

Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Fly Tying Classes

Basic Fly Tying Tools and Materials For Beginners

All materials needed for Beginning Fly Tying courses are provided in class, but students must provide the needed tools. The essential tools for fly tying are:

1. Fly tying vise
2. Scissors
3. Bobbin and thread
4. Bodkin
5. Hackle pliers
6. Hair stacker
7. Whip finisher, although whip finishes can be tied by hand
8. Dubbing wax
9. Head cement

Although materials needed in class for Beginning Fly Tying are provided, beginning student usually accumulate an inventory of supplies adequate for tying additional copies of the demonstrated flies and for tying a variety of flies not covered in class. The following materials are sufficient for tying many such flies. This list of materials might be considered the "core" or "beginnings" of a fly tying materials inventory. This inventory will not be sufficient for tying all trout flies, but it will be adequate for many flies known to be effective in local waters.

Materials The following materials will tie a wide variety of trout flies.

Thread: Black or gray in sizes 6/0, and 8/0

Hooks: Dry fly (fine wire), nymph (heavy wire), and streamer (heavy wire, long shank) hooks. The most common sizes of hooks for Wisconsin are approximately #16-20 for dry flies, sizes #14-18 for nymphs, and sizes #6-12 for streamers.

Feathers and Hair:

Feathers: pheasant tail, turkey tail, marabou, wood duck or mallard flank, goose biots, peacock herl, duck wing feathers, rooster hackle fibers (see below)

Hair: natural deer or elk hair, natural or dyed bucktail, white calf tail, moose mane or body

Hackles:

Dry fly hackle: rooster cape (or half cape) in grizzly, brown, and (optional) medium dun.

Wet fly hackle: brown hen cape; Hungarian partridge; strung saddle hackle in black, brown, and olive

Dubbing materials:

Natural furs in colors to match desired insects: muskrat, beaver, or microfiber dubbing for dry flies; hare's mask, possum, or squirrel for nymphs

Synthetic fibers: antron or antron blends (adds sparkle)

Body Materials:

Chenille: black, brown, and olive, small

Antron or polypropylene yarn, white

Ribbing: medium gold/silver mylar tinsel, medium copper wire, fine silver and gold wire

Lead or non-toxic wire, fine (.015") and medium (.020")

Foam, 2mm black

Rubber legs, black and white, medium