

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

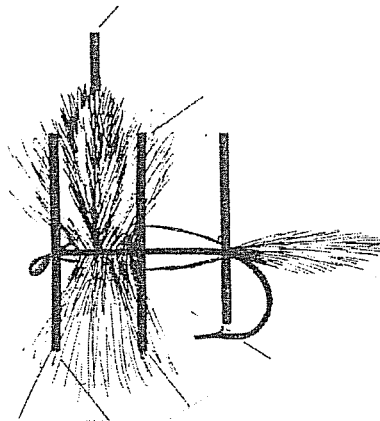
B. True/False

- | | | |
|------|-------|---|
| 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.*")



4-H Advanced Fly Tying Proficiency Requirement

□ **ADVANCED PROFICIENCY AWARD REQUIREMENTS**

1. Must pass a written test based on your Western Trout Fly Tying Manuals Volume I & II, handout material, and meeting discussions. Pass requires 70% correct. You can take this test as many times as necessary... but you will not be able to see your wrong and right answers until you have completed and passed the test. Expect to take this test this summer some time.
2. Must present 5 flies of each of ten different patterns, 50 flies total, tied by yourself, to your leader, demonstrating at least six of the following:
 - Clipped hair bodies or heads...such as *Irresistible*, *Goddard Caddis*, *the Jughead*, various *Muddler* patterns, *MacHopper*
 - Small hair *Humpy's* size 16 or smaller using Blacktail deer hair
 - Parachute style flies such as *Green Drake*, *Paradrake*, *Parachute Adams*, *Parachute Hares Ear*, *Parachute Rusty Spinner*, *Schroaeder parachute Hopper*
 - Wing flies using duck quill or turkey quill such as *Pale Morning Dun*, *Letort Cricket*, *White Miller*, *Joe's Hopper*, *Whit's Hopper*, *Rio Grande King*, *Royal Coachman*, *Blue Quill*
 - Midges/Emergers of size 18 or smaller ...such as *Griffith's Gnat*, *Kaufman Hatching Midge*, *Palomino Midge*
 - Flies using dubbing ...such as *Flashback Hare's Ear*, *Hare's Ear Nymph Beadhead*, *Whitlock Near Nuff Sculpin*, *Tan Scud*

- Other bass or saltwater patterns
- Muddler Streamer patterns...such as *Whitlock Sculpin, Kiwi Muddler, Woolhead Sculpin, Whitlock Near Nuff Sculpin*
- Bead head flies...such as *Hare's Ear Nymph Bead Head, prince Nymph Bead Head, Caddis larvae Bead Head*
- Flies showing extended hair bodies...such as *Green Drake Paradrake, Jacklin Salmon Fly, Borger Braided Butt Damsel*
- Flies using rubber legs ...such as *Black Yuk Bug, Pepperoni Yuk Bug, Henry's Fork Hopper, Kaufman's Rubber Leg Brown Stone, Madam X, Girdle Bug*

3. Completion of one of the following activities:

- A collection of 30 different natural trout foods, all properly identified and labeled. Must research out your own reference material to identify the specimens which will probably include mayflies, nymphs, caddis flies, mosquitoes, stoneflies, minnows, grasshoppers, crickets, crayfish, midges, larvae, leeches, damsel flies, etc. Place aquatics in a jar with isopropyl alcohol.
- Plan an extended fishing trip with a very detailed plan of ALL necessary materials and knowledge needed including, but not limited to:
 - *Where...location, maps, topography maps, trails, private land, Forest Service, how to get there*
 - *Permission ... permits necessary, fire permits, camping permits, fees, etc*
 - *What fish are to be expected*
 - *Suggested fly patterns for the area*

- *Camping or backpacking supplies...detailed down to a list of items including number of meals and a planned menu*
 - *Safety...a detailed list of ALL safety issues relevant to the trip and precautionary information (such as altitude sickness at high elevations). Include emergency contacts and phone numbers.*
- Any other individual project approved by the leader.

