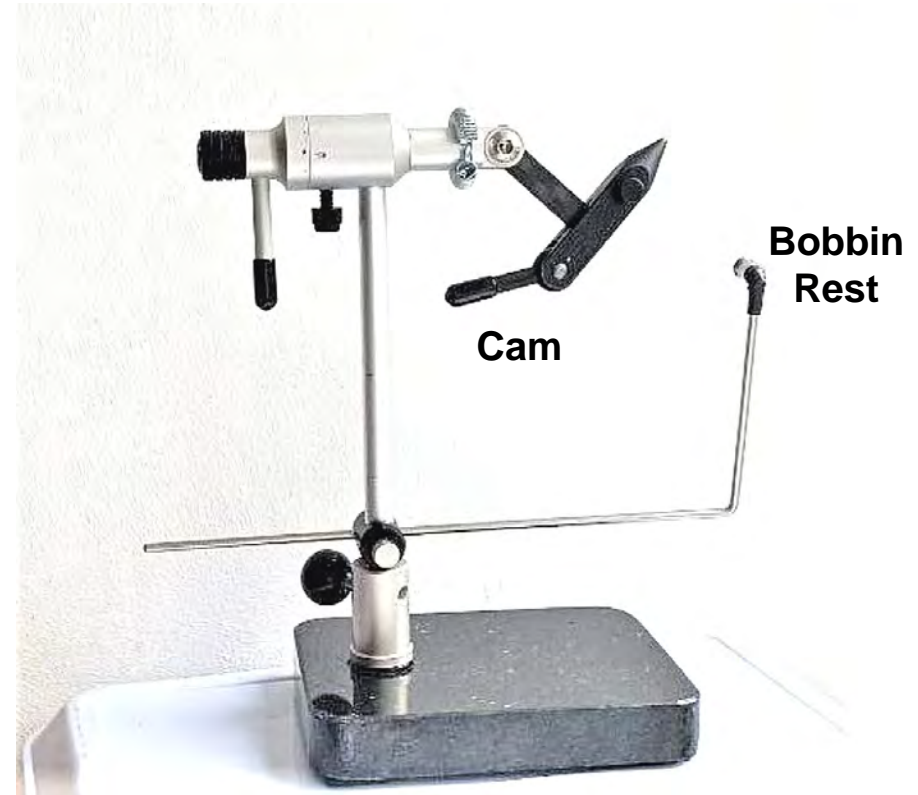
Pedestal Base



Midge Jaws
Hook Sizes 10 - 32



"Big Game" Jaws
Hook Sizes 8/0 - 24



Rotary Vise



Basic Tools





Other Useful Tools

- Bead Tweezers
- Bead Pad
- Tying Mat
- Side Cutters
- Needle Nose Pliers
- Dubbing Wax
- Dubbing Brush
- Dubbing Loop Spinner
- Dubbing Brush Spinner
- Combs
- Material Clips
- Material Prep Station
- Razor Blades
- Thread Splitter
- X-Acto Knife
- Sharpie Markers
- UV Flashlight
- Rotating Fly Dryer
- Small Bowl of Water
- Bic Lighter



Materials - Thread

- Thread Size Designations

- *Denier – Standard sizes range from 50 to 240 denier
- Aught – Standard sizes range from 3/0 to 12/0

- Colors

- Standard Colors: Black, Tan, Olive, Gray, Red, White**
- Available color variety can be dependent on thread material type

- Materials – Tradeoffs with different materials

- Polyester
- Nylon
- Mono
- Kevlar
- Silk
- GSP

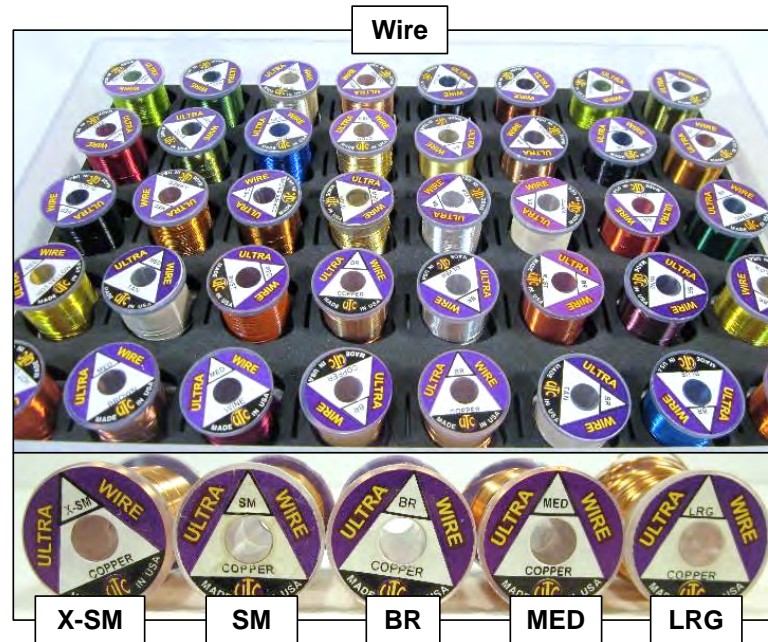
Aught Size	Approximate Denier
1/0	600D
3/0	180D
6/0	100D
8/0	70D
10/0	60D
12/0	50D
14/0	40D
16/0	35D
18/0	30D



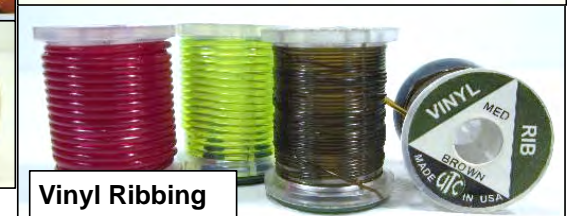
*Denier is defined as the weight in grams per 9000 meters of thread. Denier is based off the weight of silk, i.e. 9000 meters of silk weighs 1 gram.

