

Subject: : Fly Tying

Topic: : Your first fly pattern

Re: Your first fly pattern

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The best advice I could give someone starting out with flytying would be to learn the basics of thread management, proportions, and consistency. My first pattern ever tied was a wooly worm and I must have twisted up 3 dozen of them before moving on to the wooly buggler then nymphs, wet fly's, winged wet fly's and so on. I feel it is important to learn the fundamental foundation for all the classic "style's" of fly patterns before moving on to the more exotic and unconventional patterns that we are bombarded with thanks to the internet and print media these days. I've seen some sad looking fly's showcased in magazine articles and web blogs that display a lack of quality workmanship that give a good fly pattern like say the "Comparadun" some immortality in world of fly tying. Don't get me wrong, just because a fly is "ugly" does not mean it's not a fish catcher! What I am referring to is some details that stick out like a hook eye that's crowded or a thread head that's photographed in Hi-Def that has a loose end protruding. I'm not a perfectionist but I appreciate a tyer who goes the extra mile to turn out a fly that is durable, proportioned and proven to behave on or in the water. Lessons from an accomplished tyer or TU or a flyshop class will shorten the learning curve dramatically and give you a foundation to build off of. I also believe that once muscle memory is imparted into the hands (which comes from practice at the vice) you can accomplish anything that you desire no matter what the level of difficulty. Sorry for the rant but I hope this helps you get started and pointed in the right direction.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All!!

Jeff