

Subject: : Fly Tying

Topic: : Just starting

Re: Just starting

Author: : Padraic

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URL:

Here's my \$0.02 on beggining fly tying... which may be over priced.

Get a good set of tools and a nice vice. Do not get a kit that includes materials. The materials that come with starter kits are fit for making cat toys, not trout flies.

Take a look at the fly patch on your vest to see what you want to tie. Chances are, there are a half dozen patterns on there that you use most of the time, all year. You'll enjoy tying them, and have confidence with them when you fish. Get the materials for those. And when it comes to dry flies, save money on the expensive hackle feathers by buying the sized packs of feathers. Whiting and Koeg put out packs called "100's", because the feathers in those packs should make a 100 flies.

Tye sparsely. A fly with 6 winds of hackle will not float any better than a fly with 4. It will how ever, catch less fish. Sparse flies have a better profile, let light through and generally perform better than heavily hackled flies. This goes double for dubbing and triple for hair wings.

Thread tension, thread tension, thread tension! The proper tension for tying is that point just before the thread snaps. The tighter the thread, the better the fly. Before you tie each night, start the thread and gradually apply pressure until you snap it. Do this a couple times until you realize that you can put a lot of pressure on the thread before it gives out. Through a half hitch in place when you are finished one step of the fly and about to reach for new materials. It'll keep everything under tension as you work and when the trout start chewing up your flies they won't unwind all at once.