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## HMH Vises Newsletter

July/ August 2008

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### Featured Product

**HMH SX Vise**

### Greetings!

Welcome to the July/August edition of our HMH Newsletter. We look forward to sharing many different fly tying topics with you and hope you will find the newsletter both entertaining and informative.

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### Get-A-Grip!

#### Proper hook placement in a jaw

An unfortunate consequence of inadequate hook design is that tyers generally place hooks too close to the very tip or the edge of the jaw. Round-nosed jaws, or jaws that are set too close to the rest of the vise make it hard to reach hooks, so to get access to the hook bend, one almost has to place the hooks as far towards the tip as possible. The unfortunate result is that hooks a) fly out of the jaw when pressure is applied because the jaw hasn't been able to grab enough wire to hold it; b) the jaw edge chips, because when the hook flies out of the jaw at hundreds of feet per second, the jaw faces snap back together which such force that the hardened edges chip; or c) the jaw edges will 'roll' -- there is a great deal of pressure bearing on the hook, but the edge of the jaw has the least amount of steel to back it up, so no matter how hard any brand of jaw is, the hook wire will eventually 'wear out" the jaw edge.

We move our hooks all over the jaw depending on the style of hook and what type of pattern we're tying. But we always make sure that no part of the hook is flush with the edge of the jaw, and that there is



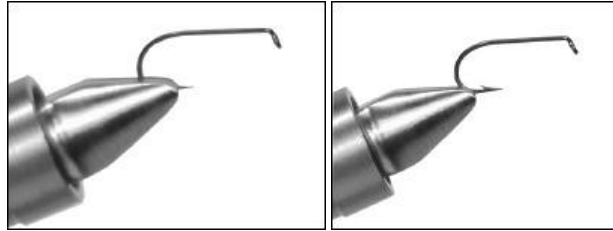
The HMH SX is built on a fixed-angle frame but gives you the added versatility of the famous HMH interchangeable jaw system. We think the SX is the best value for your money, giving you better access to any size or type of hook than any other vise on the market today. The SX is guaranteed for life, and is available with either a pedestal base or c-clamp.

#### **Features**

- Interchangeable jaw system for maximum versatility
- Teflon-smooth full rotary action
- Original HMH Disc-drag rotary tension adjustment
- Fast and easy one-handed operation
- Precision-machined, stainless steel collet and adjusting knob
- Heavy duty cam lever
- Nickel-plated chassis/standrod (universal 3/8" diameter)
- Powder-coated pedestal base or C-clamp
- Lifetime Guarantee

MSRP \$130

a distance equal to at least one hook wire diameter between the hook and the jaw edge. (See illustration)



Correct Hook Placement

Incorrect Hook Placement

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## **Tying Tips and Tricks**

### **A push of water...The Reversed Conehead**

By Craig Uecker

It was August of 1997. A day earlier I received a phone call from a good friend asking me if I wanted to go with him on a seven day, self-guided float trip on the Alagnak River in Alaska. As I listened to Tony describe the trip, I suddenly realized he was talking about leaving in three days! He had planned to go with his son but at the last minute the son couldn't make the trip. "Hell yes, I'm in", I said. Shortly after I hung up the phone, reality set in - I had no flies for such a trip. So, the next two nights were spent tying flies until wee hours of the morning. I was tying a bunch of conehead buggers and at one point, being way too tired, I mistakenly put one of the cones backwards on the hook prior to placing in the vise. Then it hit me, a fly with a backwards conehead would push a lot of water, possibly attract more attention and draw a few more strikes than typical conehead flies...

I've been tying and fishing a few different reversed cone patterns ever since and dubbed them the "oh-no" series for their O shaped head.

#### **Tying Instructions**

Once the cone is in place and the fly tied. I wrap the cone with bright thread, leaving the very edge of the front of the cone bare. I then coat with five minute epoxy...