Materials - Ribbing & Spooled

- Typically offered in different sizes/diameters
- Wire ribbing used to create segmented bodies and add durability to flies
- Floss used for building colored bodies
- Tinsel used to add flash or holographic effects
- Vinyl ribbing used to create segmented bodies
- Specialty materials can replace dubbing and other traditional tying materials



Wire Size	Diameter Gauge	(in.)
X-Small	38	0.0040
Small	34	0.0063
Brassie	32	0.0080
Medium	28	0.0126
Large	26	0.0180



Materials - Feathers

- Variety of Uses
 - Nymphs, dries, wets & streamers
 - Tails
 - Bodies
 - Wings



- Dyed & Natural



Materials - Hair & Fur

Natural animal hair and fur has a wide range of applications

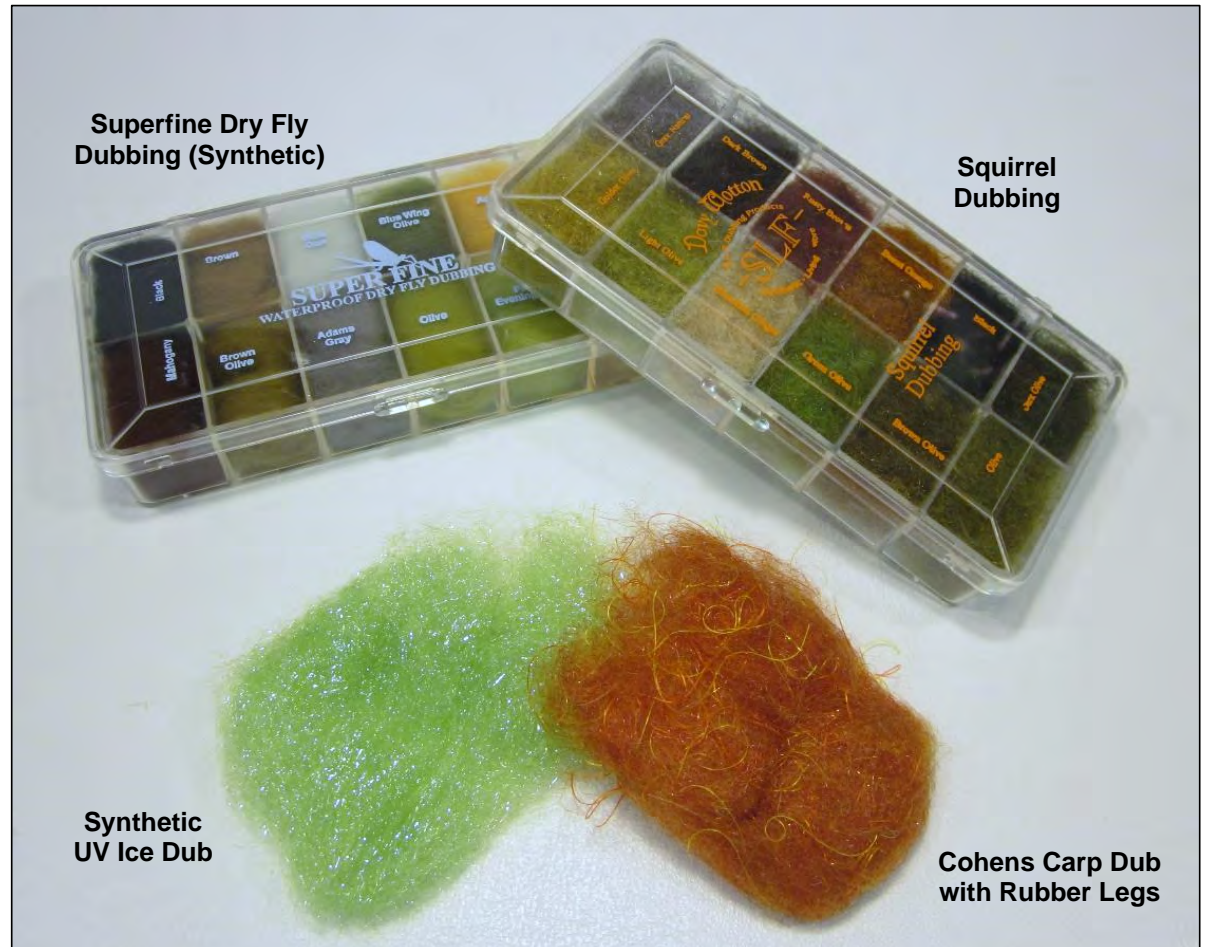
- Deer, elk & moose hair is hollow and provides buoyancy for dry fly wings
- Wool & fleece often used for streamer heads and wings
- Rabbit fur strips provides great action in the water when used for streamers





Materials - Dubbing

- Mainly used for building bodies of flies
- Natural vs. Synthetic
 - Blends are also available
- Coarse vs. Fine
- Numerous color options
- Sold in individual packets
- Dubbing boxes offer great value with 12 colors





