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DRAAD MAGAZINE - A WAFF PUBLISHING - STREAMERS 2026 - Guillermo López

Rodolfo Guzmán Fuentes

Guillermo López

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THREAD FIL FADEN FILO TRÅD HILO NIT CHI
DRAAD MAGAZINE - A WAFF PUBLISHING - STREAMERS 2026 - Nima Taher Fathers

Nima Taher Fathers

Sam Greenwa

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Lauri Hauhia

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Jason Haddix

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DRAAD MAGAZINE - A WAFF PUBLISHING - STREAMERS 2026 - Pascal Jaquin

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DRAAD MAGAZINE - A WAFF PUBLISHING - STREAMERS 2026 - Alois Trübner

Alois Trübne

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STREAMERS

FOR PIKE, PERCH AND TROUT

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Photo: Alois Trübner

GUESTS

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Part 1

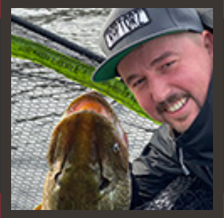
Alois Trübner (Lüneburger Heide, Germany) - Guillermo López (Panguipully, Chile) - Jason Haddix (Colorado, USA) - Keith McDonnall (Dublin, Ireland) - Lauri Hauria (Helsinki, Finland) - Nima Taher Fathers (Goteborg, Sweden) - Pascal Jacquin (Trier Germany) - Rodolfo Guzmán Fuentes (Traiguen, chile) - Sam Greenway (Lake district, GB)

Part 2

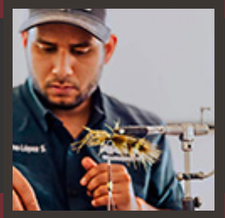
From the USA: (Minneapolis) Andrew Selvig. Italy: (Cerveteri) Giovanni de Pace. The Netherlands: (Amsterdam) Sander Zuidinga. USA: (Tennessee) Ellis Ward. USA: (Minneapolis) Erik Johnsen. UK: (Yorkshire) Adey Thomas. and last but not least Svend Diesel.

Part 1

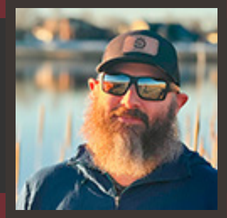
Alois Trübner



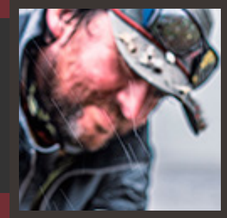
Guillermo López



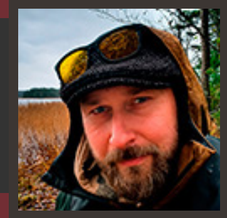
Jason Haddix



Keith McDonnall



Lauri Hauria



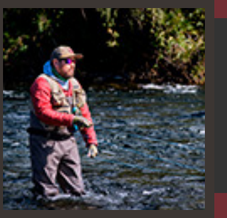
Nima Taher Fathers



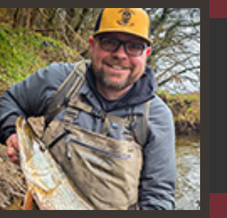
Pascal Jacquin



Rodolfo Guzmán Fuentes



Sam Greenway



Part 2

Svend Diesel



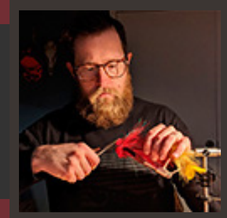
Sander Zuidinga



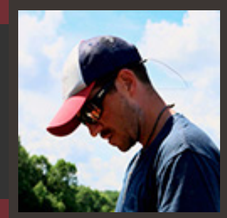
Giovanni de Pace



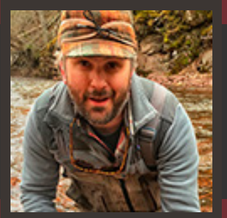
Erik Johnsen



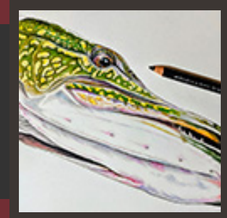
Ellis Ward



Andrew Selvig



Adey Thomas



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MAGAZINE

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Streamers 2026
for pike, perch and trout

A double-thick edition of DRAAD Magazine.
This issue also includes the **members only**
streamer edition from 2021.
Enjoy!

Peter Sikking

DRAAD magazine is part of a platform where flytiers can showcase their work

Alois Trübner for

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DRAAD MAGAZINE - AWAFF PUBLISHING - STREAMERS 2026 - Alois Trübner
Alois Trübner

Alois Trübner

Hi, I’m Alois. Born in 1981, married, father of two daughters, and lucky enough to call the idyllic village of Hermannsburg in northern Germany my home.

I’ve been fishing since I was a kid, but in 2012 something changed. An Irish guy handed me a pike fly rod — and that was it. I was completely hooked. Since then, fly fishing has been my passion, and my focus has been 100% on the fly.

Pike is my absolute favourite. I love targeting them with my carefully designed and well-engineered, fully synthetic, ultralight streamers. But living in the countryside also means having access to some beautiful rivers and streams, where trout and grayling are always worth chasing. And whenever the opportunity comes along, perch, zander and sea trout are definitely on the list as well.

But there’s another part of fly fishing that fascinates me almost as much as the fishing itself: fly tying. For more than seven years, I’ve been sharing this passion through live flytying demonstrations at trade fairs all over Europe. I’m also proud to be on the road for ArcticSilver, Easy Shrimp Eyes, Fulling Mill, Raidzap and Renomed.
On top of that, I produce my own predator materials for excellent tying and fishing experiences.

When I’m not tying or fishing, I run an online store focused on fly fishing for predatory fish, organize flytying courses and take anglers on guided fishing trips in my region.

For me, fly fishing is balm for the soul.
Add beautiful nature, a perfectly tied fly and a strong, beautiful fish — and you will experience the kind of moments that stay with you forever. Moments that recharge my batteries for a very, very long time.

Keep your fish wet!! ;)

Best reagrds,

Alois

There are 3 reasons why I tie all my pike streamers with 100% synthetic materials.
The first reason is: I like to keep things simple.
Second: I want my pike flies to be as light as possible.
And last but not least: I want them to be durable.

If you pay just a little attention to the materials you buy, you can tie all your flies to the same standard using synthetic materials. This, in turn, ensures a final product of consistently high quality.
An additional benefit of using synthetic materials is that these streamers *soak up no water, letting you to catch fish after fish without losing their shape/silhouette or their ability to push water.

It took me a few years to turn my ideas into an actual working product.

One of the first steps was to create a streamer with **only 2 tying-in points**! And at the same time I wanted a streamer of **6 inches** in length! A further development was the partially cut rubber bead, whose purpose is to better push water. This, combined with using as little material as possible, resulted in a streamer pattern that not only casts very easily but also doesn't absorb water, and still is substantial enough to entice even the largest fish. If you want to see how this streamer is tied, check out my Raptorz YouTube channel.

https://youtu.be/u5DtfsDwSq0?is=XmztZTV4K6IZo1WN





The head of this, or in fact any streamer, needs to be perfect and super durable. That’s why I choose Raidzap resin to finish my streamer heads. In my opinion it is the best UV-cured resin available. It dries extremely quickly, isn't sticky, is odourless, doesn't produce fumes, and is also completely non-toxic.



The bodyfibers and the dubbing for the head are produced by me in collaboration with Tommi-fly from the Czech Republic. I mix my body material, the Curly Creature Hair, with different types of flash, so I have less tying points, which ensures less weight. The tips are straightened with a curling iron to make them livelier in the water. The Curly Creature Dubbing, with its staple length of 15 cm, is available in two versions, NATURAL and NUCLEAR. Interested in what that means? Have a look at www.raptorz-shop.com where incidentally you can buy all the materials required for these streamers.

Alois Trübner

AHREX GIVEAWAY

staying warm with Ahrex

What is your Ahrex moment?
Let us know, and win this knitted beany.

please send your submission to info@weareflyfishing.com

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Guillermo López

Guillermo López

My name is Guillermo López; I am 38 years old and grew up in Temuco, a city in southern Chile. Then, fate brought me to Panguipulli, where I currently live with my family. Panguipulli is a mountain town where nature reveals itself in all its splendor. Surrounded by forests, rivers, mountains, and lakes, it is the perfect place for someone like me.

Fishing has been one of my favourite pastimes since childhood. Over the years, this hobby grew into something much deeper; today, I can say that for me, fly fishing has become a way of life. I dedicate long hours (and have done so over many years) to honing my knowledge and techniques. Besides actual fishing, much of my time is spent behind the vise — creating and refining patterns, studying their every detail, and documenting my experiences on the river — always eagerly awaiting the moment I can return to the water.

DEMON FLAME

Fly designed to fish for large arapaimas in the Amazon.

Hook: Ahrex SA270 Bluewater #4/0
Thread: power thread black 150D Textreme
Head: Fish skull head + 3D eyes + black arctic fox fur + Thinman UV resin Gulff
Body: orange Bucktail.
Side band: orange angel hair fibers + Textreme orange flash crystal
Tail: red dragon tail



COPPERY SHADOW

Articulated fly designed for fishing for large trout in the lakes and rivers of Patagonia Chilean

Hook: 2 Ahrex XO Universal Stinger #4 hooks
Thread: standard 3/0 Textreme
Body: zonker light brown + long hair holographic copper Textreme + Angel hair orange
Legs: orange barred rubber legs
Hook connection: Predator wire 7x7 26lb Ahrex
Head: hourglass eyes size s + Senyo's laser dub

This approach to fly fishing has allowed me to grow and develop within the world of fly fishing. even to a professional level; I currently have the privilege of being part of several professional teams and serving as an ambassador for renowned international brands such as Textreme, Ahrex, Stonfo, Gulff, Whiting Farms, Renomed, Cortland, and Douglas.

THE BLACK WIDOW
Articulated sex dungeon fly used for fishing for large trout in lakes and rivers of Chilean Patagonia.

Hook: 2 Ahrex NS110 S/E #2 hooks.
Thread: power thread black 150D Textreme.
Tail: black marabou feather + crimpy flash rock oil Textreme fibers.
Body: black chenille metal texture + black copper wire trim + hackle in palmer with black feather + black marabou.
Legs: black and red barred rubber legs.
Hook connection: Predator wire 7x7 26lb Ahrex.
Head: hourglass eyes size s + black deer hair.


HAIR SUPERHOLO
1143-Holo Gold/Bronze
PLHSH-H141143
3 meters

I also have my own brand, Guille López Flies, a project through which I share fly patterns, tying techniques, and entomological knowledge on social media.
I consider myself a versatile tier, equally adept at tying classic flies and modern patterns, always seeking to learn, experiment, and perfect every technique I use.

My goal is to continue growing as an angler and fly tier, and to contribute to the ongoing development of the discipline in Chile. I aspire to become a national reference point, but above all, I aim to elevate, promote, and share the art of fly fishing — passing on my knowledge, skills, and experiences to anyone wishing to start or deepen their involvement in this wonderful adventure.

With that goal in mind, I founded the **Chilean Fly Tying School** in 2024 — a project born from the conviction that knowledge gains true value when shared. Through it, I seek to teach, inspire, and pass on this passion, contributing to the development of new and future generations of anglers and fly tyers.

For me, fly fishing is not merely an activity or a sport; it is a way of connecting with nature, a passion, a craft, and a way of life.

Guillermo López

Jason Haddix for

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MAGAZINE




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Jason Haddix

Jason Haddix

My name is Jason Haddix and I live with my wife Melody in Berthoud, Colorado USA, where I get to explore the endless possibilities this place offers. I grew up as small child with a fly rod in my hand and eventually, under the encouragement of a relative, learned to tie my own flies. I was lucky enough to have such a love for tying that I morphed from just a hobby tier into what became a commercial tying career and formed a small tying business tying for clients around the globe.

Along this winding path I have worked as a guide, managed fly shops like Arbor Anglers I currently reside at and formed some great ambassador partnerships, that have all allowed me to turn the outdoor industry into a lifelong career.



