

Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : Something better than a vest?

Re: Something better than a vest?

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URL:

I did away with my vest and it's the best thing I ever did. Went to a chest box. I have a Richardson, which is very nice. The Downs box is very nice as well. They are both far lighter than you anticipate before picking one up for the first time. You can set up the inside how you want, I put C&F slit foam throughout, but you can do compartments or whatever. They can hold a LOT of flies when set up correctly, each tray you use the floor and the lid, probably the equivalent of 2 1/2 fly boxes per tray.

Still, ridding the vest required some lightening up. Not on flies, but on other accumulated junk in a vest. I carry hemos and nippers on zingers attached to the straps. License also attached to strap. I throw a few tippet spools and car keys in my waders pouch. That's about all I carry.

Richardson advantages: IMO, nicer looking. Aluminum > plastic in terms of longevity and quality. Perhaps slightly better set up as far as floatant holders, personalization, etc.

Downs advantages: Cheaper. Ability to add and remove trays is very useful.

All in all they're pretty similar, and both are made in PA.