#### **Oh-No Egg Sucking Leach**

## Hot Fly

### Dunc's Special



In memory of Warren Duncan, renowned hairwing Atlantic Salmon fly tyer from Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada. Dunc had a fondness for the streamer patterns of Carrie Stevens of Maine, and this pattern is dressed in her style. He was likely the fastest and most exacting fly tyer who will ever live. Remembered by many for his quick wit, generosity and for his fly tying demonstrations choreographed to the poems of Robert Service. In particular, Service's "The Cremation of Sam McGee", signified in the 'ash' coloration of the wing and shoulders used in this fly. Dunc was also known for popularizing the Undertaker salmon fly, and his favorite fly was the Rusty RAT. Elements of both patterns have been incorporated here - the tag/tip section and throat are representative of the Undertaker and the body and veiling elements are borrowed from the Rusty RAT - the floss veils replacing the golden pheasant crest typical in the underwing of Carrie Stevens' Gray Ghost.

~Chris Del Plato 2007

**Hook** - Martinek 8xl size 1, sharpest one in the pack. Tag -



### Oh-No Rabbit Strip Deceiver Tube Fly



The conehead has been available to tyers for a long time. However, try this reversed conehead method and see if it makes a difference in your fishing. At the very least you'll get a chuckle from your fishing buddies - at least at first...

Have Fun!

### Featured DVD

3 or 4 turns of fine gold oval tinsel

**Tip** - Small section of fluorescent green floss behind small section of fluorescent red floss

**Rib** - fine oval gold tinsel

**Body** - orange floss

**Belly** - Light Dun or tan bucktail

**Throat** - Black hen hackle

**Underwing** - 5 or 6 Peacock

herls, over which are two pieces of orange floss (one long over the top of one short.) Slightly stiffened with wax or thin cement due to length.)

**Wing** - 4 Ash (medium dun) colored saddle hackles

**Shoulder** - Mallard dyed dun

**Cheek** - Jungle Cock, large

## Spey to Z



Here is what Dr. Way Yin says about this video DVD on Spey Pages: [www.speypages.com](http://www.speypages.com)

"Topher Browne, Greg Pearson, and I are pleased to introduce a new instructional casting DVD: "Spey to Z: Understanding Traditional, Scandinavian & Skagit Style Spey Casting with a Single and Double-Handed Rod."

Topher conceived and organized the project nearly two years ago as a unified presentation of all the major Spey casting styles. The DVD itself has been in the works for more than 18 months, and we spent nearly a year working out the script and teaching points in order to take maximum advantage of the unique capabilities of the DVD format.

From a teaching standpoint we wanted to convey that all fly casting, including Spey casting, is governed by the same fundamental principles. Differences between the three primary styles of Spey casting (Traditional, Scandinavian, and Skagit) simply reflect the adaptation of mechanics to suit specific equipment, which, in turn, reflect specific fishing applications. Because Topher, Greg, and I really enjoy fishing with single-handed rods, we placed single-handed Spey casting up front and center; our goal is to make the transition from a single-handed rod to a double-handed rod as easy as possible.

"Spey to Z" combines much of what we have learned over the years casting, fishing, teaching and demonstrating. We put our own individual spin on what we have learned from all the folks in the U.S. and from abroad that have taught us and inspired us. We hope that an understanding of these principles and how they relate to all fly casts can help anyone improve their casting by recognizing faults and implementing cures based on a solid grounding in fundamental mechanics.

Proceeds from the sale of the DVD will be donated to various charitable and conservation groups, including the BC Steelhead Society, the Atlantic Salmon Federation, Trout Unlimited, the Native Fish Society, and FFF Youth Casting Programs.

## Fly Fishing Retailer Show

**Sept. 14-16**

**HMH will once again have a booth at the Fly Fishing Retailer show in Denver, Colorado. Please stop by, say hello and see what's new at HMH.**

**Booth number 456**

## Quick Links

[How to best use your HMH Vise](#)

Ask for it at your favorite fly shop or contact HMH for a list of dealers.

[HMH Tube Tool and Vise how  
to](#)

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**HMH Vises**

**207-729-5200**

[www.hmhvises.com](http://www.hmhvises.com)