CF Baitfish
Hook: Ahrex SA280 sz4-1/0
Thread: Veevus GSP 100d
Tail: Scales & Tails/Supreme Hair
Tail Flash: Hedron Flashabou 1/69 Opal Lateral Scale
Mid Body: Scales & Tails
Body Flash: Hareline Ripple Ice Fiber
Hot Core: Semperfli Ice Dub
Head: Hareline Xtra Select Craft Fur
Eyes: Flymen Living Eyes
Barring: Prismacolor Marker
Glue: Raidzap Flex UV Resin



Dirty Scrounger
Hook: Ahrex PR320 sz 2/0, 4/0 ,6/0
Thread: Fulling Mill Twisted 140
Tail: MFC Scales & Tails
Lateral Lines Whiting American Rooster Grizzly Saddle Hackle in alternating colours - 3 sets
Flash: Hedron Flashabou 1/69 Opal Lateral Scale
Collar: Bucktail
Rear Head: EP Craft Fur Brush 3in
Forward Head: EP Minnow Head Brush
Eyes: Flymen Living Eyes
Glue: Raidzap Thin & Flex UV Resin
Colors/Barring: Prismacolor Marker



Backwater Brawler
Hook: Ahrex TP610 sz02-1/0
Thread: Fulling Mill Twisted 140
Tail: Whiting American Rooster Saddle
Flash: Hedron Flashabou - Pearl
Body: Hareline Palmering Chenille - 30mm
Collar: Bucktail
Lateral Line: Hareline Voodoo Fibers - Clear/Black
Legs:: Grizzly Flutter Legs - UV Pearl Barred
Collar: Hareline Xtra Select Craft Fur
Collar: EP Minnow Head Brush
Head: Flymen Bandito/Baitfish Head
Eyes: Flymen Living Eyes
Glue: Raidzap UV Super Thin Resin

If there is a fly in my box that seems to elicit a predatory response by everything from big lake trout to bass to pike and even offshore species it's the Dirty Scrounger. The patterns effectiveness comes in the form of its long slender profile that has more a vertical oval shape which gives it a very erratic swimming motion while producing a push of water. It relies on an incredibly easy to tie tail section of folded synthetics paired with simple stacked feathers, flash and a combination of two very durable wire core dubbing brushes to form the head. The rest is just trimming and a bit of fun with art markers to make any color combo you want.

Jason Haddix

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HO HO,

Please turn back one page!

“What IS this; an ad? I thought you guys did this without ads?”
“Erm, yeah, and we still do, but this isn’t just any ad. This is from our sponsor for rods, reels, and lines for our WeAreFlyFishing Academy.”

When we were looking for a sponsor for equipment for our WeAreFlyFishing Academy, Jaroslaw Smorczewski from Traper Fly Fishing responded right away, without any fuss or haggling, and the promised items arrived within a few weeks. So kudos to Traper Fly Fishing!

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FLY FISHING
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THE ART OF FLY FISHING

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DRAAD MAGAZINE - A WAFF PUBLISHING - STREAMERS 2026 - J Keith McDonnell

Keith McDonnell

Keith McDonnell

Keith McDonnell

Based in Dublin, Ireland, Keith McDonnell has, in his own words, been fly fishing “like his life depended on it” for more than 30 years. Keith is an Advanced Instructor and loves technical dry fly situations. However his true obsession is the world of big predatory trout and articulated streamers, and he has been at the forefront of developing and promoting modern European streamer culture.

Through his company, Impact Fly Fishing , Keith designs and distributes premium articulated streamers that are fished globally, from across Europe to Patagonia and New Zealand. His insights, photography, and patterns have featured in many international fly fishing podcasts, books, magazines and online publications.

McGenius

Silver Wing n’ Flash and black marabou make a lethal combination.

In the world of modern streamer fishing, a fly's reputation is built entirely on the caliber of fish it lands. The McGenius stands out as a proven trophy hunter with a track record for large brown trout across both hemispheres.

Trigger Treat

Yellow is a very under-used colour for brown trout flies. This fly is in fact one of my favourites. When modern fly tiers think about streamers, they often reach for dumbbells, cone-heads, or heavy tungsten beads to force the fly down. As a prominent member of my signature range of flies at Impact Fly Fishing, this pattern is designed from the vice up as a weightless, neutral-buoyancy ‘swim fly’. It has accounted for many large trout on rivers and lakes; Atlantic salmon are rather fond of it too.



Knick Knack

Big trout are notoriously cannibalistic. and will regularly hunt down their own smaller brethren; this pattern is designed to exploit that cannibalistic instinct. Its flickering, highly mobile tails are crafted from the finest dry-fly hackles, to give it an irresistible action. Backed up by a copper Wing n’ Flash body and piercing, terminator-red eyes, the Knick Knack is specifically tied to excel during 'the pause'.

McMinnow

The prime feature of the McMinnow is its highly versatile, subtly slender profile. it relies on a clean silhouette and an incredibly tight, swimming flicker. The UV dubbing is a major trigger in this pattern. On its day, every fish in the river regardless of size, will have a go at this one.



Lester the Nightfly

If there is one fly in my box built explicitly to trigger a predatory response through pure, chaotic movement, it is Lester the Nightfly. Heavily influenced by legendary Michigan guide Tommy Lynch's wedge-head concepts, this pattern is built around a sculpted deerhair wedge head cut into a shovel shape with a razor blade.

Lester is a weightless swim fly that relies on water resistance to get noticed. When fished on a fast-sinking line, that deerhair head acts like a diving lip on a wobbler. It forces the pattern to dart and kick erratically. It doesn't just swim; it displaces a significant amount of water. It is my number one fly for targeting lake Ferox trout here in Ireland.

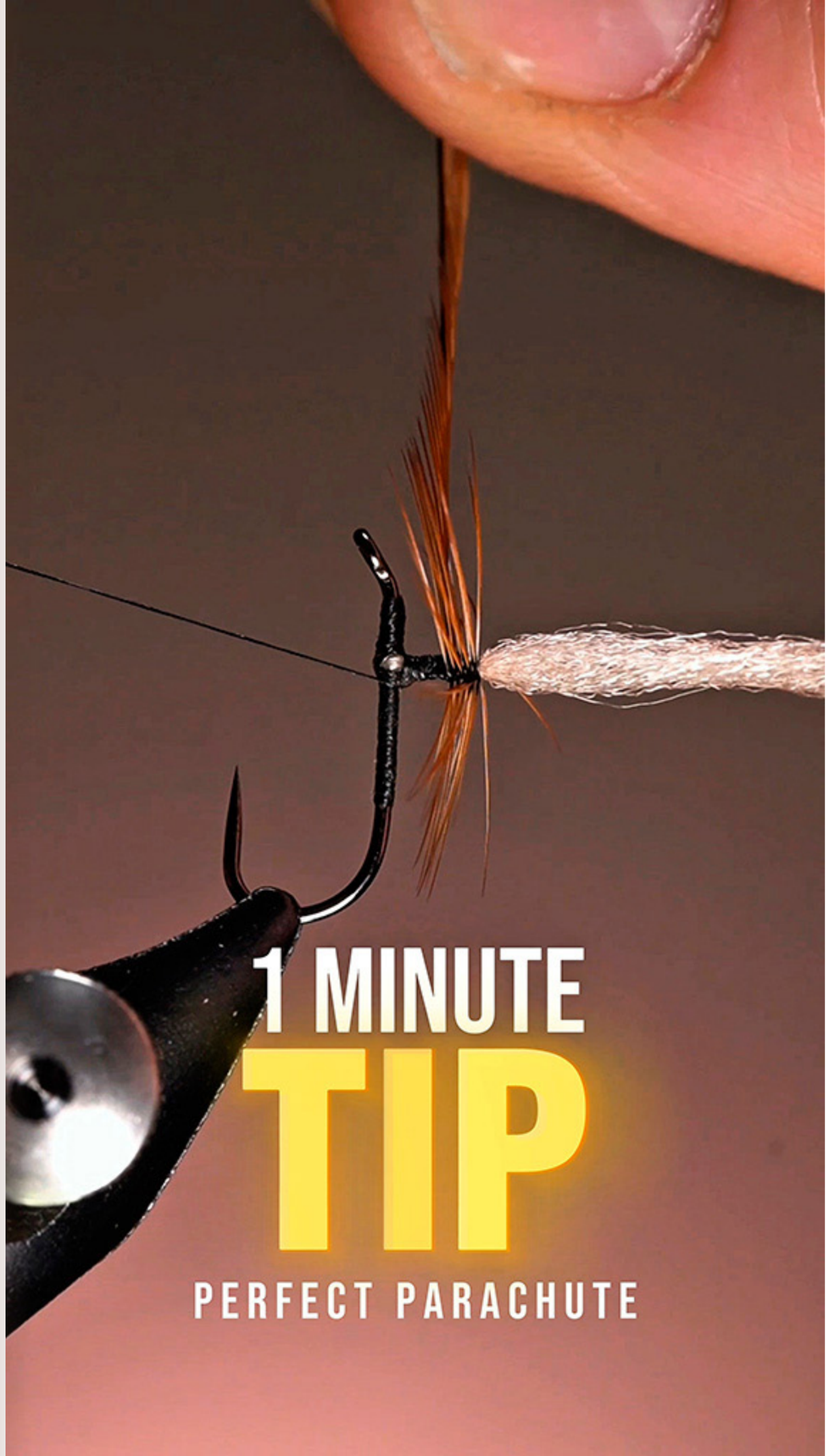


The Cover Charge

Black and green with muddler head and spey hackles. Another swim fly that upsets the big guys.

Keith McDonnell

TIP FROM FRANK



Parachute patterns are arguably among the most popular dry fly patterns. Over the past 30 years, we've seen virtually every popular dry fly pattern featuring a hackle collar or palmered hackle spawning its own parachute variation. Think no further than the famous Adams. How many of you would tie a traditional Adams instead of the parachute version?

There are many ways to attache a parachute post to the hook shank and each method has its staunch supporters, claiming to be the best. I'm not going to repeat that claim for my method, all I want to say is that this is the method that works best for me.

Parachute flies float low, but thanks to their horizontal hackle collar with its large surface area, float as well as, or better than standard hackled flies. Although parachute hackles are usually used on small flies, up to say size 14, the methodallows support for larger patterns as well. It does take a few tries to master the required techniques, but once you've got the hang of it, tying them is a blast. So I invite you to check out my tutorial. It only takes a minute of your time and could save you hours trying to figure things out.

LINK TO THE TUTORIAL HERE

Frank Brassard

Lauri Hauhia for

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DRAAD MAGAZINE - A WAFF PUBLISHING - STREAMERS 2026 - Lauri Hauhia

Lauri Hauhia

Lauri Hauhia

Lauri Hauhia

My name is Lauri Hauhia. I'm from Helsinki, Finland and am a father of two. I have been fishing vritually since I was able to hold a fishing rod by myself. I was first introduced to fly fishing when I was twelve years old, when my father took me to attend a fly-fishing course. During that course, I also tied my first flies. Right after the course ended, we went straight to a fly fishing store to buy my first flytying supplies. Now, 24 years later, my passion for fly fishing and flytying has only grown.

Although I’m passionate about virtually all species of fish but when it comes to fly fishing, I focus primarily on pike. Simply because here in Finland we have excellent opportunities to fish for pike and enjoy healthy populations of them. From our capital, Helsinki, it’s just a half hour’s drive to world-class pike waters.

When I was asked to contribute a few flies for the magazine, I knew right away what kind of flies I wanted to show the readers. Flies that are relatively quick and easy to tie, easy to cast, and catch fish exceptionally well — all tied with synthetic materials exclusively.

To be precise, I wanted to focus on the themes of ‘matching the hatch’ and showing some Finnish all-around patterns. In other words: traditional imitations of baitfish and — especially here in Finland — imitations of perch, since perch can be found in virtually every body of water over here.



This pattern works for pike at any time of year. Silver-toned baitfish imitations in different sizes are definitely worth carrying in your fly box throughout the season.

Like most fly anglers, I love to experiment. And although I've always had good results with a perch imitation tied to the end of my line, I'm still curious to see how pike will react to other colours — like orange and white, for example. But if you're only in Finland for a short time and want to play it safe, try a perch imitation: they're really fun to tie, and you'll catch fish with them – guaranteed.

Finally, I'd like to feature one more fly that — to me — symbolizes modern fly tying for pike. When I'm fishing, I use a lot of Dragontail flies: large flies that displace a lot of water.
Tying this type of fly — with the enormous variety of materials available today — offers plenty of room for creativity. That provides endless possibilities.

Lauri Hauhia



Win an
Ahrex Flexi Stripper

TO GET ONE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO FOLLOW US!
JUST INSPIRE OTHERS WITH YOUR STORIES AND
LIFESTYLE, **AND WE FOLLOW YOU!**

CRISTIANO CESARE DUBBING WAX

100% natural - 100% handmade in Italy

Searching for new gear and new or improved materials is part of the job. It is also something I especially enjoy. All the more so when I discover products that are emerging alongside established brands, or products you might not think of at first, or might have taken for granted forever.
Take for example flytying wax. This is not the first product that comes to mind when you search online for new stuff; not by a long shot. Which makes it all the more surprising when you read — and experience for yourself— how much love and passion, as well as research and expertise, has gone into such a product.
Having said that, a few weeks ago I came across a range of fly tying waxes manufactured by **Cristiano Cesare**. I was, of course, familiar with the fly tier Cristiano Cesare, but I had no idea he was into producing and marketing fly tying wax as well :) plus, his emphasis on properties as handmade and 100% natural, made me want to know more.

Experience for yourself— how much love and passion, as well as research and expertise, has gone into such a product.