Materials - Chenille

Wide variety of chenille options

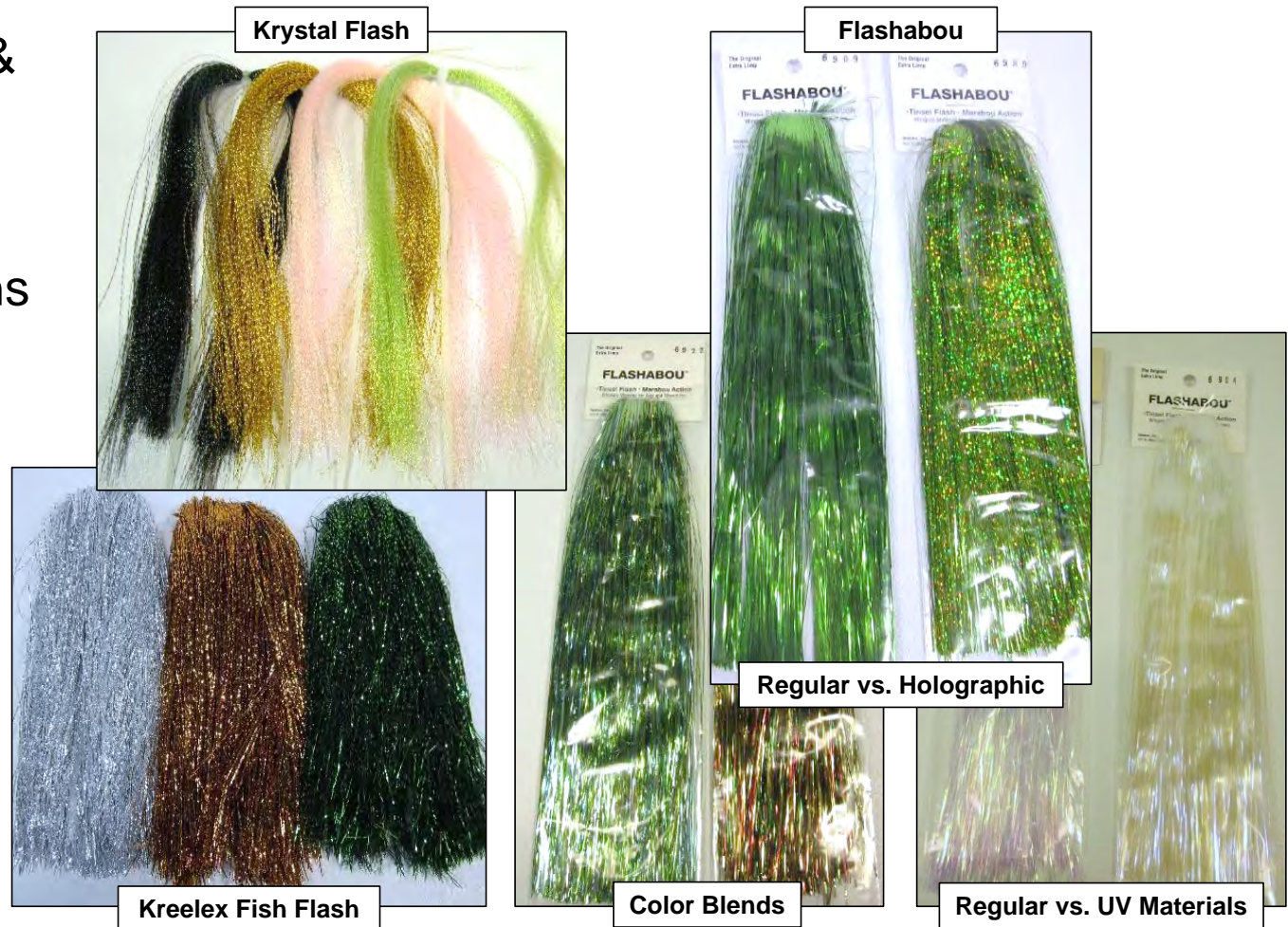
- Mainly used for building bodies of streamers
- Synthetic materials bound to rope/core
- Comes either on card or loose in package
- Fiber length ranges from < 1 mm to > 1 in.
- Great for Woolly Buggers, San Juan Worms, baitfish streamer bodies, and leech patterns





Materials - Flash

- Great for adding sparkle & flash to buggers, streamers, and even nymphs!
- Numerous material options
 - Colors & Color Blends
 - Width/Thickness
 - Stiff vs. Limp
 - Visual Effects
 - Holographic & Mirage
 - Barring & Speckled
 - UV & Glow in the Dark
 - Textures
 - Flat
 - Crinkled





Materials - Glues & Epoxies

- Common head cement materials include nail polish, varnish & 5 minute epoxy
- Newer materials include UV epoxies and environmentally friendly head cements
- Color pigments, glitter/sparkle & UV additives can be added to epoxies



Head Cements – Hard & Soft

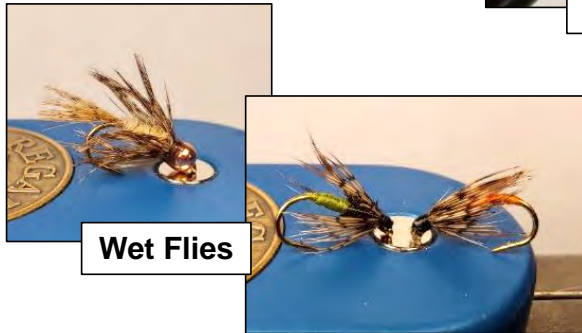
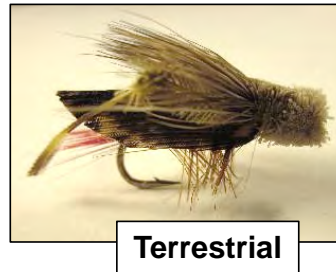
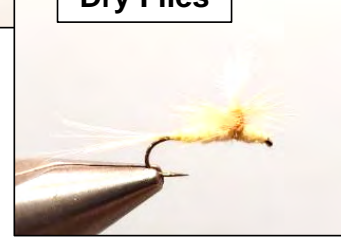
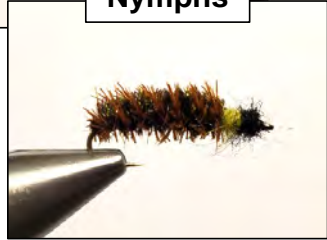
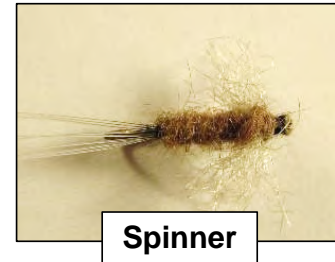
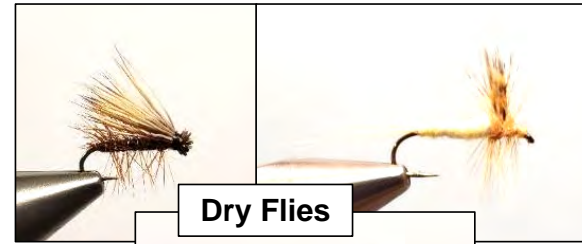
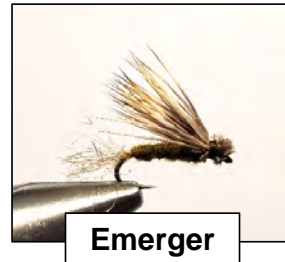
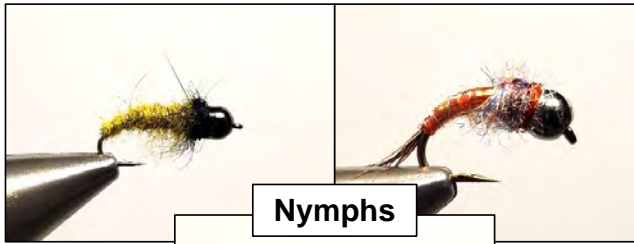
ZAP-A-Gap, CA & Super Glues

UV Epoxies – Various Viscosities, Colors, Durometer, Etc.

