

# **ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND HOW TO MAKE THEM**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649165056

Artificial Flies and how to Make Them by M. A. Shipley

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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and

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by

M. A. Shipley.

1888.



Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1888, by  
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PIESS OF SPANGLER & OWENS  
PHILADELPHIA

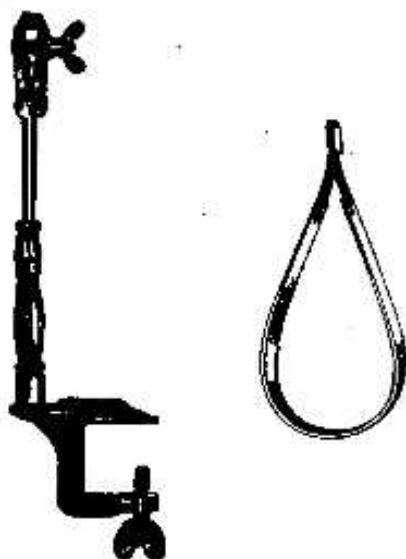
The Art  
of  
Fly Making.

**F**LY-making is an art which dates back long before the time of Isaac Walton, who is the patron saint of all anglers, and is both profitable, amusing and entertaining, besides affording that pleasure which comes from being able to catch fish with a lure which you have made yourself.

This short treatise is not intended to be at all exhaustive, but to give some plain, practical directions for tying the flies usually used, which when thoroughly mastered, salmon and other intricate flies can be tied almost by intuition, and I would remark, before commencing, to the would-be learner, do not be discouraged with your first flies. Remember that trout and bass do not look closely to see if a fly is handsomely

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made or not, and I have seen artificial flies which for appearance were anything but neatly made, take fish as well as others which were everything that could be desired.



The implements used in fly tying, are a pair of sharp pointed embroidery scissors of fine quality, or better still, a pair with curved blades, a stiletto, a vise, either plain or with an attachment for screwing it to the table (like cut,) and a pair of spring pliers. We would strongly urge



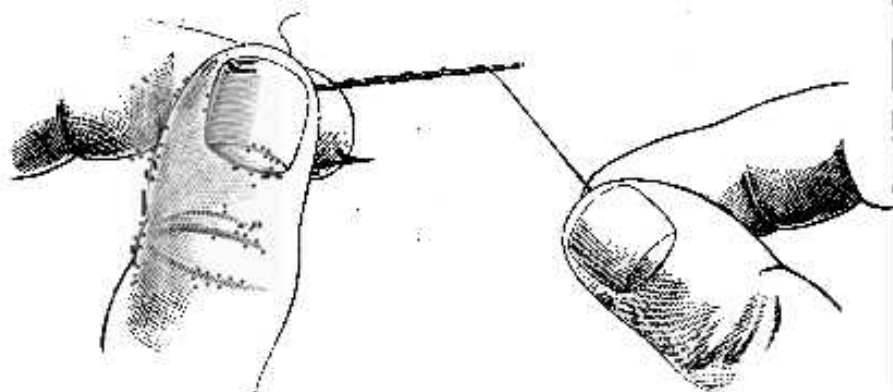
our readers to learn to make their flies without the aid of the vise, as we firmly believe they can be made better and stronger and more quickly without its aid, with the possible exception of *intricate salmon flies*.

### HACKLE FLIES.

We will first take up the hackle flies, as they are the most simple in construction. Select first the hook, which for making a neat fly must always have a taper shank. The most approved patterns for fly tying are the Sproat and Limerick, but for Hackle and Palmer flies many persons use what is known as the Sneck Bent, and we think with good reason, as any hook without a side bend, if placed between the leaves of a book—which will represent for our purpose the mouth of a fish—you will notice, can readily be withdrawn without the point entering. Now if a hook like the sneck bent be so placed, it cannot be removed without catching on one of the sides.

Select a brown hackle, a piece of peacock

herl, from which cut for a trout fly four strands close to the quill, and a piece of gold tinsel three inches long, and snooding silk twelve or fifteen inches long, which must be well waxed with snooding wax by drawing the silk over it two or three times.



Next select a perfectly clear and round strand of silk worm gut, and having soaked it for five or ten minutes in warm water, tie a loop in one end and cut off the lower part, so as to make it five inches long. Take the hook by the bend, holding it either in the vise or between the thumb and first finger of the left hand, (see cut) wind the

wrapping silk spirally around the shank of the hook, the turns being about one-eighth of an inch apart, commencing opposite the point and winding to within one-eighth of an inch of the end, always winding the silk, and in fact everything that is wound on the hook *from* you. Now lay the gut on top and wind closely and firmly down to where you commenced.



Place the piece of gold tinsel on top of the hook, allowing the loose end to lie between the thumb and finger of the left hand, having but one-quarter of an inch of the tinsel on the hook. Take two turns of silk around it one-quarter inch from its end, and at a point on the hook midway between the barb and the point, (see cut) wind the silk loosely around the shank of the hook, continuing up the gut to get it out of your way.