Product details

The square solid wax (dubbing wax) is designed to secure hair or dubbing to your tying thread. It is ideal for touch dubbing, and is also a great choice for making large brushes for pike streamers. The jar contains a solid dubbing wax and comes with an applicator stick (so you can easily apply the wax to the thread). The black solid wax, with the orange sticker, is an original cobbler's wax; a mixture of waxes and pitch, or tar. It is the traditional wax used by shoe makers ('cobblers') for tacking and reinforce their heavy sewing thread. This wax helps materials adhere better to your thread, but also strengthens your tying thread and darkens its colour – making it slightly translucent. It is ideal for salmon flies, especially for keeping thread and materials used in making heads remain exactly where you place them. The normal wax (green sticker) is designed to help materials adhere better without darkening the thread. These last two waxes are made according to old recipes.

Cristiano Cesare Cobbler Wax

- 100% natural wax
- Sticky and Precise
- Leather Patch included
- Handmade in Italy

Bottle & adjustment stick

- 100% natural dubbing wax
- Sticky and precise
- Suitable for any kind of dubbing
- Perfect for dubbing loops
- Handmade in Italy

Cristiano Cesare Fly Tying Wax

- 100% natural wax
- Sticky and precise
- Handmade in Italy

Square;

- 100% natural wax
- Sticky and precise
- Handmade in Italy



Cristiano Cesare wax is available at:

Like a River - 54 Dean Street - Bigstreamers - The Fly Store

CRISTIANO CESARE WAX GIVEAWAY

Good news: we get to give away 3 sets of Cristiano's fly tying wax. Just send us a mail message containing the words Cristiano and Wax, and we'll make sure you will be included in a draw for these Cristiano Cesare wax sets.

please send your submission to info@weareflyfishing.com

Nima Taher Fathers for

DRAAD

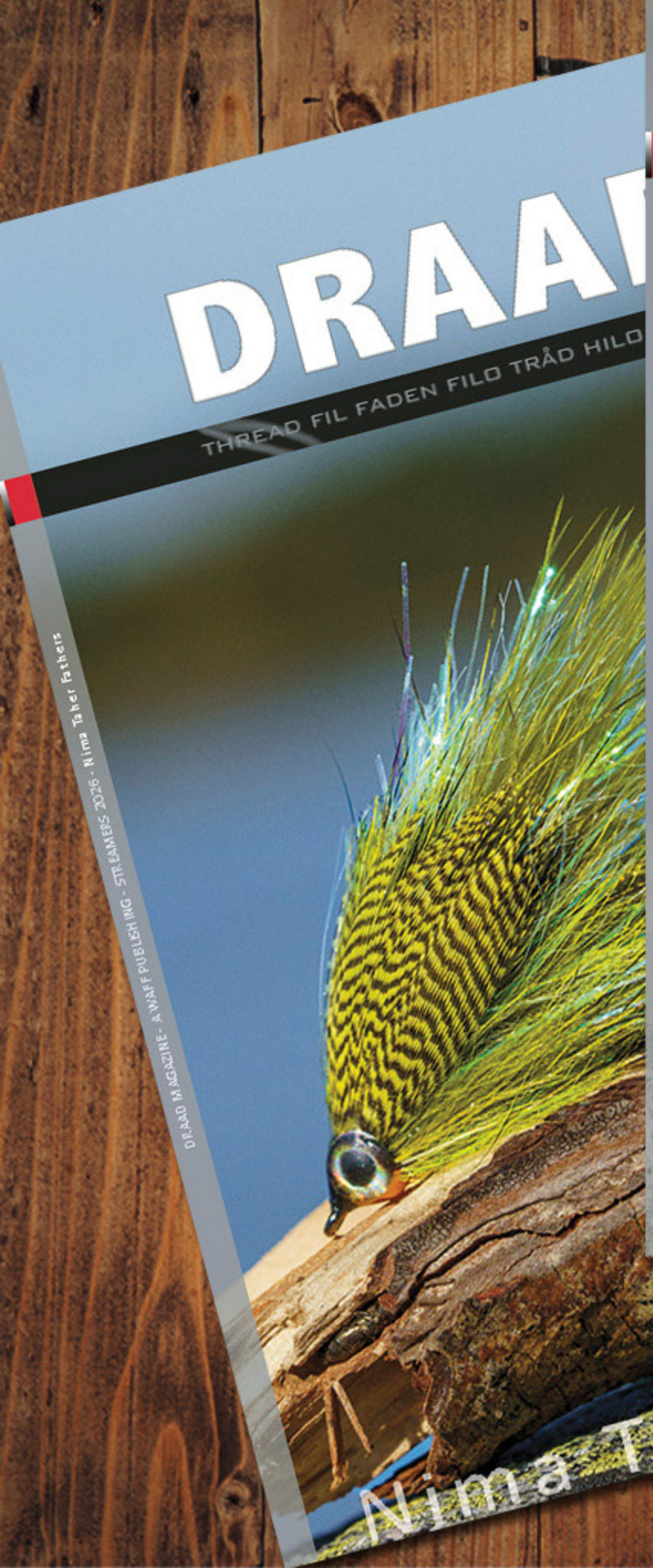
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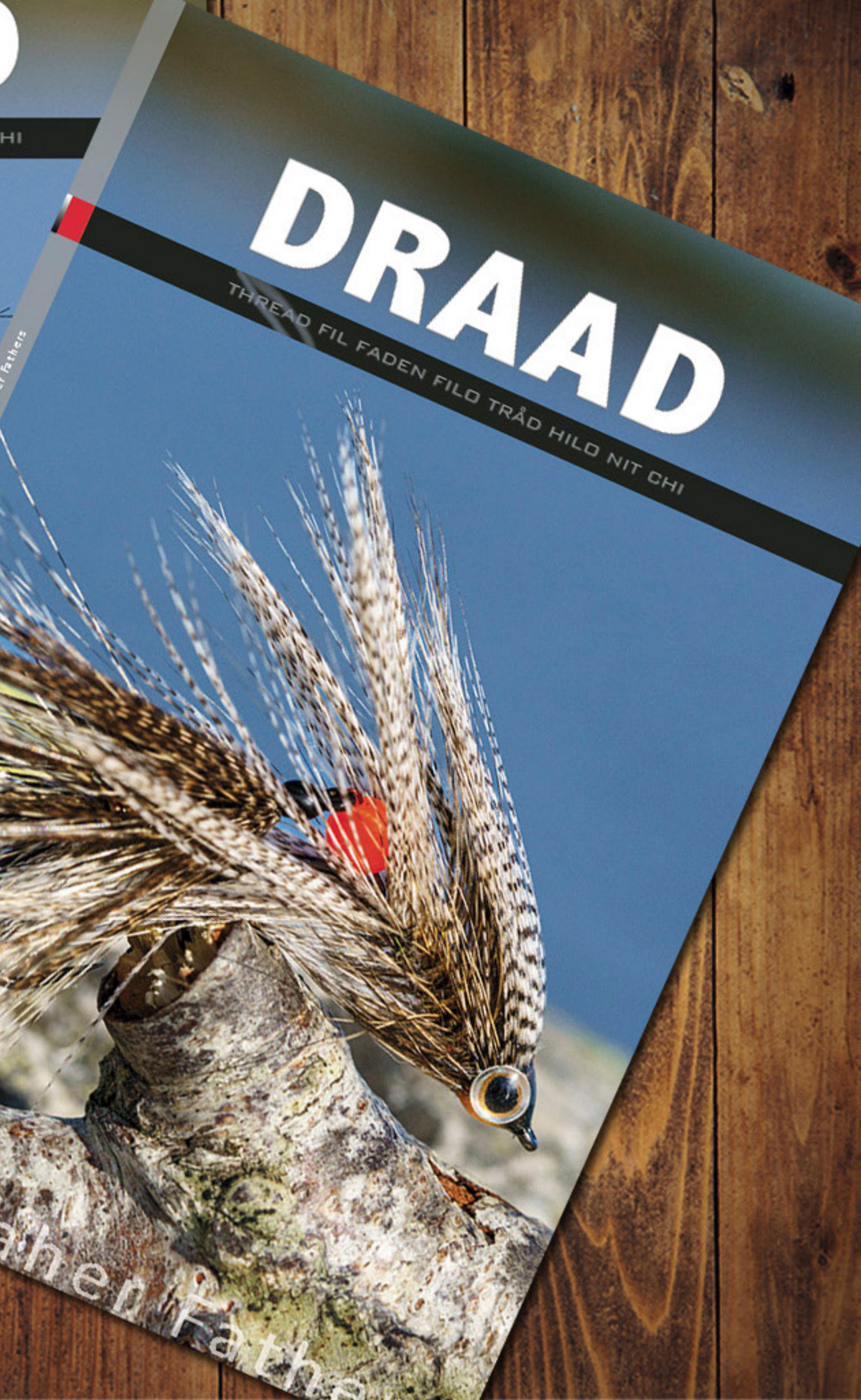


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DRAAD MAGAZINE - A WAFF PUBLISHING - STREAMERS 2026 - Nima Taher Fathers

Nima Taher Fathers

Nima Taher Fathers

My name is Nima Taher Fathers, I’m a Swedish fly angler and fly tier. I've been fishing since I was seven. Fly fishing however didn't come into my life until much later. Like most Swedes, I grew up spin casting, and it wasn't until 2025 that I discovered fly tying and began exploring the world of fly fishing.
What started as a new hobby quickly became a passion.

Soon I became a bit of a fly tying nerd. I am extremely meticulous when I tie. I can spend a lot of time focusing on the smallest details, making sure every part of a fly is exactly where I want it to be. I love experimenting with different materials, combinations, techniques and colours to see what I can create.



I tie all kinds of flies — from dry flies, nymphs and wet flies to streamers. I enjoy the variety and the challenge of learning how each type of fly should be constructed and how it should behave in the water.

I prefer to work with natural materials. I enjoy seeing how natural materials give a fly its movement and character. As I mentioned, I also enjoy trying out new materials, if only because they often require different fly tying techniques.



I love fishing for all kinds of trout and enjoy the different challenges each species presents. Since I live close to the sea, fishing for sea trout has become an important part of my fly fishing life. The Scandinavian coast offers endless opportunities to explore this this particular alley...





Through my fly tying business, customflies.se, I combine my passion for fishing with my love of fly tying. For me, fly tying is about so much more than just making a fly.
It's about creativity, craftsmanship, experimentation, and creating something I can truly call my own.

There's something truly special about tying a fly that you've designed and made yourself, and then catching a fish with it. Whether I catch that fish myself, or someone else does, the feeling is absolutely fantastic. The realization that something I made with my own hands has fooled a fish is, for me, one of the most satisfying aspects of fly tying.

I'm constantly learning, experimenting and developing new patterns. There is always another fly to tie, another material to experiment with, another technique to explore and, hopefully, another fish waiting to be fooled.

Kind regards, Med vänlig hälsning

Nima



THE WINNER OF THE

Ahrex Flexi Stripper

IS

Lukasz Stanczuk

please contact us Lukasz at: info@weareflyfishing.com

Ugly flies that catch fish

This is the first streamer I ever tied. I don’t know the exact year, but it was about thirty years ago. Back then, the only thing I knew — or thought I knew — was that a streamer’s tail needed to display some action and that the forward end should displace as much water as possible. Furthermore, since I only had one fly rod, a #5/6 weight, it had to be light enough to be able to cast with that rod.
And it worked. I caught my first pike on it. It was about 70 centimeters long, and I got it in the river Rena in Norway. Although I fish for pike with ‘high-end’ streamers these days, I’ve kept this one — and its sister (I tied two of them) — out of pure nostalgia.

Text, tying, & photo: Peter Sikking

Pascal Jacquin for

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Pascal Jacquin

Pascal Jacquin

Pascal Jacquin

My Flytying Journey

Iwas born in May 1975 in Trier, Germany's oldest city,
I was introduced to water from a very early age.
Fishing was deeply rooted in my family. My grandfather, father, and uncle were all passionate anglers, and some of my earliest memories are of time spent near rivers and lakes. One event in particular left a lasting impression.
In 1981, as a six-year-old boy, I had the opportunity to attend and watch the first World Fly Fishing Championship, which was held at Lake Echternach in Luxembourg. Looking back, that experience undoubtedly sparked my fascination with fly fishing, and it will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Over the years, I've explored many different types of fishing, but my greatest interest has always been in the 'bait' itself and the art of presenting it. Understanding what prompts a fish to strike and accept a specific offering has fascinated me just as much as the act of catching said fish.

I started tying flies when I was sixteen. At first, my goal was to make lures for spin fishing, but it soon became clear to me that fly tying had much more to offer. What started as a practical necessity quickly grew into a passion and a lifelong quest for creativity, craftsmanship, and knowledge.



These days, I spend most of my time with a fly rod in hand, and my flytying skills have evolved alongside my fly fishing. The more I learn, the more I realize how much there still is to discover.







