

Fly Tying Proficiency Award Requirements

Beginning Proficiency Award Requirements:

1. Must pass a written test based on handout materials, binder material, and meeting discussions. One can take the test as many times as necessary...but one will not be able to see the right and wrong answers until everyone has completed and passed the test. Expect to take this test this summer some time.
2. Must present 2 flies of each of 10 different patterns that have been tied by oneself, to the project leader. Expect to complete this by mid-to-late summer (or earlier if one wishes). Project leader suggests that you keep these flies separate from the rest of one's flies until they are approved (these flies should represent your best effort and should not have been finished with yet!) They will be approved in a "lot"...not two by two over time.

Intermediate Proficiency Award Requirements:

1. Must pass two written tests based on handout material, binder material, and meeting discussions. The first test will be the "Beginning Proficiency Test" followed by the second test, "Intermediate Proficiency Test." Pass requires 70% correct. One can take the test as many times as necessary...but one will not be able to see the right or wrong answers until everyone has completed and passed the test. The tests will be multiple choice and true/false questions with one "essay" question. Expect to take this test this summer some time.
2. Must present 5 flies of each of 10 different patterns that have been tied by oneself, to the project leader. Expect to complete this by mid-to-late summer (or earlier if one wishes). Project leader suggests that you keep these flies separate from the rest of one's flies until they are approved (these flies should represent your best effort and should not have been finished with yet!) They will be approved in a "lot"...not two by two over time.
3. Must give some group presentation on the subject of fly tying. Presentations can be given at "Presentation Day" or to the 4-H Fly Tying Group. Presentations must be 3 to 10 minutes long.

4-H Fly Tying Proficiency Exam - Beginning Level

A. Multiple Choice:

- The _____ is considered the primary, most important tool of the trade:
 - hackle pliers
 - scissors
 - fly tying vise
 - bodkin
- The hackle portion of a dry fly gives the fly _____.
 - a neat appearance
 - some weight to sink
 - the wings
 - its buoyancy to float
- The primary function of a bobbin is to _____.
 - make the fly float
 - hold the spool of thread
 - wrap the hackle feather
 - help select the right size hook
- Hackles can be wrapped onto the fly with _____.
 - the bodkin
 - hackle pliers
 - your fingers
 - both b and c
- Not all bodkins have a tube-type hole in the end but the one in your kit does. This makes our bodkin useful for _____.
 - putting thread on the bobbin
 - applying head cement
 - tying off with a half-hitch knot
 - none of the above
- The *Western Fly Pattern Dictionary* from Jack Dennis' Western Trout Fly Tying Manual is a good reference for _____.
 - the correct size hook to use for a fly
 - the materials needed for a certain fly pattern
 - a comparison of different fly patterns
 - all of the above
- Peacock herl is _____.
 - the "eye" of the peacock feather
 - used to form the body of a Grey Hackle Peacock pattern
 - the single strands that come off the side of a peacock feather shaft
 - b and c
 - the result of a sick peacock
- Hackle saddles and necks for hackle feathers are this color _____.
 - blue dun
 - coachman brown
 - grizzly
 - cream
 - badger
 - all of the above
- When fishing "catch and release" waters for trout one should always use _____.
 - the biggest hook possible
 - a dry fly pattern
 - a barbless hook
 - all of the above
- Fly patterns can imitate _____.
 - minnows
 - mayflies
 - nymphs
 - nothing at all
 - all of the above
- A fly pattern materials list always includes _____.
 - hackle feathers
 - thread
 - lead wire for weight
 - tail material
- Chenille is a _____.
 - natural material from turkeys
 - man-made material like yarn for forming bodies
 - material only found in yellow color
 - brand of hooks

B. True/False

- True False 1. You should select a hackle that is proportional to the size of your hook...the smaller the hook, the thinner the hackle feather used.
- True False 2. It is important to learn to keep scissors in your hand while fly tying instead of setting them down between steps.
- True False 3. Fly patterns ALWAYS imitate an insect.
- True False 4. Grizzly hackle comes from hair on a grizzly bear's back.
- True False 5. It is important to remember or follow the correct "steps" when applying materials to form a fly pattern.
- True False 6. Your mom or dad get mad at you when you leave hooks on the floor at home.
- True False 7. In fly tying terms rubber legs are what you get when you try to gather grizzly material from a bear.
- True False 8. Dry fly hooks usually have thinner shanks than wet fly hooks.
- True False 9. Head cement is used to keep the thread, knots, and materials from coming apart.
- True False 10. After using head cement it is important to leave the cap off the bottle.
- True False 11. You should always have the barb of the hook inside the jaws or your vise.
- True False 12. Never leave a hook inserted in your vise for long periods of time.
- True False 13. Fly patterns only use natural materials like feathers, fur, and hair.
- True False 14. Size 22 hook is a very large hook.
- True False 15. The idea to keep in mind while tying a dry fly is "keep it light so it floats easily."
- True False 16. Stone fly pattern sometimes uses lead wire as a weight to help the fly sink.
- True False 17. In fly tying, the "GAP" refers to a store to buy materials.
- True False 18. Correct hook size, tail, body, ribbing, wing, and hackle make up all the possible materials to consider in a fly pattern.

