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HMH Vises Newsletter

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Newsletter #2

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Greetings!

Welcome to your second 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.

Featured Product

HMH Kennebec River Linetender



A stripping basket just doesn't make any sense unless its functional. The sad thing is there are more and more 'baskets' out there that try to improve on a good idea by adding gimmicks or doo-dads that may look nice, but really don't do much to help

The State of Tubes

By John Albright



Tube flies and tubes have been around a lot longer than most people realize. HMH has been selling tubes for nearly 15 years, but fly tyers in Europe and the US have been tying tubes since at least the middle of the 20th Century. Back in those good old days, it all seemed pretty simple, with not a lot of variety in the types of tubes that were available and that were used. But the trend in fly tying seems to be always towards increasing complexity fueled by a healthy dose of creativity, all of which is focused on one primary objective -- to catch fish.

So it is inevitable that with the 'resurgence' in the popularity of tubes, and

help you cast.

Features:

- Big enough to strip line into easily without being so big its in the way;
- Has a flat bottom so line doesn't pile up on itself; thus minimizing tangles at the first stripping guide;
- Deep enough so line doesn't blow out or fall out, but not so deep that you lose precious feet off your cast because the line has to make its way out of a deep, narrow hole
- Mesh bottom to drain water, to accept Line Shooters, and to allow you to see where you are going

In short, it's the KR LineTender. You see, the LineTender isn't just a stripping basket - its actually a shooting basket. It holds your line conveniently and out of the way of your feet, boat cleats, rushing water or crashing waves, and then lets the line SHOOOOOOT out on your forward cast, which is perfectly timed and aimed to intercept that fish of a lifetime you've been stalking for two hours.

Big when you need it, and small when you don't. Portable because it packs away quickly and easily. A front pocket for tippets, leaders and other essential small items.

Ask for it at your favorite dealer or go to the HMH web site for details on where to buy.

<http://www.hmhvises.com/linetender.html>

Announcing...

The HMH Fly Tying Forum!

<http://hmvvises.com/board/index.php>

Want to connect with other fly tying enthusiast? Want to share recipes or learn how to tie a certain fly pattern? We do too! Help our new HMH Fly Tyer's Forum get off to a great start by posting questions, comments, pictures, recipes, etc. Collectively we can take our knowledge and skill to a whole new level.

If you have any suggestions regarding our new forum, we're all ears. We look forward to reading your posts.

Help spread the word by telling your fly tying friends....

with more and more anglers and tyers using and experimenting with tubes, that we'd start hearing rumblings and even grumbings about a general lack of standardization in the raw materials available for tube flies, i.e. tubes. We've read postings on at least one forum wondering why manufacturers offer a seemingly random, mismatched range of tubes with different diameters, types of material, and shapes.

Three observations are relevant. First, one reason for the discrepancy in dimensions between one manufacturer and another is that tubes coming into the US from Europe are built using millimeters and centimeters, and the tubes in the US are based on the good ol' inch. This becomes an issue -- sometimes maddeningly so -- when different types of tubes or accessories are combined, such as when you want to nest tubes, or when you want to apply a cone or bead over a tube to finish a fly. In these situations, the very small, but important difference between inches and millimeters can bring a fulfilling tying session to a frustrating and grinding halt.

Second, some tube suppliers are essentially pushing into the market just about any kind of tubing that is readily available, often times taking tubes designed for other uses, such as the automotive or electrical industries, and simply packaging them for fly tyers. This isn't necessarily a bad thing because the tubes work just fine provided you don't mix and match them with others. But these kinds of tubing aren't designed with the fly tyer and with tube fly patterns in mind.

Finally, many of the innovations in tube flies are coming from tyers/anglers who have developed specific tying techniques or materials for a specific pattern that, most often, is designed for a specific fish species, and sometimes even for a certain watershed or fisheries. In the good old days of tube flies (that is, about 4 or 5 years ago), a tube fly consisted of a tube on which the pattern was tied, and a bit of 'hook holder' or 'junction tubing' into which the hook eye was snugged for fishing. The recent creative explosion in tube fly design has yielded 'convertible tube flies'; patterns that don't use junction tubing at all; dangling stinger hooks; nested tubes; metal tubes machined in a bewildering array of lengths, shapes, and diameters, each of which claim to be the ultimate, sure-fire solution for generating strikes; and cones and beads in an increasingly wider range of shapes and materials, and these, too, are purported to be the answer to all of your fish-catching problems.

So what do you do? First, make sure you know where the tubes came from - are they millimeters or inches? That will help avoid problems. Second, HMH, for example, tells you the exact outside and inside diameters of tube, cones, beads, etc. If you know this information, then you should never have problems. Here's an example: the standard hole size for most coneheads sold in this country is about .062" diameter (which happens to be 1/16"). So, any tube that is about .062" in outside diameter (o.d.) is likely to fit through the conehead. Another tip: cut tubing at an angle, like a hypodermic needle point, and you'll find that tight fits become easier fits. It's also easy to convert from inches to decimal equivalents. Just divide the numerator of the fraction (the number on top) by the denominator (the number on the bottom, and you've got your decimal equivalent. Ergo, 1/8 is one divided by eight, which is .125".