4-H Fly tying Proficiency Exam – Advanced Level

A. Multiple Choice

1. A Hair Stacker or Hair Evener is an important tool used to produce even _____ on the wings and tails of Humpys, Wulffs, stonefly dry flies, hoppers, and other patterns.
 - A) proportions
 - B) length
 - C) hair colors
 - D) hair tips
2. A _____ will help you spin traditional fine hair or “fuzzy” materials such as Natural furs, antron, and poly body materials onto thread which you can then use to form bodies with.
 - A) teaser
 - B) fuzz buster
 - C) dubbit or dubbing tool
 - D) rotary hackle pliers
3. Fly tying thread, mainly manufactured by Danville (US), PAC-Unithread (Canada), and RST (Germany), come in various thicknesses or sizes. Spider thread, which is a 20/0 thread, is good for tying _____.
 - A) streamers
 - B) bass flies
 - C) large hair flies
 - D) midges and small flies
4. Flat Waxed Nylon thread is an “A” diameter thread and is used for _____.
 - A) saltwater flies
 - B) large hair flies
 - C) small midges
 - D) smooth heads on streamer flies
 - E) A,B, and D
5. Kevlar thread, which is stronger than standard nylon thread, can damage bobbins unless you use a _____.
 - A) steel bobbin
 - B) ceramic bobbin
 - C) a special wax
 - D) compression tool

6. Waxed Thread has the advantage(s) of _____.
- A) fraying less
 - B) holding dubbing better
 - C) bonding materials to the hook more easily
 - D) all of the above
7. When looking for deer hair to be used for clipped hair flies search for hair that is _____.
- A) thicker in diameter and lighter in color
 - B) thinner in diameter and lighter in color
 - C) thicker in diameter and darker in color
 - D) thinner in diameter and darker in color
8. A Mayfly imitation pattern generally has _____.
- A) a tapered body
 - B) a hackle tip divided wing
 - C) a tail
 - D) a hackle
 - E) all of the above
9. An adult Caddis Fly imitator pattern typically has a _____.
- A) segmented hair body
 - B) tail
 - C) flared hair wing
 - D) divided wing
 - E) all of the above
10. A traditional grasshopper pattern is the _____.
- A) Gartside Pheasant
 - B) Henry's Fork
 - C) Joe's Hopper
 - D) Jim's Hair
 - E) The Tevoravich
 - F) All of the above

B. True/False

1. Thin-fibered, silky hair (which will have a minimum of flaring) is used for either wings or for hair body flies such as the Humpy. **T F**
2. When selecting a neck cape or saddle hackle it is important to know the size of hackle feathers needed and to check for the amount of web in each hackle. **T F**
3. When you settle in to tie a fly you increase your proficiency by tying only one or two of each pattern. **T F**

4. Dan Bailey, Lee Wulff, and Dave Whitlock are all famous fly tiers with many fly patterns named after them. **T F**
5. Antelope hair is hollow and is good for clipped fly heads and bodies. **T F**
6. Moose hair is soft and pliable and makes terrible tails on flies. **T F**
7. Calftail is used in many Wulff patterns and the parachute patterns. **T F**
8. Golden Trout are native to the high elevations of the Rocky Mountains. **T F**
9. Flashabou is a thin mylar strip that is flexible and gives a minnow-like flash to streamers. **T F**
10. If you are planning a fly fishing trip it does not help you to do some research and find out the approximate "hatch" dates of specific insects such as stoneflies. **T F**

C. Written Portion

1. Describe your most memorable fly fishing memory, fly fishing fantasy, or describe the step-by-step methods of tying any particular fly pattern.

Answers to test:

- A. 1. D
2. C
3. D
4. E
5. B
6. D
7. A
8. E
9. C
10. F

- B. 1. True
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. True
6. False
7. True
8. False
9. True
10. False

C. Subjective 10 points possible....mainly looking for the “student” to use his/her imagination and creativity in describing a fly fishing experience or fantasy or a thorough description of the process of tying a fly pattern.

