

30 Fly Tying Tips to Improve Today

These 30 Fly Tying Tips were taken from the Fly Tying Challenge and from additional expert fly tyers.

Tip #1 - Your Most Limited Resource

[Click here to see how to find more time in your day to tie](#)

We all know that finding time is one of the biggest challenges for fly tying and life. I wanted to provide a link to an article that will help you find a little more time in your week.

Tip #2 - How to Hold Your Scissors

[Click here to see the tips in today's video](#)

Click on the link below to watch a short video that provides a few great fly tying tips. One will check you on holding your scissors.

Tip #3 - Start with a larger pattern

If you are struggling to tie a small fly pattern, try starting with a larger pattern first and work your way down. So, if you want to tie a #22 adams, start tying a #16 first and work your way down.

Tip #4 - Use your hands not tools

[How to Whip Finish without the tool](#)

There are a bunch of tools you can use for fly tying but nothing beats learning how to use your hands.

Case in point - The whip finish. There is a whip finish tool but why not learn how to do the knot without a tool. You will tie faster with less clutter.

Tip #5 - 2 Tips for Consistency

[2 Tips for Consistency](#)

Today's video will show you how to make more consistent heads for your flies.

In order to be more consistent with your flies, it's important to stop and start the flies you tie at regular points.

Tip #6 - Time Block your fly tying time.

You should find a time each day that works in your schedule and add "fly tying" to your calendar. You "time block" it so nothing gets in the way. Leave a note where it won't be missed.

Tip #7 - Test an Experiment with New Flies and Materials

Don't forget to experiment and try new ideas, designs and weird flies.

You'll be surprised at which fly will end up catching the next big fish. It's cool to copy a pattern and do your best to appreciate the ones that work but don't forget to try new things and create.

Tip #8 - Get a good light with a daylight bulb

This helps you to see the wraps, dubbing, etc. while tying and to see proportions much better.

Tip #9 - Parachute Tying Tip

[How to make a tilt wing](#)

If you struggle with parachute style hackles in particular how to keep the hackle from slipping up then take a look at today's video.

Tip #10 - Get regular exercise.

The cool thing about exercising is that it not only makes you feel better but also gives you more energy which means you can get more accomplished in a day (aka - tie more flies)

Tip #11 - Prepare your materials in advance

If you want to tie a little faster then setting out all of your materials to tie a set amount of flies can speed things up dramatically.

Tip #12 - Try to use fewer wraps

This can be very helpful for some of those smaller flies. Give it a shot. See if you can do one less wrap per section and see if it matters. Or try and wrap a few less time towards the head.

Tip #13 - Get a small magnet

Get a small magnet to use for loose hooks, beads, etc. This will save a lot of time and keep you from losing hooks that are just sitting on your tying table.

Tip #14 - Do something to change your mindset and get creative

If you always tie in the same exact spot with the same exact mental state you may not be maximizing your creativity. Instead, try doing something to change your mind. To make a shift for that session. This might be experimenting with something (alcohol, weed, etc) . ----> but only if you are of age. Maybe smoking a cigar while you drink a beer and enjoy a cup of coffee all at once.

It might be just staying up super late or getting up super early. It might be any number of things but try something and see if it makes a shift for you. We are all artists!

Tip #15 - Become a mentor and teach someone how to tie.

One of the best ways to improve your craft is to teach others. If you want to see some of my Mentors in our Fly Fishing Expert Interview Series click here:

[Fly Fishing Interviews with Experts](#)

Tip #16 Test the Action of your flies

If you are being creative and tying new flies you should be thinking about how that is going to move in the water.

If you want to take it a step further grab a fish tank, add current and then test your fly to see how it looks:

Here's the link ⇒ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H27vAGMBEvw>

Tip #17 Try Glasses

I struggled for a couple of years and didn't want to admit that it was time for glasses.

Tying is so much better now!

Tip #18 Wash and scrub your hands before tying

You carry a lot of dirt and nastyness that can discolor you fly or even break your thread.

If you have lots of cracks in your hand this can make tying a hassle. So, try washing with warm soapy water and use a brush if needed to clean under your nails and rub off any hard skin areas.

Tip #19 How to strip peacock

[How to strip and use peacock quills](#)

Just watch it, it's really good.

Tip #20 Shaping your brush

Shaping your brush for cleaner application

Take a look at the video below from Darren over at Piscator Flies. He gives us 10 bonus tips in this video. Take a look in the middle for his tip on shaping the brush for better head cement application.

[10 Fly Tying Tips from Piscator Flies](#)

Tip #21 How to tie a reverse hackle

[How to tie a reverse hackle dry fly](#)

Click on the video link above to see how to do it. It will help your dries get that stiff and straight appearance many of us are looking for.

Tip #22 - How to make cleaner bead heads

If you are having trouble with overly large thread buildup behind the bead, Here's what to do:

Spin the bobbin counter clockwise to cord the thread (like uni thread). This decreases the thread diameter and helps hide the thread better behind the bead.

It also helps lock a whip finish really well.

Tip #23 - Study Entomology

Start small and get into it as you go. It will make you a better fisherman and connect you with your craft at a higher level.

It might be as easy as turning over a few rocks next time you are on the creek to see what's hanging out.

Or maybe you step up to a course to really take the deep diver. Either way jump in and get going.

Tip #24 - Hand select your materials

If you do have a local fly shop nearby it's a good idea to make sure to select the highest quality materials.

When I send out our material packages I make sure to do that ahead of time for our customers.

Tip #25 - Sticky Pads

[Sticky pads work great for glue](#)

The video link above was one more from Tim. I had to get one more in there.

Tip #26 - How to clean the hook eye

[How to clean the hook eye easily](#)

Tip #27 - Thread Comparison

[Thread comparison video here](#)

Tip #28 - Captain Quinn

[Captain's Quinn's Fly Tying Tips?](#)

Tip #29 - Share a Pattern with the Group

Here's one I tied: [Here is a pattern I tied up](#)

Can you share a pattern with the group? Take a photo with your phone and share it with the group on Instagram. Search for #flytyingchallenge30 on Instagram and share there.

Tip #30 - Do one thing everyday that scares you

That is my favorite quote of all time so am leaving it at that.

What can you do today that moves the bar forward?

The fly tying challenge shows that you have it in you.

Let's do something big. Let's do something great. What's next for you?

Thanks for reading through these tips. Would you like to here the fly fishing podcast where we will cover fly tying as well as other topics?

Here's the link ⇒ [Fly Fishing Podcast](#)

Thank!

dave