Materials - Weights



Types of Flies





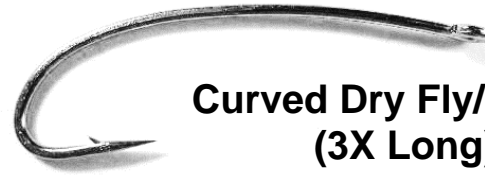
Hooks



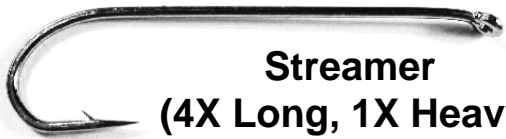
Dry Fly



**Straight Nymph/Wet Fly
(2X Heavy)**



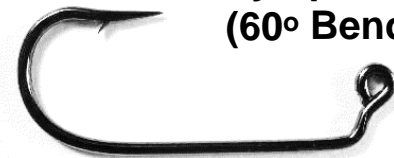
**Curved Dry Fly/Nymph
(3X Long)**



**Streamer
(4X Long, 1X Heavy)**



**B10S Stinger
(1X Heavy, Wide Gap)**



**Nymph Jig
(60° Bend)**

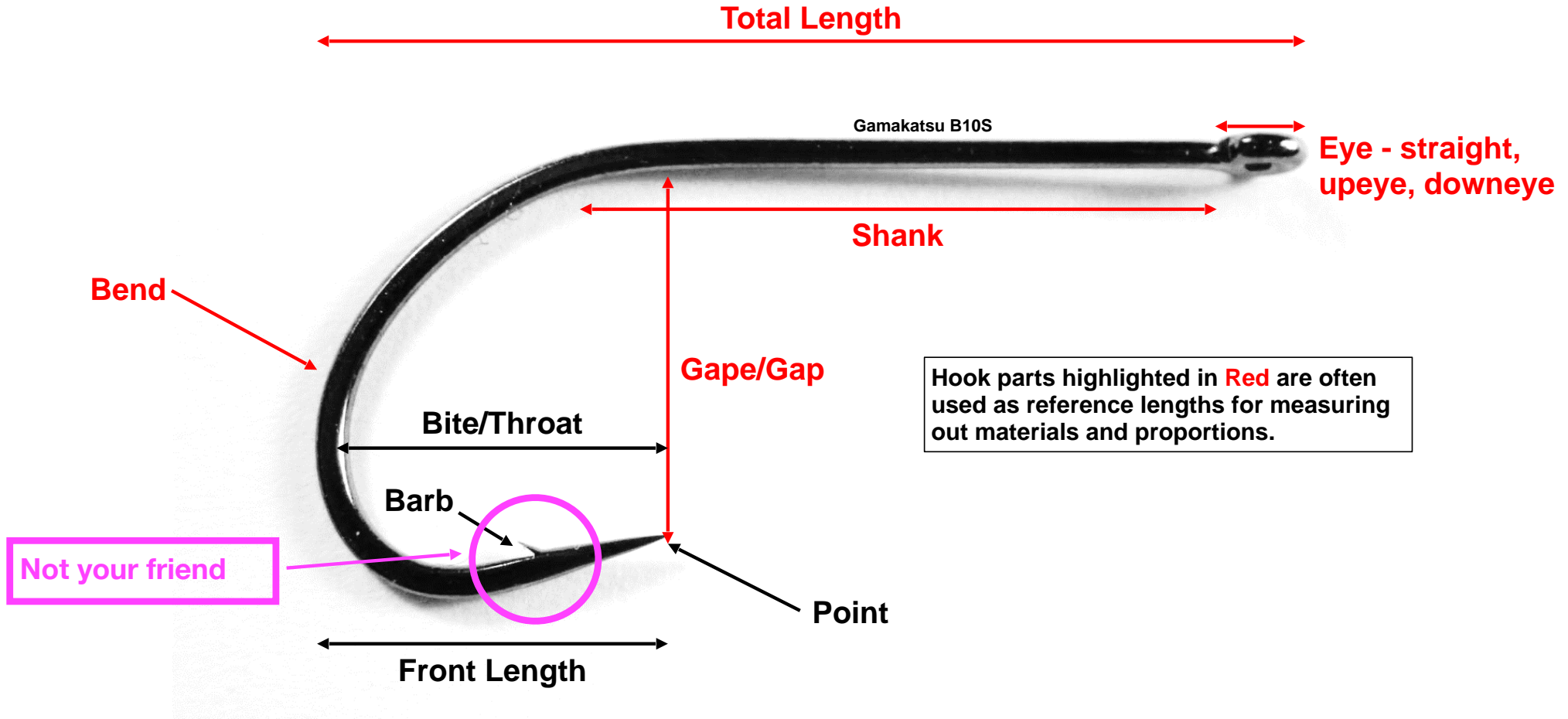


**Caddis Pupa/Scud
(2X Short, 2X Heavy, 2X Wide Gap)**



**Egg/Glo Bug
(2X Heavy, 5X Short)**

Anatomy of a Hook





Decoding Hooks

Style (dry, streamer, nymph, etc.)