And now to blow our own horn a bit. One thing that sets HMH apart from many tube suppliers is that we actually think long and hard about how tubes need to go together. We have the widest selection of soft, semi-rigid, and rigid tubes in plastic and metal. All of our tubes will pretty much nest with some other tube, whether plastic or metal, so you can build any of the hot tube fly patterns you read about. Check out our complete lineup on the web at www.hmhvises.com. Take a quick moment to read the details about each type of tube. We're pretty confident that you'll find exactly what you need. If not, it's a pretty good bet that we're working on that tube right now and it will be available soon.

Keep us posted on your tying triumphs and frustrations - that's the best way for brilliant ideas to be shared with other tyers, and for us to make sure you have the materials you need when you need them.

Tying Tips & Hints

By Craig Uecker

Hot Fly!

By
Tony Pagliei



The Big Poppy

Red Sox fan or not, you'll appreciate the Big Poppy tied by Tony Pagliei. From smallmouth to stripers, this fly will be sure to increase your fish catching percentage.

Tubing: HMH large cut to length with colored junction tubing to match.

Thread: Fluorescent Green 3/0

Hackle Collar: Two oversized saddle hackles. Optional - Flashabou along the sides.

Head: 3/4" closed cell foam popper - bright colors with black stripes.

Hook: Mustad C47 or equivalent size #2/0 - 4

Thread: White 3/0

Tail: Artic fox tail fur - create several different colored tails to make interchangeable components.

Your cool fly recipes wanted!

In each issue of the HMH Newsletter we'll feature a different HOT FLY. If you'd like your HOT FLY to be considered, please send us a jpeg image of the finished fly along with the recipe. If your fly is chosen we'll give you credit - making you and your fly very famous...

Please send images and recipe to:

craig@hmvises.com



Tube Eyes

As fly tiers we're always looking for a new materials, improved tying methods, new patterns, etc. As you know by now we at HMH are very into tube flies. While thinking about our tube lineup the other day I came up with an idea...Why not make barbell type eyes from HMH tubes and coneheads or beadheads? So, I set out to see how this might work. I found it both easy and really cool. And if I used the Frodin tubing (available through HMH) and comes in colors, I could make Tube Eyes with colored eye balls. Here's how...

Materials needed:

- Beads or coneheads (standard drilled)
- HMH Micro tubing or Frodin xs tubing
- Needle nose pliers
- Scissors
- Bic lighter

Thread the bead or cone onto the tubing and with the lighter melt the micro tubing to form the eyeball. The flared plastic tube that forms the eyeball also prevents the cone from sliding off the tube. Then hold the gently with the needle nose pliers and slide the second bead onto the tubing. Cut the tube about 1/16" above the second eye and secure by melting and flaring the exposed end of the tube.

If you need really big Tube Eyes you can use the HMH custom drilled cones and the appropriate sized tubing and follow the same procedure above. HMH custom drilled cones, tungsten cones, beads, HMH and Frodin tubing can be found by following this link.
<http://www.hmvises.com/premiumtubes.html>

Another idea I've been experimenting with is tube lined cones. These can simply be slid onto the leader before tying on the fly to add weight (as well as jiggging action) in front of buggers or streamers. I make these with the HMH custom drilled coneheads and HMH neon flex tubing.

Melt a nipple of plastic on one end of the flex tubing, slide cone onto tubing concave side first and slide the cone down to the flared end of tubing. Next cut the tubing approximately 1/8" above the tapered end of cone and melt plastic to secure.

That's it. Now go tie those Clousers, Crazy Charlies and other patterns calling for barbell eyes with these new Tube Eyes and tube cones.

Featured DVD

HMH Video Links

[How to get the most from your HMH Vise](#)

[Using the HMH Tube Tool](#)

[HMH Vise Features \(coming soon\)](#)

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Modern Salmon Flies - Tying on Tubes by Michael Frodin



Mikael shares his knowledge in tying great fishing flies on tubes. He shows you all his small tricks and basic skills, making you a master flytyer. It is easy to follow the systematic instructions, as the flies slowly grow into finished masterpieces. You will learn to tie Micro tubes as well as large silhouette flies for night fishing. This film has something for everyone regardless if you are a beginner or an advanced tier. The following flies are tied in this film: Dee Sheep, Phatagorva, Grey & Green, Barret Bimbo and Mikkeli Blue. Playing time: 180 min. US version with English subtitles.



Ask for it at your favorite dealer or go to the HMH web site for details on where to buy.