

# BASIC FLY TYING

A BEGINNING COURSE  
IN THE  
ART OF FLY TYING  
by  
Tom Criswell



**PRESENTED BY**  
*Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association*  
*Kansas City Chapter*

# Class Schedule

## FIRST MEETING:

- A: Discussion of materials and tools
- B: Instruction on knots, head finish, weighting hooks
  1. Half-hitch knot & thread control
  2. Whip finish
  3. Lead wire wrap & hook preparation
- C: Hand out material list for next meeting

## SECOND MEETING:

- A: Tie Woolly Worm fly
  1. Chenille, yarn, peacock bodies
  2. Weighted & un-weighted hooks
- B: Tie Woolly Booger fly
  1. Chenille, yarn, peacock bodies
  2. Weighted & un-weighted hooks
- C: Hand out material list for next meeting

## THIRD MEETING:

- A: Tie Fur Bug/Scud fly
  1. Dubbed with natural fur
  2. Dubbed with synthetics
- B: Tie Nymph
  1. Pheasant Tail Nymph
  2. Generic Nymph
- C: Hand out material list for next meeting

#### **FOURTH MEETING:**

- A: Tie various wet flies
  - 1. Arlene - Bluegill/bass fly
  - 2. Rubber - legs
  
- B: Tie soft-hackle flies
  - 1. Orange & pheasant
  - 2. Purple & starling
  
- C: Hand out material list for next meeting

#### **FIFTH MEETING:**

- A: Tie basic dry flies
  - 1. Ant ( in various materials)
  - 2. Bi-Visible
  
- B: Solicit pattern suggestions for last meeting
  
- C: Hand out material list for last meeting

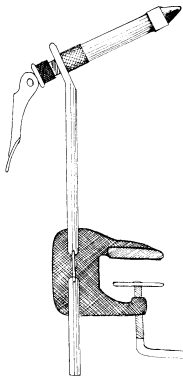
#### **SIXTH MEETING:**

- A: Tie marabou fly and jigs
  
- B: Tie patterns requested by class
  
- C: Wrap-up



## Required Tools

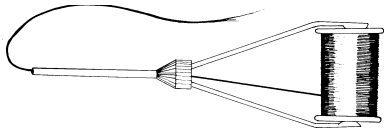
You need only a few tools for a basic fly tying setup. Even though most people who take up the art of fly tying continue to add to the basic tool set as they progress, your first tool set must include the following.



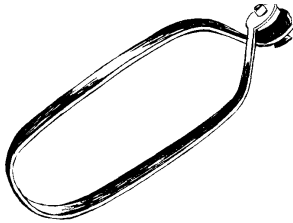
- ◆ **FLY TYING VICE:** A fly tying vice is needed to hold the hook securely while you are tying a fly. A beginning tier will want to purchase a **good** vice; not the most expensive or the least expensive. A good beginning vice is the *Thompson model A* or equivalent. This tool should be able to be purchased for \$25 to \$40.



- ◆ **SCISSORS:** Get the **best** pair of scissors that you can afford! The scissors will need to have fine tapered blades that close completely and cut to the very point of blade. The handles or finger loops must be sized so that you can easily pick up and use the scissors. A second, heavier pair of scissors for heavy work is a good idea. The second pair should be larger for use on fur, tinsel, ribbing and such. A good pair of scissors should be available for \$10 to \$15.



- ◆ **BOBBIN:** A bobbin is needed for good thread control while tying. The first bobbin you purchase should be of a size to fit in your hand comfortably with a spool of thread on it. Bobbins are not expensive but there is a range of prices. Pick one that suits you. You may want to purchase more than one bobbin to save the hassle of changing spools of thread when tying different flies.



- ◆ **HACKLE PLIERS:** Hackle pliers are used during tying to hold hackle feathers and other material. The main point to look for in hackle pliers is jaws that meet squarely and firmly. Try to get a pair of pliers that can be opened easily with one hand. Some types are very strong and hard to open.

There are people who are willing to help you select a good set of basic tools at most of the area fly tying shops. You may wish to obtain other tools as you continue tying flies; however, the tools listed above are the basic items.

## Master Material List

**TOOLS:** Vise-Thompson model A or equivalent  
Scissors- tapered blades fine point  
Bobbin-Medium size to hold standard spool  
**Hackle Pliers**-Good quality with even jaws

**HOOKS:** **Mustad 9671 or 3906B** Size 8-12  
**Tiemco TMC 2487** Size 12-20  
**Mustad 94840** Size 14-20  
**Tiemco TMC 200R** Size 14-18