Size



Thickness - H = heavy, F = fine)

Length - L = long, S = short)

X = relative to fly size

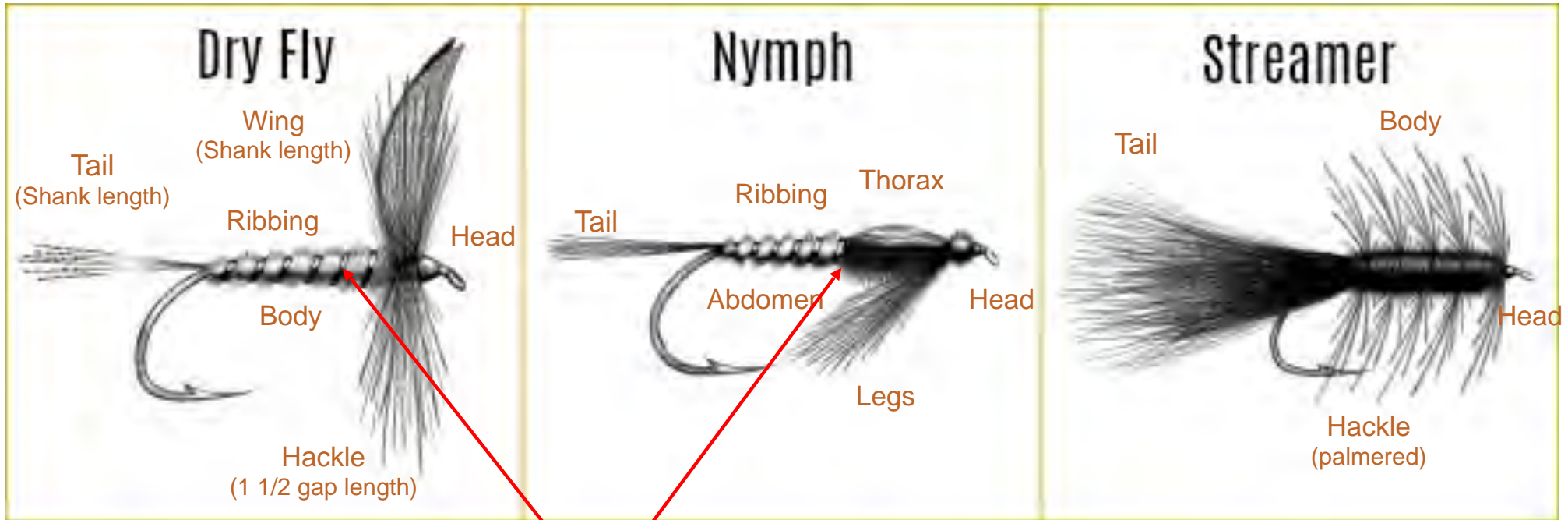
Example

1XF means thickness = next size smaller (#16)

3XL means shank length = 3 sizes larger (#8)

Note: may vary by manufacturer

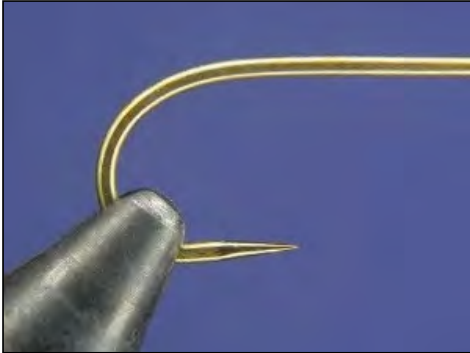
Fly Anatomy



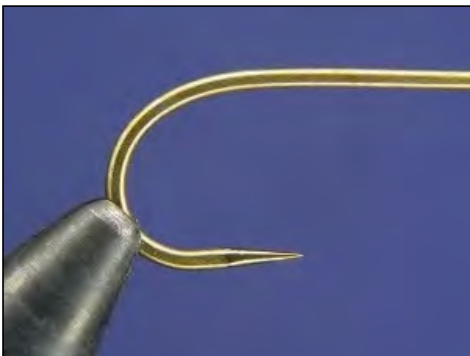
Tapered bodies and thoraxes can be built with thread or other material



Basic Tying - Mount Hook



Correct



Incorrect

Place hook between jaws

Tighten adjustment knob

Assure hook is horizontal

Secure with locking lever



Basic Tying - Thread Bobbin



Place threader through bobbin
- non thread side

Place thread into threader loop

Pull through tube

May need to adjust tension

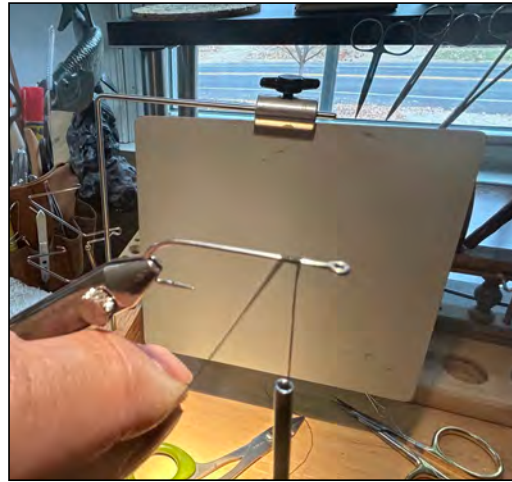
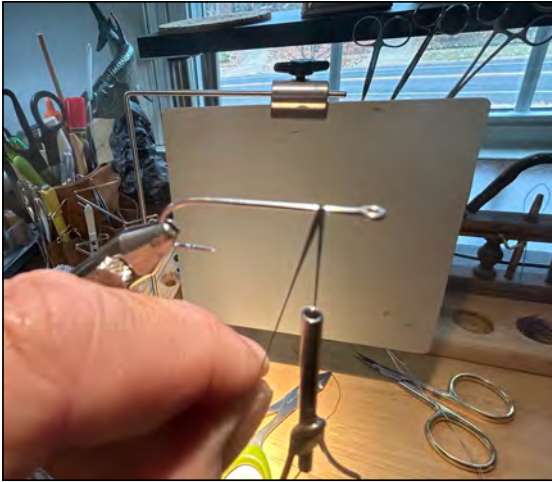


Fly Tying Steps

- Apply the thread
 - Used to tie each material component on the hook
- Attach the tail - many fly patterns have a tail
- Creating a Body
 - Wraps of thread or a variety/combination of materials
- Attach Wings or a Wing Case
 - Many adult insects have wings, most nymphs and pupae have wing cases
- Attach hackle
 - Used to give the fly realism (legs, gills, motion)
- Finish
 - Secure thread so it will not unravel



Basic Tying - First Wraps



- Start behind eye of hook - don't crowd hook eye
- Make a couple of wraps forward toward eye
- Wrap backwards to lock in thread - use tag end as guide
- Cut tag end
- Wrap to cover cut