New materials, new techniques, and new ideas continue to inspire me every time I sit down at the fly tying vise. One thing has become increasingly clear to me over the years: a single lifetime isn’t enough to tie every fly pattern ever conceived, let alone catch every fish worth catching. And perhaps that is precisely what makes fly fishing and fly tying so worthwhile. There's always a new pattern to refine, a new technique to master, and a new challenge waiting for me on the water. The journey never truly ends. That's what makes it so worthwhile.

Beste Grüße,
Pascal

NEW BOOKS

In the New Books section, we share
our thoughts about...new books.
And sometimes even about old ones :)

In this edition of New Books:

DEER HAIR FLY TYING MASTERCLASS
from Barry Ord Clarke.

NEW BOOKS

Deer Hair Flytying Masterclass

By Barry Ord Clarke

Text: Dr Henk Verhaar
Photography: Barry Ord Clarke & Peter Sikking

SHORT INTRODUCTION

The Feather Bender

Barry Ord Clarke is well-known, both as a photographer and as a fly tier. Orignally from the UK, he has lived most of his professional life in Norway, with access to lots of great fishing. He's been active as demo tier for the last 20 years or so, and has contributed to fly fishing and fly tying publications both as a writer and as a photographer for about as long.

His first books were mainly geared towards flies and fishing for different species - in England as well as in Scandinavia. Then in 2020, he published his first fly tying techniques book, The Feather Bender's Flytying Techniques, featuring a somewhat novel mixed media format, with techniques demonstrated on key fly patterns, with clear instructions, lots and lots of revealing photographs of tying steps, and links to tying videos for all featured patterns; after a rather concise introduction on tying tools and materials. The book was well received, and was quickly followed by two more general tying techniques books, The Feather Bender's Advanced Flytying Techniques, and Flytying for beginners. These books, especially the Flytying Techniques and Advanced Flytying Techniques, are a natural follow-up to such classics as Oliver Edwards' Flytyers Masterclass and Ted Leeson and Jim Schollmeyer's The Fly Tier's Benchside Reference.

NEW BOOKS

Deer Hair Flytying Masterclass

Now he has published a fourth installment in his fly tying techniques series, Deer Hair Flytying Masterclass, focusing specifically on tying with deer hair, in its widest sense I've ever seen, from standard red deer, elk (wapiti), roe deer, elk (moose), and whitetail deer to such exotic species of the ungulate family as klipspringer or dik-dik. The book follows the pattern set by The Feather Bender's Flytying Techniques, with an introductory section on material (in this case ungulate hair), and tools, followed by a lengthy main corpus on techniques, as illustrated by individual patterns. Again illuminated with a plethora of very clear photographs and highly educational tying videos, for all included patterns. The photography is gorgeous (with the possible exception of the cover photograph...) and most of the patterns are useful in and of themselves, in addition to being prime examples of the featured techniques - even if there's some overlap in patterns between this book and his previous techniques book.

—— *in its widest sense I've ever seen* ——

NEW BOOKS

However, for me, the highlight of the book is the thorough description of the different materials (much more in-depth than the somewhat abbreviated treatment in The Feather Bender's Flytying Techniques), and tools. How I wish that such a treatise would have been available when I started tying with deer hair - some 30 years ago.
While his treatise on the different types of hair, both within and between species, their properties, depending on anatomy and time of harvest, and how and where best to obtain them have little secrets for me these days, my experience with deer hair was obtained by trial and lots of error over those 30 year (and I would assume the same is true for Barry) - it is great to see all that essential information gathered together on paper, to give new deer hair tiers a firm head start! Also, the difference between taxonomic designations of species and the fly fishing nomenclature -— the elk/wapiti, elk/moose, and reindeer/caribou complexes ;-) – the fact that the American antelope is not an antelope (or deer) at all, and more of such hair splitting details are a nice addition to the materials description – so that new and longtime fly tiers alike get the necessary background information to evaluate their materials by source.
The same holds for the section on tools. Finally someone who puts to paper the common American mistake of calling a bobbin holder a bobbin... What I disagree with is that bobbin holders with ceramic tubes are better than bobbin holders with steel tubes – they are not. And the difference is entirely up to differences in heat dissipation. Ceramic is great for linearly moving thread (looms and spinning machines), steel is much better for applications where thread is rotated stationary, with heat building up at a fixed spot on the thread...

How I wish that such a treatise would have been available when I started tying with deer hair - some 30 years ago



heartily recommended

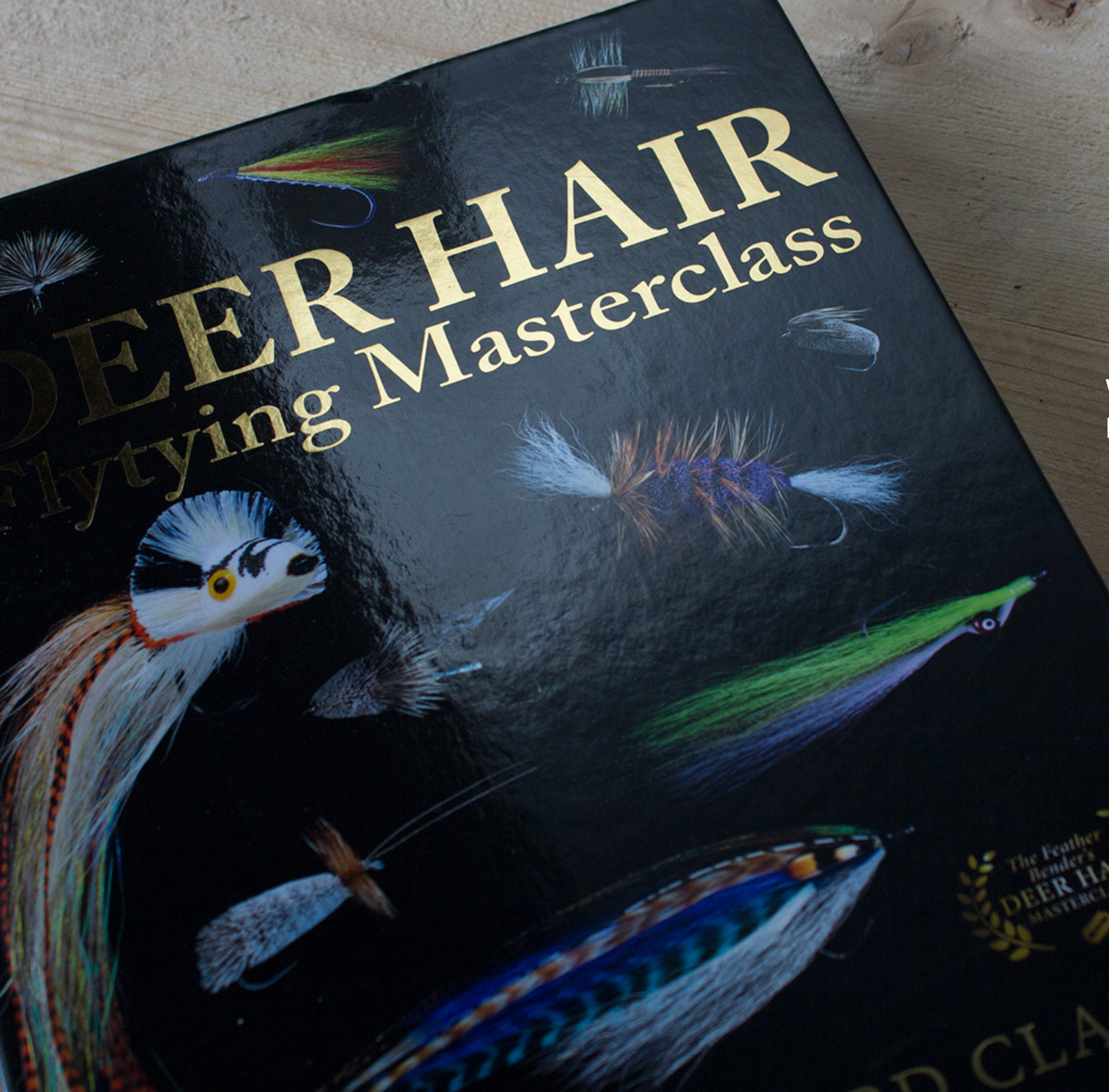
While I understandably disagree with some of his personal preferences in material evaluation, most of the information is spot on, and very useful for fly tiers both old and new, such as the observation that reindeer hair, while in theory useful for certain types of patterns, is usually of a quality making it totally unsuitable for tying, and a prime source of benchside frustration.

As said, I wish a book like this would have been available 30 years ago. For any aspiring fly tier
today who hopes to master working with deer hair, this is an absolute must-buy (or borrow or steal)...

Heartily recommended!

TRUSTED ANGLERS BOOKS





Book give away

WE GIVE AWAY A COPY OF DEER HAIR MASTERCLASS BY BARRY ORD CLARKE

please send us a message with **the prise** of this book

at info@weareflyfishing.com

WIN

Ahrex give away

'The Swimbait'

PR378 GB Predator hook for the specialist

please send us a message containing the word Swimbait
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DRAAD MAGAZINE - A WAFF PUBLISHING - STREAMERS 2026 - Rodolfo Guzmán Fuentes
Rodolfo Guzmán Fuentes

Rodolfo Guzmán Fuentes

Rodolfo Guzmán Fuentes

My name is Rodolfo Guzmán Fuentes, founder of ProFliesChile. am a fly tier, photographer, and angler, and I live in the city of Traiguén, in the Araucanía Region in southern Chile. Since 2023, I have been part of the international family of fly tiers at Veevus, a renowned Danish brand specializing in fly tying threads and materials.
Many of my activities are rooted in a passion for fly fishing and in observing nature along the rivers and lakes of southern Chile.
I focus on tying flies using traditional techniques but with advanced materials, striving for functionality.

Each fly I tie is designed to perform under real fishing conditions, without losing sight of the aesthetics and fine details that characterize a high-quality fly.

In addition to fly tying, photography has become a fundamental part of my work. Through my photography, I strive to showcase each fly pattern with the same care with which it was designed, highlighting its materials, movement, colours, proportions, and personality.

My creations and photographs have been featured on the official brand platforms of Veevus Fishing, Raidzap, and Ahrex Hooks, and other international brands, which has allowed me to share my work with the global fly tying community.
“For me, each fly is the result of a balance between design, functionality, and the inspiration drawn from the waters of southern Chile.”
You can learn more about my work on
Instagram: @ProFliesChile

Rodolfo Guzmán Fuentes

WIN

Ahrex giveaway

TP610
Trout
Predator

please send us a message containing the word *predator*
at info@weareflyfishing.com

WINNERS

WINNERS EDITION DRAAD REUNION:

Ahrex Bend Back: Pascal van Baarle

Ahrex Universal Curved: Gia de Pace

Ahrex beanie: F. van Gelderen

Cristiano Cesare Dubbing Wax: John Schmidt

winners, please contact us at info@weareflyfishing.com

Sam Greenway for

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DRAAD MAGAZINE - A WAFF PUBLISHING - STR.EAMERS 2026 - Sam Greenway
Sam Greenway

Sam Greenway

Sam Greenway

My name is Sam Greenway, and I am based in the Lake District in the UK. I've been fly fishing for about 10 years now, and have actually, ever since I switched from more traditional (carp) fishing, been tying my own flies. The Lake District — the name infact suggests it — consists of a number of fantastic lakes where you can fish for pike. Lately, though, my preferences have switched to rivers and river pike.
In my day job I am a Reactor Commissioning Engineer in the Defense Industry, which I have been doing pretty much since I left the Royal Navy.

Photography: Peter Sikking

Since I started tying flies, I've had many wonderful opportunities to represent brands such as Ahrex, Deer Creek, Ewing Feather Birds, and Squimpish Flies through their professional teams. As an ambassador for these companies, I've also had the chance to explore a wide range of materials, which has led to what are, for me, new combinations of materials. For anyone who wants to start tying flies for pike: my advice is to learn how to tie with buck-tail! Once you master the various techniques, you can vary the profile, action, and density.

These days, I give demonstrations on fly tying for predatory fish and saltwater fish, and I've participated in events like the BFFI several times.
I also post live-streamed videos on social media during fly tying season.





Living on the coast I am used to think seabass. But pike fishing is where my heart truly lies. Earlier this year I landed my personal best pike of 20 lb 08 oz at 110 cm, from a fantastic northern English river.

Anyone who ties pike flies has to watch Gunner Brammer and Paul Monaghan on You-Tube, and should read Bob Popovics' books. Lately I have been influenced by Andre van Wyk's GT patterns. Scaling these and adding my own techniques to suit my pike fishing, teamed with tying and testing some musky style glide baits with my mate Stu Watson, to see if pike would be interested…. They were! Favourite colours for me often vary.