True False 19. It is important to keep your tied flies and natural materials in sealed containers in order to keep “bugs” from eating them.

True False 20. Your friends and family never knew what made the “hackle” part of a fishing fly...and were amazed to find out.

C. Essay/Diagram Question.

Draw a diagram of a hook. Label the six parts of the hook.

Fly Tying Proficiency Exam - Intermediate Level

(Must pass Beginning Level beforehand.)

A. Multiple Choice

- There are many brands of hooks for fly tying. Five popular brands are _____
 - Dai-Riki, Niki, Levi, Cabela, and Eagle Claw.
 - Dai-Riki, Niki, Hanes, Levi, and Cabela
 - Mustad, Dai-Riki, Cabela, Tiemco, and Eagle Claw
 - Niki, Mustad, Cabela, Levi, and Tiemco
- A "Muddler Minnow" is a type of _____
 - dry fly pattern
 - streamer pattern
 - nymph pattern
 - fish
- A fly pattern that imitates a mayfly is _____
 - Blue Dun
 - Joe's Hopper
 - Mosquito
 - Bird's Stone Fly
- Qualities to look for when purchasing a saddle or neck cape for hackle are _____
 - gloss and sheen
 - web
 - feather length
 - feather shape
 - all of the above
- Hair stackers are _____
 - boxes with compartments to hold different types of hair
 - tubes used to even out the ends of hair
 - a pattern of streamer fly
 - your favorite barber or hair stylist
- When dubbing your own thread a necessary material is _____
 - a bodkin
 - a good tacky wax
 - elk hair
 - a turkey quill
- "Synthetics" include the following material _____
 - tinsel
 - foam
 - polypropylene yarn
 - flashabou
 - all of the above
- The fly patterns called Horton, Light Cahill, Hendrickson, Dark Green Drake, Elk Hair Humpy are all variations imitating _____
 - minnows
 - caddis flies
 - western mayflies
 - stoneflies
- The "hatch" refers to _____
 - a clutch of newly hatched chickens bred for quality hackles
 - mass emergence of adult insects "hatching" from nymphal stage
 - the cover on a fishing creel
 - a cluster of nymphs on the bottom side of a rock in a stream
- Nymph fly patterns are ones that _____
 - usually imitate flying insects with wings
 - usually imitate aquatic larval stages of certain insects
 - sometimes are "attractors" not imitating any certain nymph
 - b and c
- The "hump" on an Elk Hair Humpy is made out of _____
 - elk hair
 - dubbing material
 - foam
 - ostrich herl
- A good sample of an "attractor" pattern is the _____
 - Blue Dun fly
 - Elk Hair Caddis fly
 - Bitch Creek fly
 - Carpenter Ant fly

13. A sculpin is a _____
- type of moth
 - kind of aquatic insect nymph
 - light weight boat for fly fishing
 - kind of bottom-hugging minnow-type fish sometimes called a "bullhead"
14. Aussie Hopper, Jim's Cricket, Carpenter Ant, and The Mouse are all fly patterns that we can call _____
- sculpins
 - attractor patterns
 - terrestrials
 - stoneflies
15. Fly tying as a 4-H project has _____
- made me use my head (brain) for innovative thinking
 - utilized my hands to improve my skills
 - improved my heartfelt understanding of the streams around us
 - provided me with a healthy hobby that I can love and enjoy and teach to my friends and community
 - all of the above

B. True/False

- True False 1. The "open-ended bodkin," the Materelli whip-finisher, and the Thompson's whip finisher are all tools used to hold the spool of thread.
- True False 2. Some fly patterns can be used as wet and dry flies.
- True False 3. Tying your own flies is all about "saving money" so you don't have to spend a lot of cash on tied flies.
- True False 4. An "attractor pattern" does not really imitate any certain insect, nymph, pupa, or fish.
- True False 5. Deer, Elk, Moose, Antelope, and Caribou are all common types of hollow animal hair used for fly patterns.
- True False 6. Jungle Cock feathers, Condor feathers, Seal Fur, and Polar Bear hair are all modern, readily available fly tying materials.
- True False 7. Fly tying vises range from very simple styles to very elaborate styles that are quite expensive.
- True False 8. Streamers usually call for using a shorter shanked hook than a standard dry or wet fly pattern.
- True False 9. Hooks for streamers and nymphs are made of heavier wire than dry fly hooks for two reasons...to be stronger to support more thread and material, and since they don't have to support a fly that floats.
- True False 10. When tying hair flies it is a good idea to make good use of head cement to secure the hair to the hook, thread, and other materials.
- True False 11. Dubbing refers to applying a short fur or synthetic fur type material onto the tying thread.

- True False 12. The saying, "Match the hatch" refers to matching the proper color of hackle to the fly pattern.
- True False 13. Many fly patterns imitating Caddis flies utilize hair.
- True False 14. If your thread breaks midway through tying a fly, you should take everything apart and start over.
- True False 15. Fly tying is not only a wonderful hobby but an art form to be proud of.

C. Essay Question

When tying dry flies it is important to tie a properly proportioned dry fly. Label the parts of this fly and at each "bar" describe the correct "proportion" (for example: "*the _____ of the fly should start midway down the shank and cover this half of the shank.*")