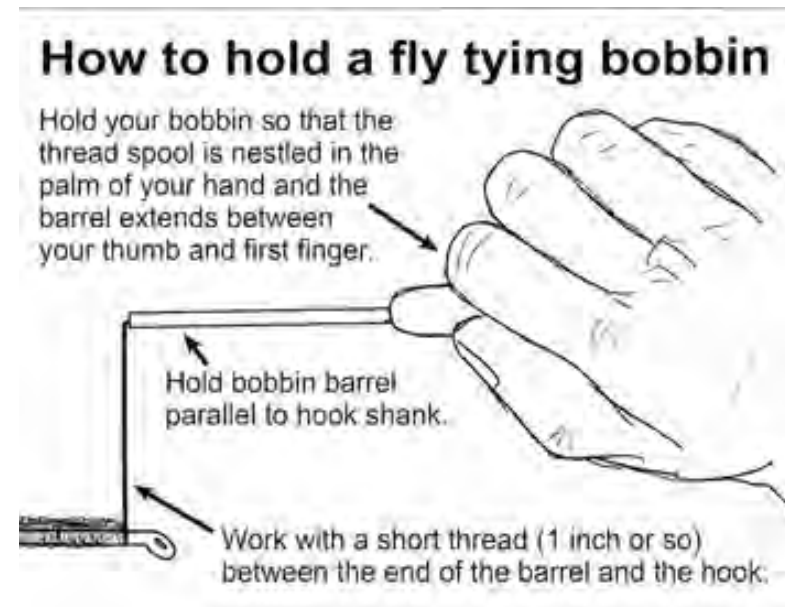
Basic Tying - Thread Control

- Want flat thread (mostly)
- Less bulk
- Wider - better for soft or brittle material
- Won't break as easy
- Will not kink when limp
- Will not cut into materials
- All thread has some twist from factory
- Tying adds more twist



Basic Tying - Thread Control

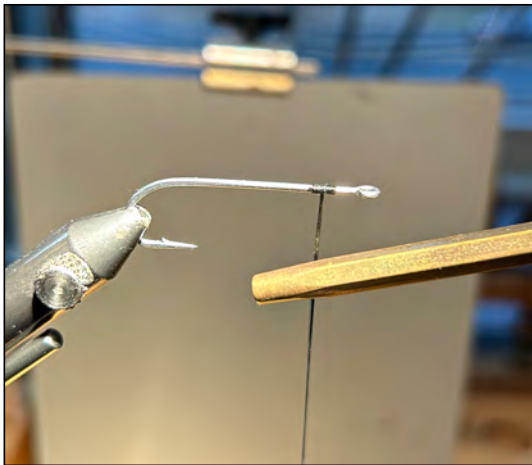
- Control thread tension
 - Thread dependent
 - Bobbin tension
 - Circular path
 - Bobbin grip
- Each wrap adds more twist
 - Bulkier fly
 - Not smooth body
 - Lowers breaking strength
- Remove twist (right hand tyer)
 - Hang below hook
 - spin counterclockwise



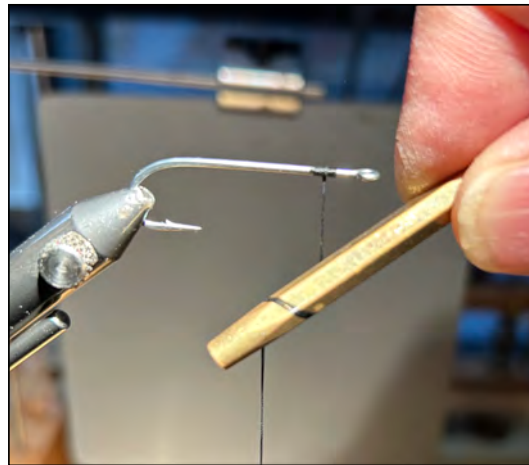


Basic Tying - Half Hitch Knot

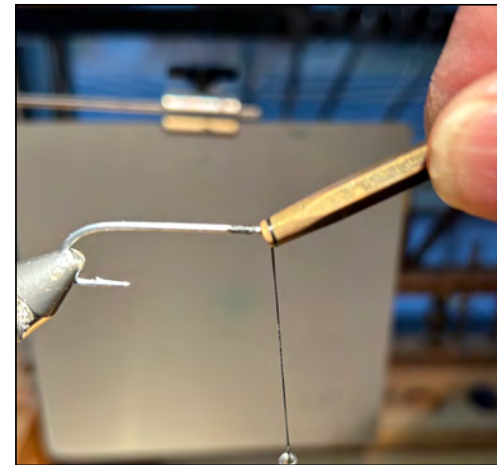
- Finish simple flies
- Save your work



Place tool over thread



Wrap thread around tool
- maintain tension -



Place hole over hook eye
- slide thread onto hook -



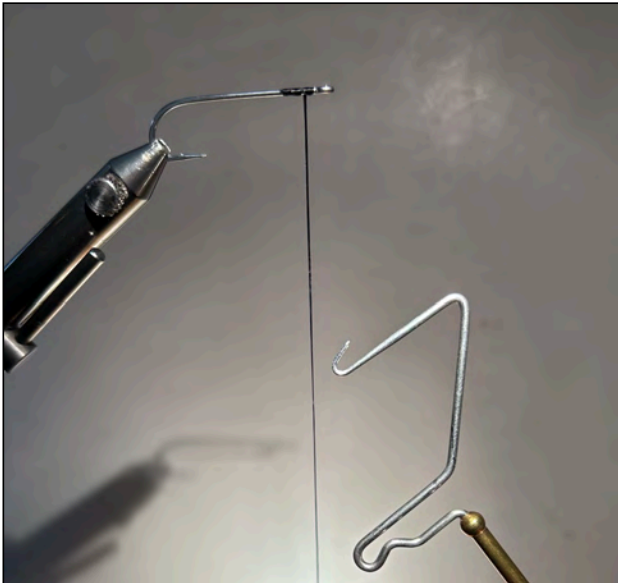
Basic Tying - Whip Finish

- Improved Knot Security and Durability
- Consistency in Knot Quality
- Behind bead or cone head
- Tie material farther down shank