When fishing, I generally start by staying with whatever I caught my last pike on, at least for a while that is. In the 'end' I always end up playing around with different colours. Besides 'playing around' I always have some staple patterns in my box: 3D flies in blue and white, hot belly roach style streamers, and a perch pattern as well.

Sam Greenway

DRAAD MAGAZINE

SUBSCRIBE



PART 2

STREAMERS

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Photo: Andrew Selvig

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A few years ago I took part in a 'pike streamer tying and fishing' competition between friends. The challenge was fairly simple: a limited number of materials and time were allowed, for tying one single pike streamer, which would be the only fly allowed for fishing the rest of the day. If you would lose the streamer, it would mean the end of your effort.

If I remember correctly, we got about 20 minutes to tie that fly. That may seem like a lot, but recognizing the provided materials, their function and the tying order (which material first) within those 20 minutes turned out to be more difficult than expected.

After those 20 minutes, I looked at my endeavor and those of the other contestants. I honestly have never seen a larger collection of ugly streamers in my life. And that included my own. Bulky in the back and skinny at front. Stiff materials tied at the wrong location, streamers with no movement at all, no eyes, little or no proportion…. **And yet almost all of these hideous things caught fish that day!**

It goes without saying that, until a few years ago, I didn't take streamer tying (for large predators) very seriously. Slap some feathers on a hook and be off was all I did.

As you all know, a lot can change in a few years. Innovative tiers shared their thoughts and patterns with experienced anglers, and together, in cooperation with some clever marketeers, there arose a range of new materials and additional products. Streamer tying became a mature part of fly fishing and fly tying. Reason enough for me to dive into the world of streamers and dedicate a special edition to it.

Have fun and let us know how you feel.

All the best,

Peter Sikking

DRAAD magazine is part of a platform where flytiers can showcase their work

GUESTS

Guests for this issue of DRAAD magazine are:

From the USA: (Minneapolis) Andrew Selvig.
Italy: (Cerveteri) Giovanni de Pace.
The Netherlands: (Amsterdam) Sander Zuidinga.
USA: (Tennessee) Ellis Ward.
USA: (Minneapolis) Erik Johnsen.
UK: (Yorkshire) Adey Thomas



Photo by Gabby Bilotta

Ellis Ward is a full time, year-round fishing guide. Based in East Tennessee, he guides primarily for trout, striped bass, and smallmouth bass. While streamers are his speciality on the water or at the vise, he won't pass up opportunities to fish dry flies for trout or stalk wary carp . He is a devoted father and can often be found fishing or tying flies with his daughter at his side. Farther from home, he enjoys going after muskies and fishing in the salt.

text, tying and photography

Ellis Ward



FROG IT

Material

Rear hook

Hook: wide gape short shank hook (e.g. Ahrex NS172 Gammarus, XO774 Universal Curved, SA274 Curved Salt; Daiichi 2477 Alpha Predator)

Thread: GSP 100 (alternative: 140D or heavier)

Legs: discretionary (pictured: bucktail and tearmender); alternatives: rubber legs; 2 saddle hackles per side, tied with concave side out; Cohen's Creatures Frog Legs

Body: synthetic fiber of choice in a tight dubbing loop (e.g. Steve Farrars or Hedron Strung Fuzzy Fiber; pre-made EP brushes). Pictured: SF flash blend in a loop; alternative: trimmed and tightly wrapped chenille, Chocklett's Filler Flash, Baitfish Emulator, Estaz

Articulation: 26-60lb wire - depends on hook size and target species; 0-2 beads; a front hook with an Aberdeen bend generally won't require beads, while a stinger style may need 1-2, to get your rear hook far enough from your front hook bend.

Front hook:

Hook: hook of choice for deer hair. I prefer the Partridge Predator X (Aberdeen, very stout) in sizes 1-4/0, and the Ahrex PR320 and TP610 in sizes 2-4/0

Thread: GSP 200

Body: same synthetic material as used for the rear hook, 2-3 turns of it to establish your base above the barb.

Front legs/arms: deer belly, stacked and packed in the [Larry] Dahlberg Diver style; alternative: realistically, you can get some of the same effects from a foam head. I haven't found any that mimic a well tied deer hair diver, but to each their own (and it is certainly faster). Rainey's does make a good diver head.



Tying:

As with most flies I tie, I take a few components of different flies, styles, or tyers, and put them together, so there really isn't a formula, just a guideline.

- [ ] Put the rear hook in the vice and attach tying thread.

- [ ] Affix your legs. If you are making bucktail tearmender legs - this takes a little practice. Apply tearmender to a clump of long bucktail of about pencil thickness. Be careful where you do this, to avoid spillage on surfaces or objects you don’t want this stuff on. Applying on, or over a non-porous surface is best.
The stuff can be removed from your fingertips by vigorous rubbing, but spilling it on your bobbins or on the hair on the back of your hands is no fun.
Allow some 30 seconds for the bucktail to absorb the tearmender. Then squeeze out the remainder. The individual bucktail hairs will be stuck together and moldable for up to a minute. Use junk hair to practice on first. The result should be a bullet proof, positively buoyant frog leg with defined feet (the tips of the bucktail), like frogs often have when floating near the surface.

- [ ] Create your dubbing loop or tie in your brush, wrap forward and trim to a frog taper. Whip finish, and secure with UV resin or super glue.

- [ ] Put the front hook in the vice, and attach the rear hook. Attach tying thread. Using the articulation. Create your loop or tie in brush, wrap 2-3 times. Tie in front legs (optional).

- [ ] Create the head by packing the deer belly hair. Shape using a razor blade or dedicated pair of scissors. I use an adhesive on the hair after I carve it; more security and strength never hurts, and there's no pride in risking it if you have the opportunity - tearmender on the bottom and UV resin on the top is a good quick way.

- [ ] Use E6000 or Liquid fusion to fill areas that are not tightly packed. I try to avoid this, but it’s a good way to ensure a well-floating bug without getting too caught up with creating that perfectly packed head. However the more you deviate from a tightly packed diver head, the more water your fly will absorb.

- [ ] Now, fish won't see eyes on this pattern, but feel free to stick on some if it makes you feel good. My preference is to avoid ruining the balance, buoyancy, and hydrodynamics of the head by burning eye sockets or carving out slots for the sake of a picture.

As with most flies I tie, I take a few components of different flies, styles, or tyers, and put them together, so there really isn't a formula, just a guideline.





Ellis Ward

Dyeing bucktail

By Erik Johnsen



PINK



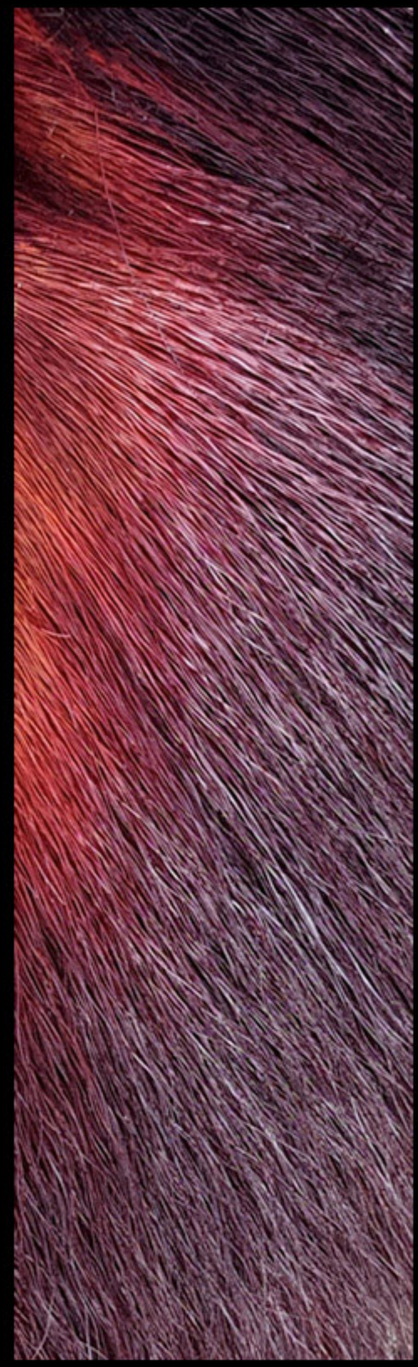
GOLDEN YELLOW



DIRTY MONEY



PISTACHIO



FUCK ME



GOLDEN BROWN

HOW TO

In this HOW TO our guest Erik Johnsen explains how to dye bucktail.

Materials:
Both bucktail and feathers go through sorting, washing, and in the case of bucktails, salt curing to preserve them. I source my own materials from the Upper Midwest, where some of the best bucktail in the world can be found right in my back-yard.

Dyeing materials involves carefully selecting and blending base colors, then adding materials to the dye bath once it reaches the proper temperature. By closely watching the dye bath temperature, and adjusting the dyeing time, I am able to achieve colors that are unique to Weights & Measures; this allows me to really put my signature on the flies, materi-al packs, and tying kits that I offer.

Flies:
I especially enjoy tying flies in complex blends of natural colors that mimic forage fish, but there is something special about being creative with wild colors and unusual patterns. My go-to streamers for muskie and pike are the classic Bu-ford pattern in single and articulated variations.

Bucktail is a real joy to work with. Although it is a compli-cated material to learn, it can be manipulated in so many ways. I am currently pushing the boundaries on how bucktail and deer hair can be used, predominantly in brushes, and in patterns like the Bucktail Game Changer. Using brushes, for me, is a way of achieving optimum flare and shape, and wa-ter-shedding ability, while minimizing the weight of the fly.

Erik Johnsen



My name is Erik Johnsen, and I am the owner/operator of Weights & Measures, a small fly tying company and custom materials producer from Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.

My interest in fly tying stems from my taking up fly fishing, almost 13 years ago. I began tying nymphs and dry flies for trout and fished them hard in one of my favorite places to cast a fly rod: the Driftless region of Minnesota and Wisconsin.
I quickly picked up streamer patterns, then moved into the wild world of warm water poppers for bass and ultimately massive Bufords and Game Changers for pike and muskie.

Erik Johnsen
text, tying and photography





My hobby turned into full-time production enterprise in the fall of 2020, when I was asked to supply a newly opening brick-and-mortar shop with my musky flies and I have since branched out to offer flies for nearly every pursuit, as well as tying kits, custom dyed feather packs and bucktail brushes uniquely designed to help tiers learn how to spin big predator bugs.

I clean, process, and dye bucktail and schlappen by hand in small batches, which gives all my flies not only my signature, but also custom color schemes that set Weights & Measures flies apart from mass-produced offerings.



I also have created a handful of tutorials on how to tie some really big predator patterns, as well as outlines of my tying process that help new tiers.



Carbon neutral

I'm an active environmentalist, and one of the founding tenets of W&M from the outset was to be conscious of production processes and packaging materials. I make every attempt to reuse packaging materials, and I am working to get the entire company to be carbon neutral – from materials to fly to consumer.

I enjoy all manner of fly fishing, but feel most at home on the spring-fed creeks in Southern Wisconsin, or while exploring lakes and rivers in the Upper Midwest. Some of fly fishing's best-kept secrets lie in the Mississippi watershed. You'll rarely see these on the cover of company magazines or featured in F3T productions, but the fishing is spectacular; just don't expect me to give up any secrets.

As fall and winter are fast approaching musky and pike streamers are taking over my vise, and I'm looking forward to sharing more patterns, techniques, and materials with the community.

Stay up to date, with the latest featured in my newsletter at www.weightsandmeasures.com

Erik Johnsen

DRAAD TEAM

FLY TYING EDITOR

Erik is a husband and a father of 3. Although relatively new to fly fishing and fly tying, he quickly developed a passion for both and became instantly addicted. His family and friends grew tired of seeing and hearing about his new obsession so the “Svenddiesel” Instagram account was created, using his high school nickname.



“I don’t know why, but fly tying just makes sense to me. For me, it’s a way to unwind from my daily routines, and an activity wherein I can make a start-to-finish product in a matter of minutes; or sometimes a few hours.”

Erik has pushed himself with fly challenges, put himself a goal of tying a different fly every day for several years, and is always on the lookout for new materials to try and fool the pickiest of fish. He is known on social media as someone who has fun with tying and the sport as a whole, but also loves to fish.

