

Subject: : Fly Tying

Topic: : How Long?

Re: How Long?

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URL:

I've been tying for a long time and I don't tie much faster than Jack, at best maybe 3-4 minutes / fly on the simple patterns and twice that or more on complex flies. It really doesn't matter since I am not tying for a living. I would be interested in how long it takes for Festus or Sandfly to tie a fly, since they tie commercially.

On one of my first FF trips out west I hired a guide of Blue Ribbon flies in W. Yellowstone. He tied for the shop and had his own tying business on the side for customers. He could tie 3 – 4 dozen flies / hour on simpler patterns! I don't doubt it because I've seen him tie a blood knot in the blink of an eye. Amazing! He also told me, and from experience I found it to be true, that with the first few flies it's a slower process and the first flies are sometimes out of proportion a bit. After fly 5 or 6 it begins to click and your proficiency and speed increases. I find that to be true, but I rarely tie more than 6 of one pattern – so I never really get into that mode until I'm ready to move to the next pattern. One thing I try to do is tie similar type flies together, in other words, the same pattern, different size or color to get to that proficiency level.

I'm a perfectionist with tying, and with many things, but truth be known, most flies don't have to be tied perfectly to catch fish. Many times, as the fly becomes more chewed up and beat up by the fish, the more they like it.

Try tying different style flies and using different methods and techniques. The new technique you learn from one pattern can be applied to other flies. It's a building process.

Most importantly....have fun tying, and don't worry about speed.