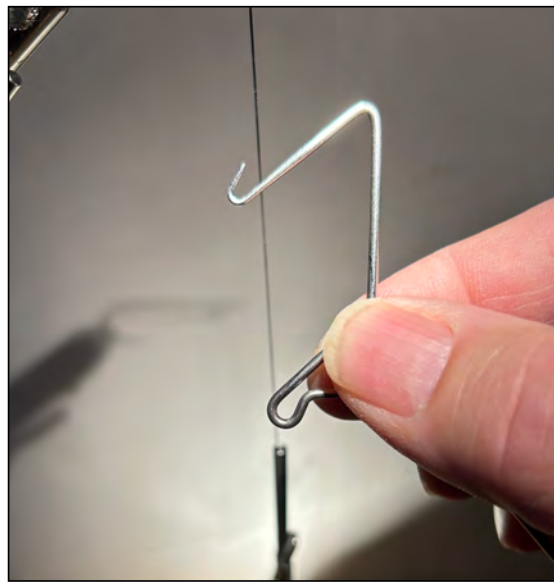




Basic Tying - Whip Finish



Pull out sufficient thread
Align whip tool with thread
Maintain tension

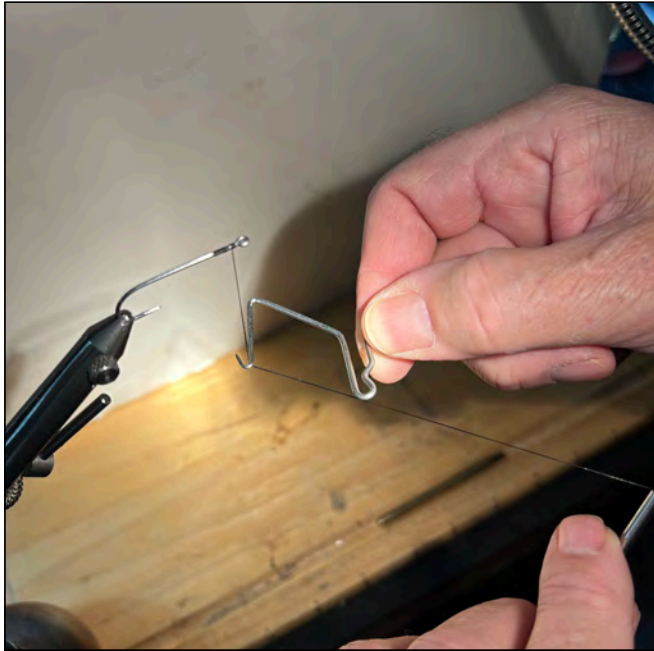


Grasp tool swivel to prevent spinning

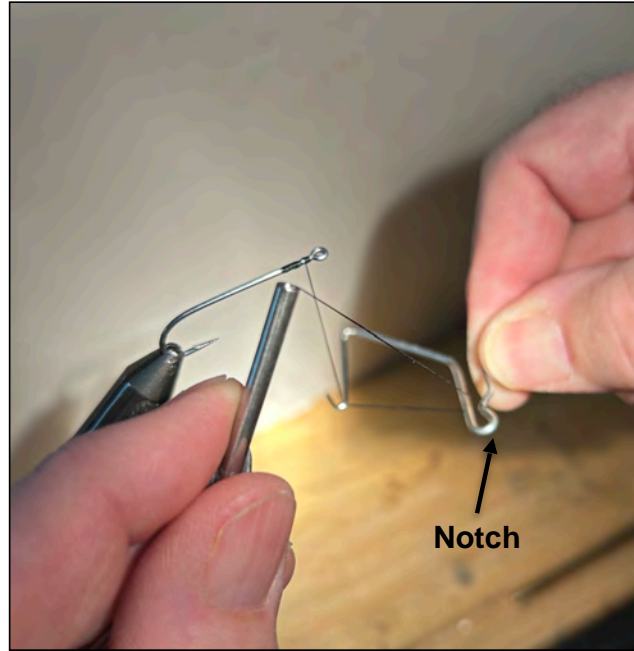


Place crook over thread

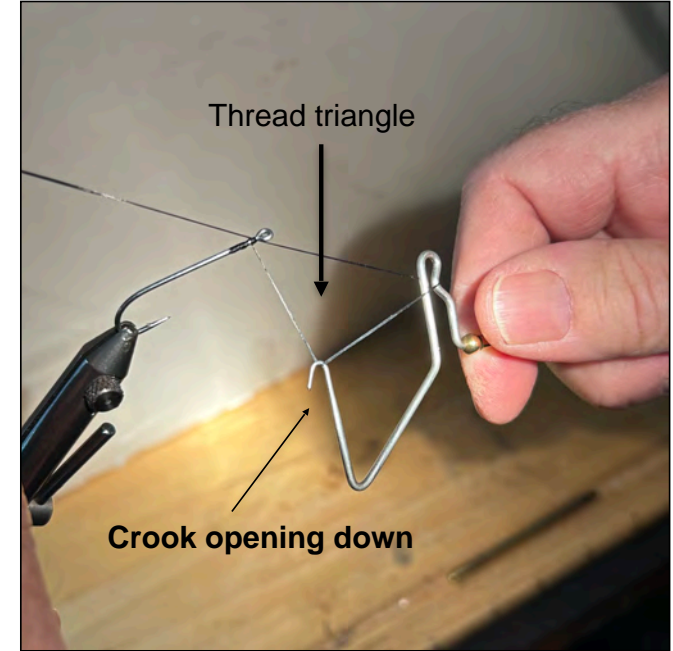
Basic Tying - Whip Finish



Move tool more perpendicular to hook
- easier to loop thread under notch
Note the bobbin is below and to right
of tool