Svend Diesel

CREEPING CREEPERS

By Svend Diesel



Skirted Creeper fly pattern

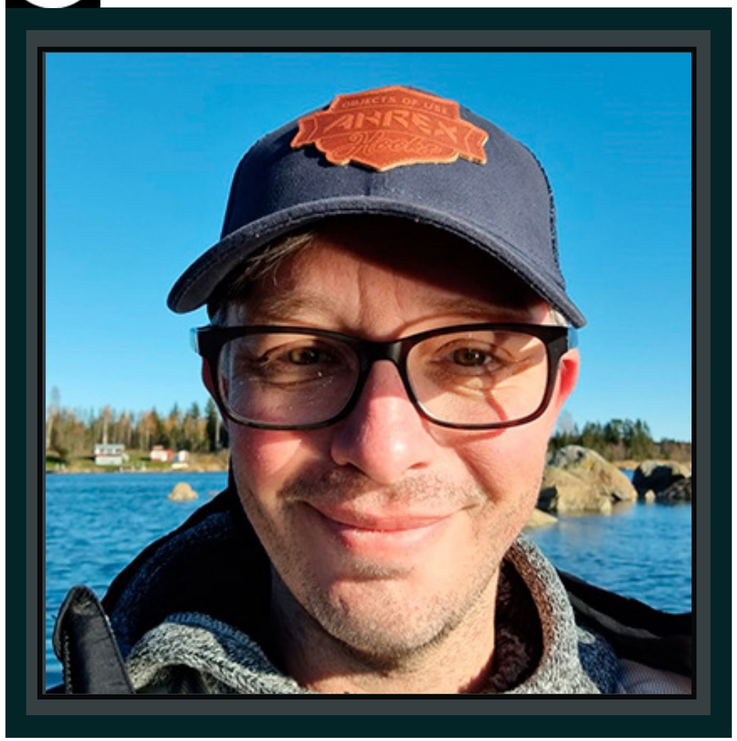
Hook: Ahrex TP650 size 2/0
Thread: Semperfli Classic Waxed thread 6/0 Black
Tail: Natures Spirit Fish Hunter marabou
Body: FNF Creeper chenille
Skirt: 1 x tab Legs
Weight: Hareline lead eyes large
Cement: Solarez Bone Dry





LINK TO TYING MOVIE

https://youtu.be/zNdBzQhcoQU



I was born and raised in Amsterdam. And for a young urban explorer there is nothing better than living in a city surrounded by water. Like most Dutch kids it all started with a simple bamboo pole, fishing the local canals and ponds with bread or worm for small minnows. However, I soon learned that staring at a float, waiting for a fish to come along wasn't my cup of tea, so pretty soon I started making my own lures, for use on my first spinning rod, fishing for perch and pike.

text & tying:
Sander Zuidinga

photography:
Peter Sikking

Materials used:
Bigstreamer fibers, comparable to slinky
fiber or SF Blend (a slightly stiff synthetic fiber).





Fast forward to about fifteen years ago

Around 2005, having taken up fly fishing, I began tying my own flies, mainly focusing on bait fish patterns, and I have been hooked ever since.

For flies both large and small, my favorite materials are Nayat and bucktail but I don't shy away from synthetic fibers either.

I take great honour in being an ambassador for Bigstreamers.com and Ahrex hooks, sharing the passion and knowledge that other tiers shared with me, using top quality materials – what more could I wish for!

This upside down streamer Sander tied (see photo on previous page) raised some questions. 1. Why is the top flattened and 2. Why is the bottom cut at an angle?

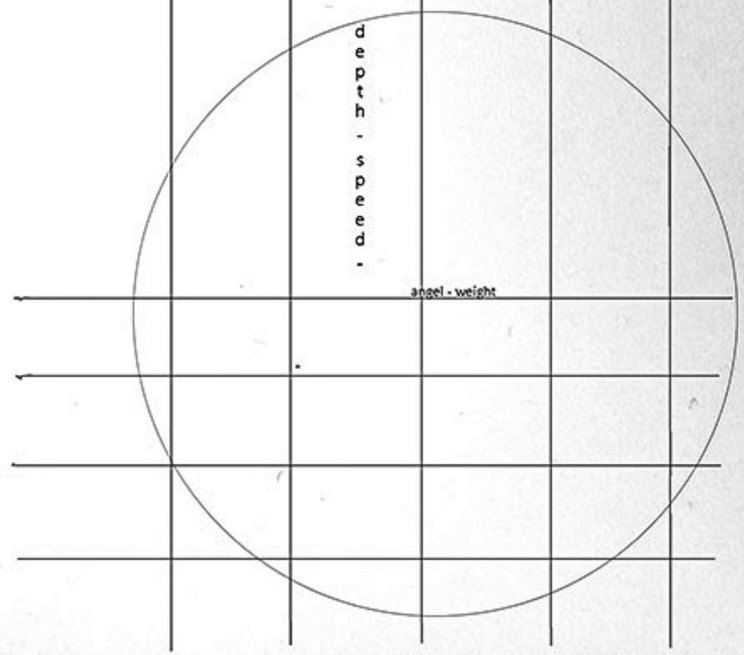
Sander explains

The top is flattened to ensure that the hook point is not covered too much.

On top I use bucktail which has a little more buoyancy so that the streamer swims as it should: hook point up.

That is also the reason that the bottom is trimmed: so that no air remains in it, so that the streamer still starts swimming upside down!

Sander Zuidinga



ART GALLERY



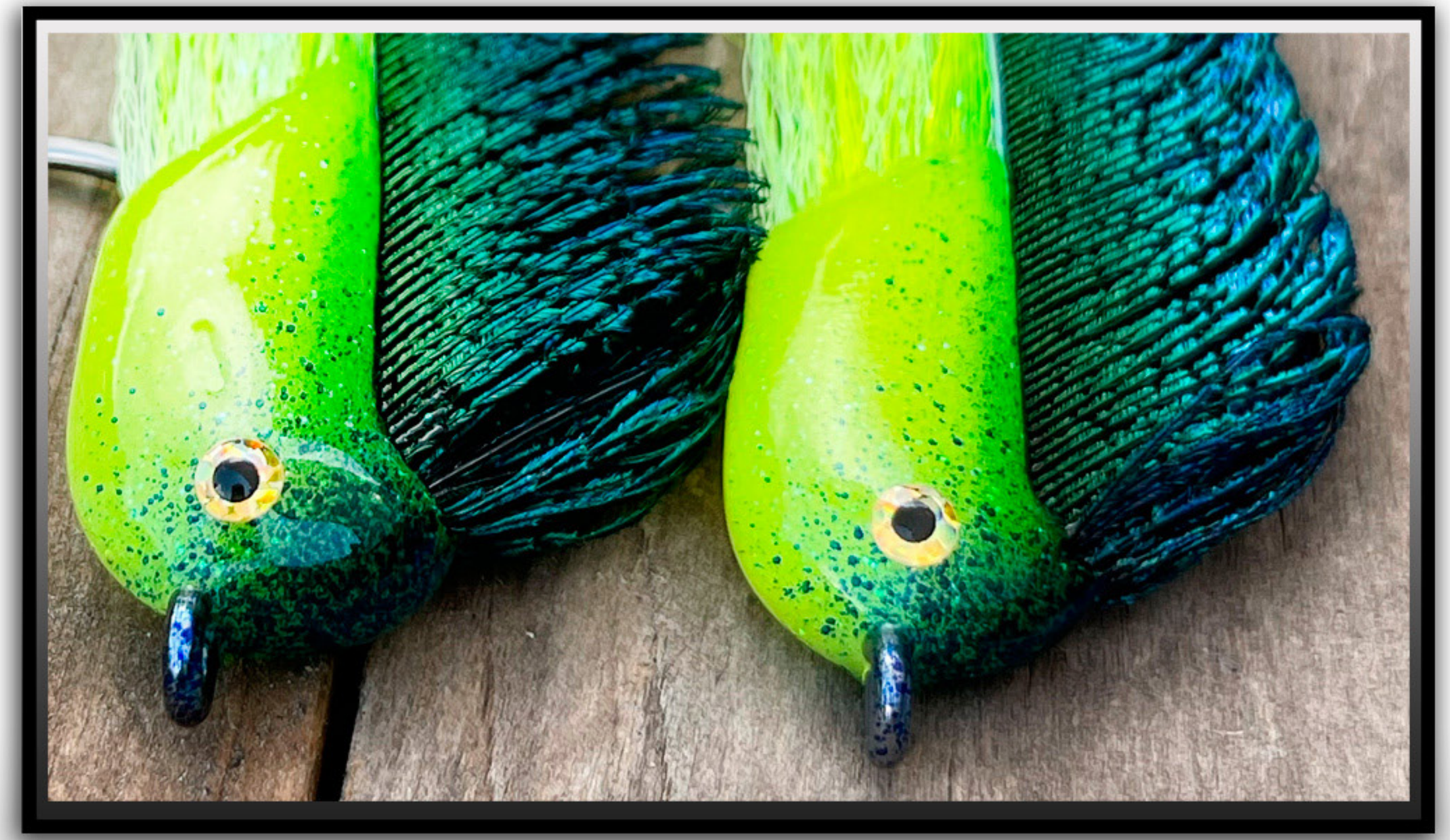
My name is Giovanni De Pace,
I was born in 1972 in Rome, but I now live in Cerveteri, a few kilometers to the southwest, in a small town adjoining the Tyrrenian Sea.

I took up fly fishing in 1990, and right from the start, my passion for fly tying equalled my passion for fly tying. I like to tie all types of flies and have a great passion for streamers. To be honest, I am quite obsessed where it comes to tying big predator streamers :)

I have fished throughout Europe in search of trout, grayling and pike. I also visited Mexico and Venezuela for bonefish and tarpon, but currently the Mediterranean is giving me a lot of fly fishing pleasure, from inshore fly fishing for sea-bass and bluefish to off-shore fishing for barracuda and pelagic species.

'Over the years my passion for streamers has continued to evolve; I am always looking for innovations in technique as well as in materials'

text, tying and photography:
Giovanni De Pace











Giovanni De Pace

5 tips to better streamer tying

for 13 more tips please visit: ginkandgasoline.com

text: Louis Cahill

ACTION

Action

Action may be my number one concern when I design a streamer pattern. All my patterns are meant to move a certain way in the water. Many are articulated, with weight added at the head. Therefore they jig and twitch and swim in the current. Some have long flowing materials that pulse and undulate in the water. Others dart from side to side or wiggle. The action of the fly should achieve two things. It should imitate some behavior of a prey species, usually in distress, and it should antagonize the hell out of your target species.

BULK

Build bulk without extra material

Too many tiers think the answer to tying better streamers lies in packing on material. More material does build a bigger profile, but at a cost. The more material you use the harder it will be to cast your fly and the more it will float. Put more weight on it to get it down and it will be harder still to cast. My streamer tying changed fundamentally when I started swinging flies for steelhead. Good steelhead flies build juicy profiles with minimal material and so do effective streamers. For example, palmering marabou over hackle creates a chunky profile that's hollow. Reverse tying hair, craft fur or synthetic fibers does the same. Spinning fibers in dubbing loops creates bulky forms that undulate in the water. Build your bulk with technique, not more material.

WEIGHT UP FOULING

Using weight

It is a controversial topic: weighted streamers vs. un-weighted ones. I'll give you three reasons I like to weight my streamers. Lots of big fish hold right at the banks. Especially at undercut banks. If you cast an un-weighted streamer with a sinking line to the opposite bank, your fly will be 10 feet out from the bank before it gets down to a good fishing depth. That means you make your least effective presentation to the most productive water. I Secondly, aggressive fish eat flies that move. Often a pause in the retrieve will turn a fish off. A weighted fly never stops moving. When the lmotion stops, it dives. No stop to turn fish off.

Turn your hooks point up

Big fish use cover. Fishing for them effectively means putting your fly into places it might not come back from. Flies that swim with their hooks pointed upwards will slide over submerged trees and rocks without hanging up. Many tiers think that you can turn a fly hook up with weight but that's not true. Simply tying lead eyes on the top of the hook will not turn the fly over. The secret is buoyancy. When you choose your materials and decide how they will be tied in, always consider their buoyancy. Tie your most buoyant materials on the same side of the hook as the point and they will always swim hook up. This is especially important when tying in tails. It's a pain to tie tails to the curved end of the hook but it's crucial. I learned this from tying bonefish flies.

Keep them from fouling

Casting big streamers is often not graceful. Funky loops happen and that means you are at risk of fouling an articulated fly or a fly with a long tail. It pays to build in some safeguards to help prevent this. Running a monofilament loop through a bunny strip tail is pretty effective, as is applying some super glue to the first quarter inch of the tail, where it meets the hook – to stiffen it. If you are tying articulated patterns and attaching the rear hook with a mono loop, putting beads on the loop may also help. I usually cut off the bend of the front hook on these types of flies, which makes a huge difference.

Louis Cahill

DRAAD TEAM

FLY TYING EDITOR

I have been fishing from a young age, and I've fished using many different techniques and approaches but it wasn't until 2010 that I discovered fly fishing, and I fell in love with it. It quickly became my only passion. The following year, with the help of friends, I progressed to tying my first flies: both classics and moderns.



Ever since, with the help and support of noted tiers from Italy and Europe, I've strived to improve myself, refining my tying techniques and employing all the tips I could get. I totally immersed myself in this new magic world, with a lot of blood, sweat and tears, focusing mostly on the Italian style, of which Francesco Palù was a pioneer.