### WRAPPING/DUBBING MATERIAL:

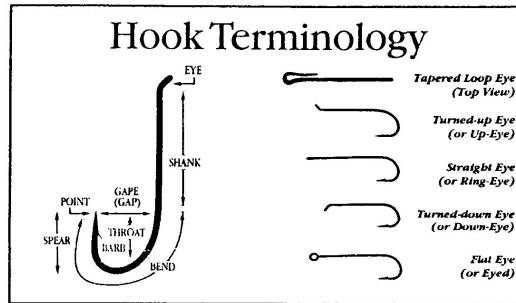
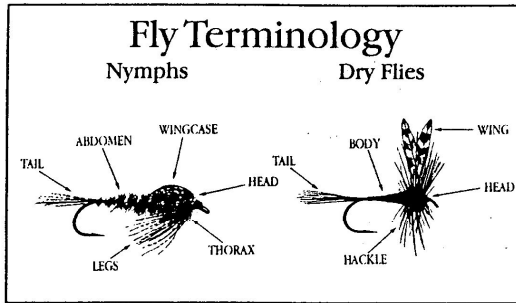
1 Pkg. **Chenille** – Size medium; brown, black or olive  
1 Pkg. **Australian Opposum Hair**  
1 Pkg. **Scintilla Dubbing** – Gray, Olive, Shrimp (pink)  
1 Pkg. **Scintilla Dubbing** – Black or Brown  
1 Pkg. **Peacock Herl**

### FEATHERS:

1 **Pheasant Tail** (Center Preferred)  
1 Pkg. **Marabou** – Brown, Black, or Olive  
1 **Turkey Feather**  
1 Pkg. **Hackle** – Brown, Black, Olive (sm pkg.)

**OTHER:** 3 **Spools Thread** – 1 ea. Of Brown, Black, Olive; size 6  
1 Pkg. **Lead Wire** – Or equivalent material to weight flys  
Size to match size of hook to be  
Weighted.  
1 **Spool Copper Wire** – Size Small  
1 Pkg. **Round Rubber** – White in color, for rubber legs

# Fly Tyer's Guide



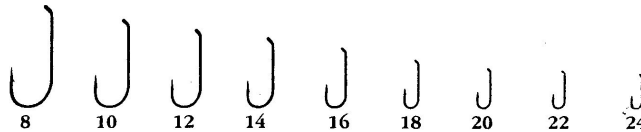
## Hook Sizing Guidelines

Hook sizing standards are a general guide, and vary by manufacturer and hook!

1x fine = 1 size smaller wire diameter.  
 1x strong = 1 size larger wire diameter.  
 1x short = 1 size shorter shank length.  
 1x long = 1 size longer shank length.  
 Wide Gape = same shank length with 1 size larger gape.

*NOTE: Measurements for size 22 and smaller are very non-standard.*

### Standard Dry Fly Hooks

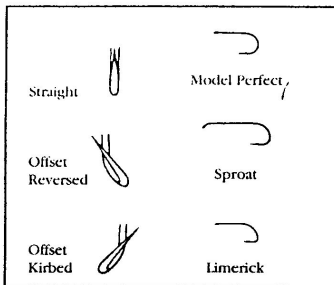


### Daiichi Model 1180

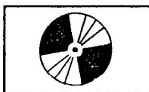
#### Possible Hook Substitutes

General Description	DAIICHI	MUSTAD	ORVIS	EAGLE CLAW	PART-RIDGE	TIEMCO	VMC
Wide Gape Dry, "Mini Barb"	1100		J4864			100	
Wide Gape Dry, Straight Eye	1110		J4641			101	
Shrimp/Scud	1130		J1639		K4A	2487	
Standard Dry	1170	94840	J1876	59	L2A		9280
Standard Dry, "Mini Barb"	1180	94840	J1523			5210	
Barbless Dry	1190	94845	J1877	61	E1AY		
Curved Shank	1270		J1510			200R	
2x Long Dry	1280	94831	J1638		H1A	5212	
1x short Dry	1310	94838	J1509			921	
Up-Eye Dry	1330	94842		159			9289
Light Dry, "Mini Barb"	1480	94859			K1A		
Heavy Wet	1530	3908	J1642				8526
Standard Wet	1550	3906	J1641	57	G3A		8527
1X Long Nymph	1560	3906B				3761	
2X Long Nymph	1710	9671	J1524	63	D4A	5262	9279
3X Long Nymph	1720	9672	J1526			5263	
Straight Eye Streamer	1750	9674	J0167		D3ST		9255
Swimming Nymph	1770		J1512			400T	
4X Long Streamer	2220	79580	J1511	281	D4A		
6X Long Streamer	2340	3665A	J1511			300	
Standard Salmon	2421	90240	J1644		N	7989	
Heavy Salmon	2441	36890	J1645		M	7999	
Special Streamer	2461	3262		22B			
Standard Stainless	2546	34007	J0549	254SS		8115	
Bass Bug	2720	37187	J1878				
Salmon Double	7131	3582F	J0528		Q		

## Bend Styles



## Needle Point Advantages



**Needle Point (or Conical Point)**  
 • maintains most of material • strong  
 • even point • efficient puncture • small entry



**Triangular Point (or Cut Point)**  
 • removes a great deal of material • weakens point • usually uneven  
 • makes a large entry hole (easier for the fish to throw)

For additional copies of this guide, please write to us: Daiichi Fly Tyer, Angler Sport Group, 6619 Oak Orchard Rd. Elba, NY 14058