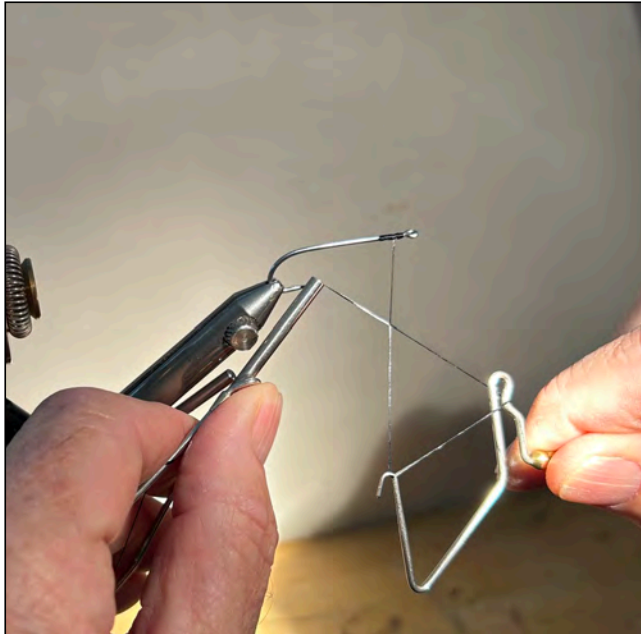


Loop thread from below over notch
Note bobbin is now above and to
left of whip finish tool

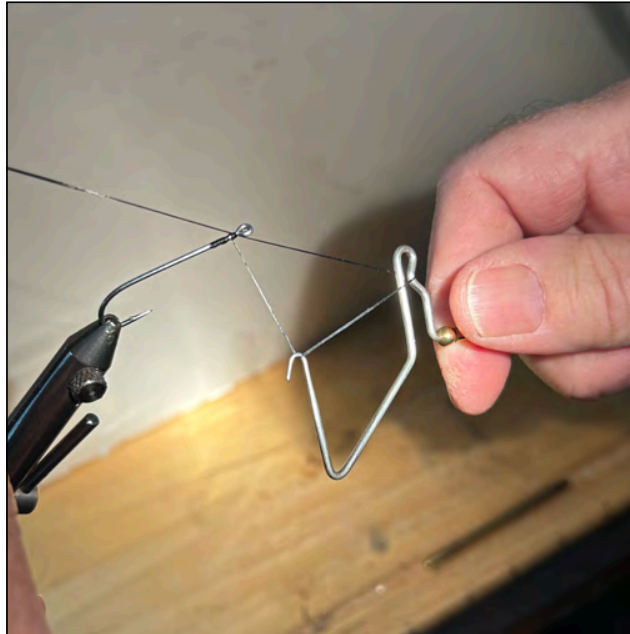


Raising bobbin and gradually release
pressure on swivel
Tool will swing to above position
Note thread triangle

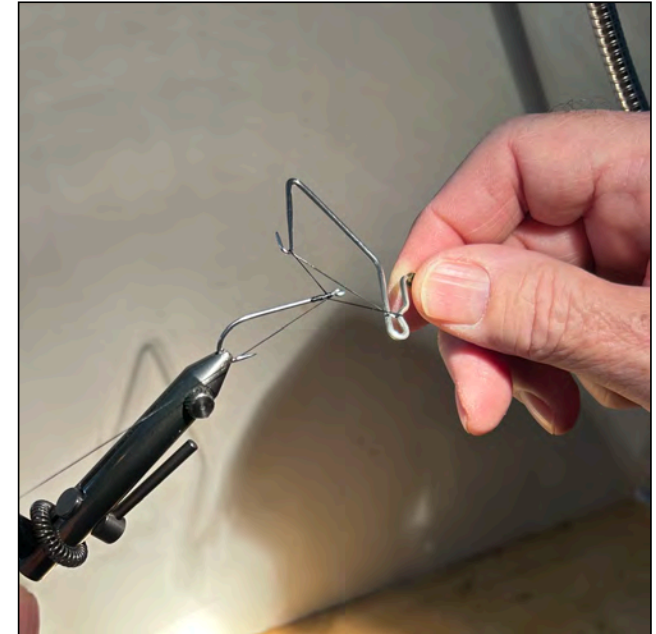
Basic Tying - Whip Finish



Note well defined triangle



Using bobbin and tool move
Upper triangle corner to the hook



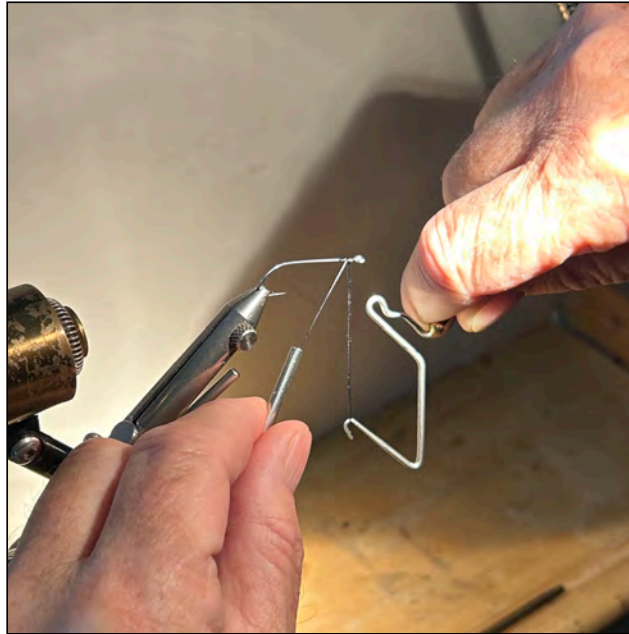
Begin wrapping thread



Basic Tying - Whip Finish



Maintain tension with bobbin
Raise tool handle to slide thread
off notch



Use bobbin to pull crook to
hook shank



Slide crook from thread while using
bobbin to tighten



Green Weenie



Recipe

Hook: 3x Streamer hook, size 10-16

Head: Thread/colored bead/peacock herl

Thread: Fluorescent Green

Body: Fluorescent Green Chenille

Tail: Fluorescent Green Chenille





General Tying Tips

- Fly tying books and YouTube/instructional videos are an incredible resource
- A quality vise (doesn't need to be expensive) is the most important tool
- Always wrap your thread in the same direction. Pick a direction and stick to it!
 - Typical method is clockwise (when viewed from front) for RH tyer, counter-clockwise for LH
- Tying 6+ flies of the same recipe at a sitting will help to develop consistency
- Don't crowd the hook eye
- Less is typically more when it comes to dubbing
- Never use your good tying scissors to cut wire or other hard materials
- Look for materials that can be used to tie many different patterns
- Check out fly shop "bargain bins" and fly tying trade shows for deals on materials
- Look for fly tying tools and materials from household products to save money