Luca Barosselli

Luca is best for tying (Italian style) dry flies. Especially for me, Luca tied this streamer. I must say, it is not only beautiful, it also works very well!

text & tying:

Luca Barosselli

photography:

Peter Sikking





Hook : Ahrex Texas 6/0
Shank: 30 mm
Body: bucktail, sf, polar flash and flashabou
Head: predator dubbing
Eyes: 3D eyes size 4
Thread : Textreme power thread
Tail: Pacchiarini Dragon tail

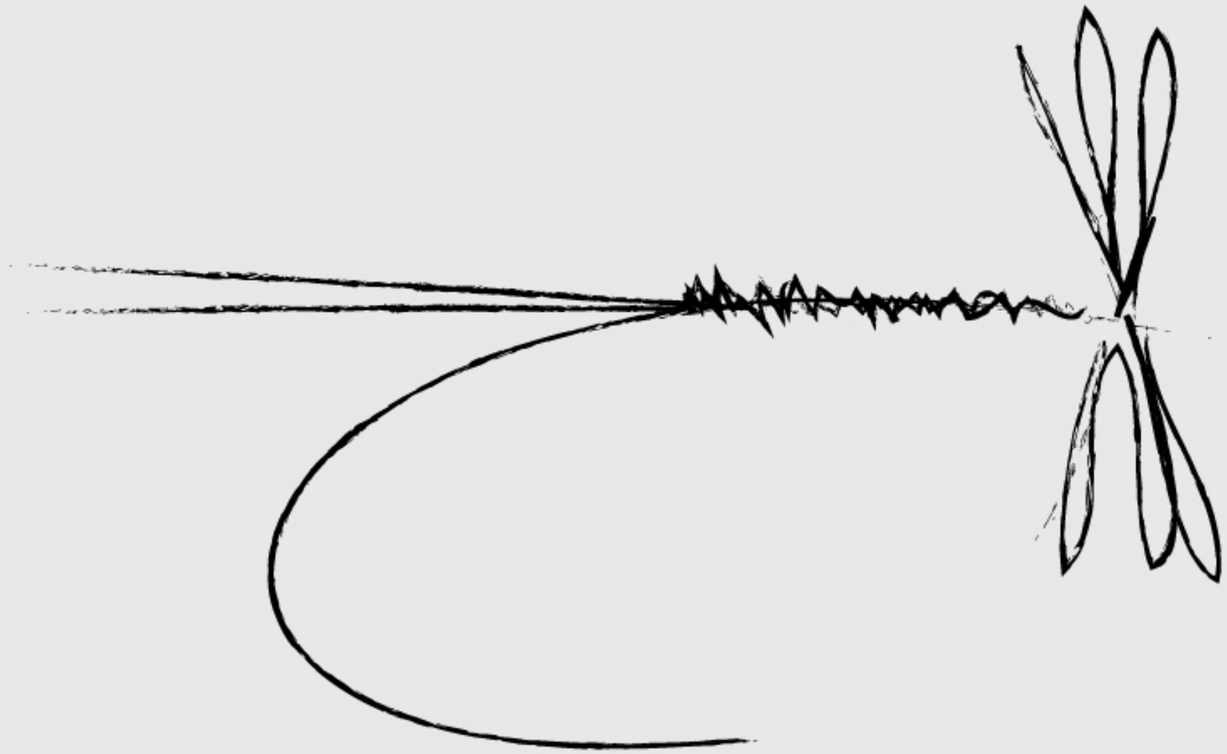
Total length: 20 cm



Luca Barosselli



USE A RUBBER



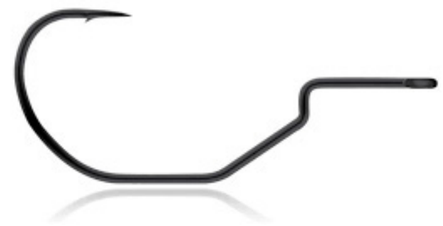
HOOKED

AHREX PR378 - GB SWIMBAIT

The GB Swimbait is inspired by the Texas Predator hook but is developed into a real fly hook.
The hook is designed in collaboration with Gunnar Brammer (GB) and Paul Monaghan.

Perfect for weedless designed flies. There is plenty of room to tie on rattlers and/or weights.

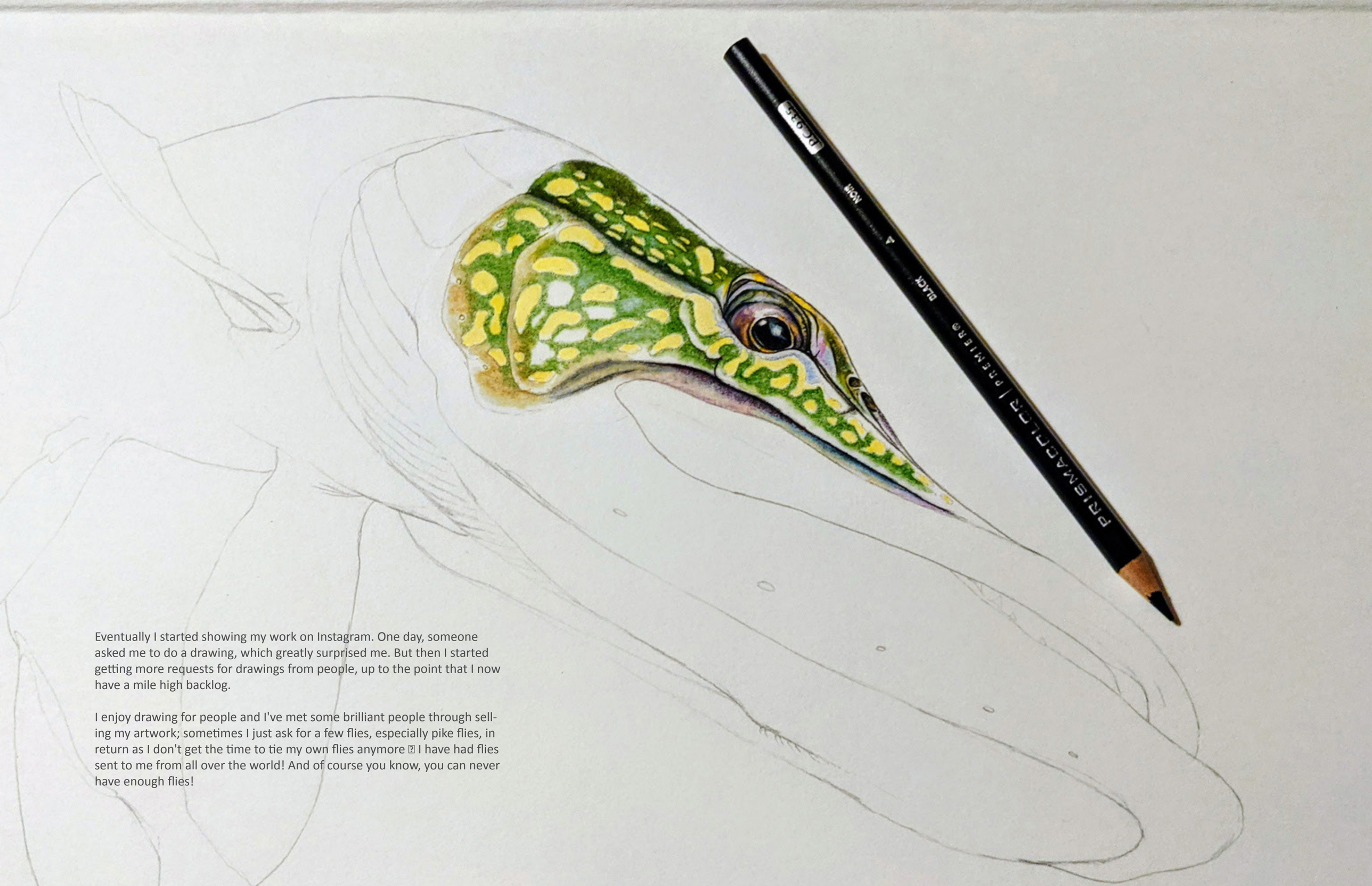
Black nickel finish
Available in sizes 2/0 to 6/0
Chemically sharpened with small barb
8 hooks per package.



Artist

Adey Thomas

I'm a typical 30 year old Yorkshireman from Leeds called Adey, with a love for fly fishing. Inspired by other (fly) fishing artists, I started drawing a few years ago. Back then, I just couldn't understand how they got their work to look so amazing, but one day I decided I'd just try and start drawing.
My first attempts were not at all what I hoped for, but with a head full of ideas and inspiration, I was determined to do at least one drawing I could be proud of. I literally just practiced and practiced and after a while I could spot a difference, progress even, in my drawings.



Eventually I started showing my work on Instagram. One day, someone asked me to do a drawing, which greatly surprised me. But then I started getting more requests for drawings from people, up to the point that I now have a mile high backlog.

I enjoy drawing for people and I've met some brilliant people through selling my artwork; sometimes I just ask for a few flies, especially pike flies, in return as I don't get the time to tie my own flies anymore I have had flies sent to me from all over the world! And of course you know, you can never have enough flies!

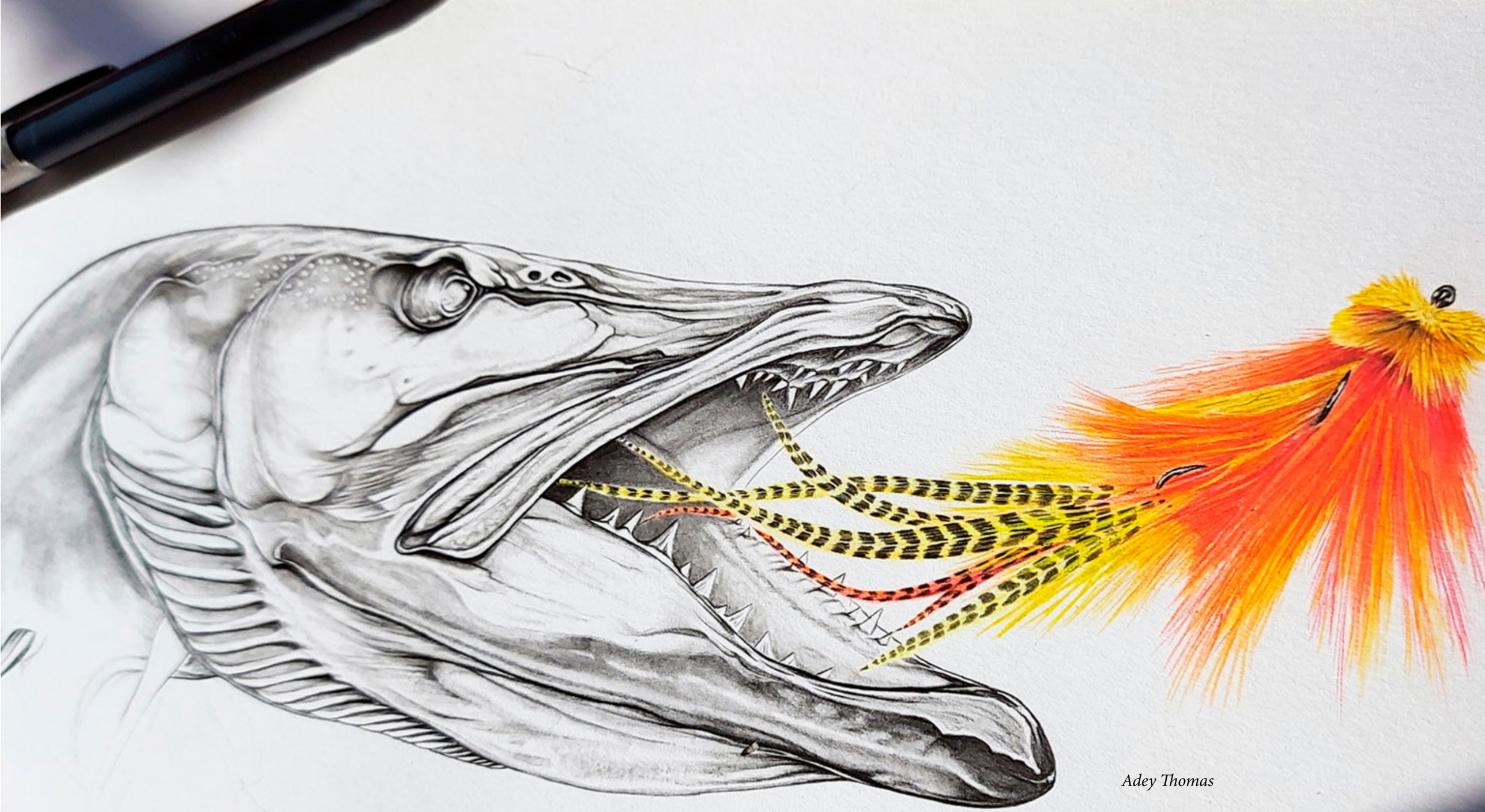

PRISMACOLOR | PREMIER®
BLACK


DERWENT
ART ERASER
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PRISMACOLOR | PREMIER®
YELLOWED ORANGE
JAUNÂTRE
PC1002



I do all my drawings in either lead pencil or coloured pencil, and it's a time-consuming process, I think I spend over 300+ hours on larger art work; luckily people are really patient, giving me the time to get as much detail in as possible.
It also makes fishing a lot more exciting as I use the pictures as inspiration for my drawings, so if I don't catch anything it's a doubly bad day!

