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Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : Fly tying gear

Re: Fly tying gear

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URL:

I just started tying flies. Literally just started. I think I tied my first fly a week and a half or 2 weeks ago. I bought a cheap wapsi kit from someone on this forum. It included some materials, tools, and a vice.

The vice was fine. Very usable, though I imagine a nicer vice would hold hooks a little more securely. The materials weren't great. The chinelle was kind of thin and brittle, the marabou wasn't as fluffy as some, and the saddle hackle and pheasant tail were crappy. I did find the little introductory booklet useful, and the hooks were fine.

So far, I think I was right to go with a cheap vice and cheap tools, but if I were to do it again, I think I would just buy materials myself, possibly basing the purchases on what was included in other kits. And I'd definitely buy a fly tying book if I hadn't gotten one in the kit.

Just know this before you start: there's no way you're going to save yourself any money by tying your own flies! Unless you've been paying \$2 or \$3 a piece for them.

I initially thought I could get everything I needed to tie a few nymphs and streamers for around \$100, but with all the additional materials I've bought, I've spent a little over \$200 so far. And that's with a cheap vice and cheap tools!

Maybe you won't need to spend quite that much right away - I tied my first couple flies on the first batch of materials I bought, at which point I had spent around \$100 total. I just figured out after the first few that I liked tying, and bought the materials to tie a few other patterns.

Bearsden.com has been really great for building up my supply of materials and tools. They only charge you what it actually costs to ship things, and so I've put in like 3 orders to them as I've found more materials I needed. I also visited a local fly shop, and found some thread, tools, and hooks.

IDK if any of that will help you, but that's been my experience so far.