People sometimes ask me whether drawing is hard, so I just show them what my first drawings looked like, compared to what I do now. This usually gets them inspired to try for themselves - which is a great feeling. It's all about practice, same of course goes with fly fishing...



Adey Thomas

STREAMER
PHOTOGRAPHY

A FEW TIPS

text, tying, photography: Peter Sikking

LIGHT
KEEP IT SIMPLE

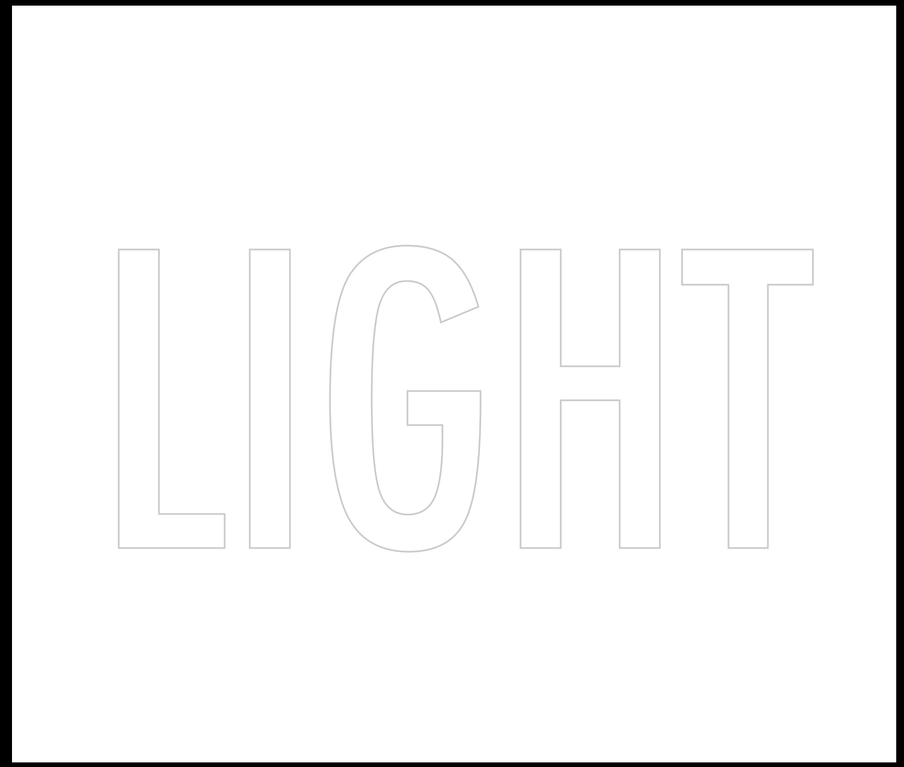
Let there be light

Personally I like taking pictures with existing light, preferably daylight. Although working outside carries the drawback that you are totally dependent on the weather, I tend to prefer it over working in a studio. Nevertheless, I understand that making a small (studio) photo platform right next to your vice works well for Instagram shoots; even though streamers present a far more difficult subject than your average sedge pupa.

If you are taking photographs of your flies for commercial purposes, such as a (printed) catalogue, you will often need them to be in front of a white background. In such cases, I would suggest you build your own, multipurpose, small (cardboard box) studio. You can also buy collapsible lighting boxes, even with built-in lighting, but then you limit yourself to the positions of the provided (LED)-lights.

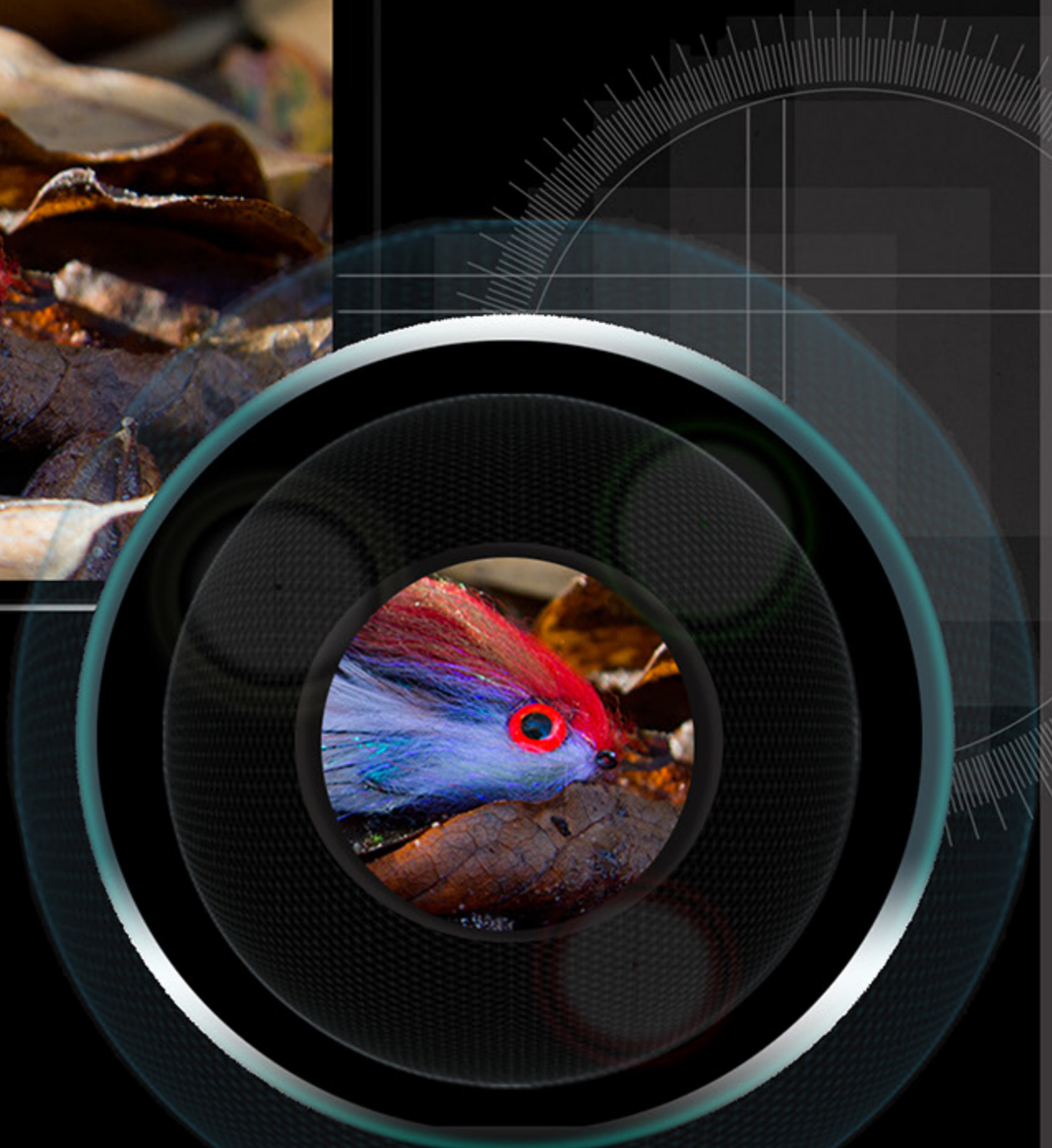
LINK to DIY studio: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6fnHEvLyAE&ab_channel=DIY-XYZ

Back to daylight.
Daylight should not be confused with sunlight. It can be a mix, but photographing your subject in direct sunlight is a no go. The trick is to recognize when the light is right for your subject. Which is not easy as many subjects need different lighting (directionality, colour temperature, etc). You can only learn this by going out and taking pictures.



STREAMER





BACKGROUND

Background

If you are considering taking pictures outside it will help if you place your subject against the right background. This will give you an ‘emotional’ benefit. An obvious example is picturing ice cream, for which you really want a summer location as a backdrop. When it comes to photographing streamers, depending on in which part of the world you live, the better backdrop is an autumn or winter landscape background.

Taking pictures in the snow is tricky. You have to use (extended) flash.

DEPTH GIVE THEM A PODIUM



Depth

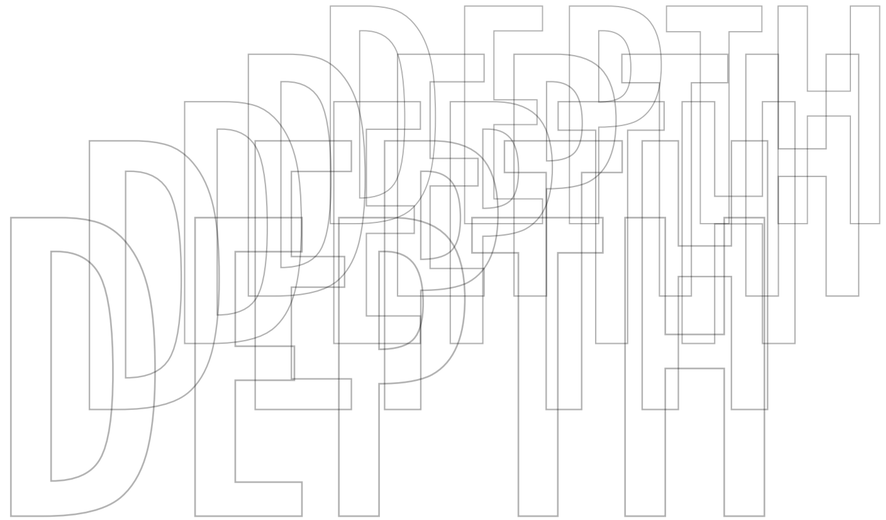
Many people take photographs of their streamer laying down and hovering over them with their camera or phone. Which primarily translates to lack of depth in your photo. And although this is common (such as on Instagram), this doesn't make it right, and it takes just a little extra effort to bring your streamer to life.

What you need for this is a support for your streamer. Something to put it on. And that could be literally anything - from a dead branch on a gnarled tree to a car aerial. There are no boundaries when it comes to objects and locations.

The many faces of a streamer

Your streamer, as have all objects in this world, has more than one side. Use them creatively, to create different looks. This way you give viewers more insight in your tying skills and a more pleasant experience.

Someone who is taking this thing to the next level is James Lund (@oncean-daway) and also Evgenii Borovin (@borovin_e) who is showcasing his final product by a short 360 video.



Many people take photographs of their streamer laying down and hovering over them with their camera or phone





Peter Sikking



For me, fly fishing started about 35 years ago in eastern South Dakota.
It started with walleye and northern pike in eutrophic glacial lakes, and largemouth bass, bluegills and crappie in small impoundments.
In 2001, a move to Minneapolis, MN got me into dry fly fishing for brown trout and brookies, in the small limestone creeks of the Wisconsin Driftless Area. Later, excursions to Lake Superior led to a fascination with lake-run browns and rainbows that run the surrounding tributaries.

My fly tying is largely focused on classic warmwater predator patterns augmented with some of the more recent Pacific Northwest style of large steelhead flies, particularly the use of ostrich and palmered feathers over a stiff collar of materials trapped and spun in dubbing loops.
As an avid double-handed rod fisherman, I take great care to ensure that my builds are sparse enough to cast on short spey rods and switch rods without too much drama, while at the same time having an undeniable presence combined with the ability to push some serious water around.
To me, the perfect streamer looks absolutely alive even when you're not moving it!

text, tying and photography

Andrew Selvig



SPUTNIK

A single collar intruder style flie that I call “Sputnik’s”

They’re tied on 25 mm shanks with trailer hooks using 50# gel spun braid, using bead chain eyes for weighting.

The white ones are Intruders (next page) adapted to look like a Lake Superior herring. Usually on 35-45 mm shanks with a system that allows the leader to pass through the hook eye, through the hackles, forming a ‘no foul’ loop at the rear of the fly. The trailer hook is attached to the rear end of the shank with a piece of junction tube. This system allows a shank fly to have the same breakaway system as a tube fly.

Both are tied by spinning dubbing, American raccoon tail fibers and lady Amherst feather fibers in a dubbing loop, and then winding this spun loop around either a shank or a tube, to form a firm, but flexible collar. Next, as an overlay onto the collar, I clump in and spread out a thin hank of polar flash and ostrich herl. On top of that, I palmer a half stripped marabou feather.

The head is built with back tied dubbing and crested with pheasant rump.



Andrew Selvig

right...copyright...

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It is very simple: everything you find in the magazine is made under copyright. This protects us (WAFF) as well as the people who work on these issues. So you can not copy anything without permission from the publisher. Please contact us if you need more information.

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