

Dedicated to the Memory of Commissioner Enoch S. "Inky" Moore Jr.

WINTER 2002 **PLAY**

PENNSYLVANIA FISH & BOAT COMMISSION

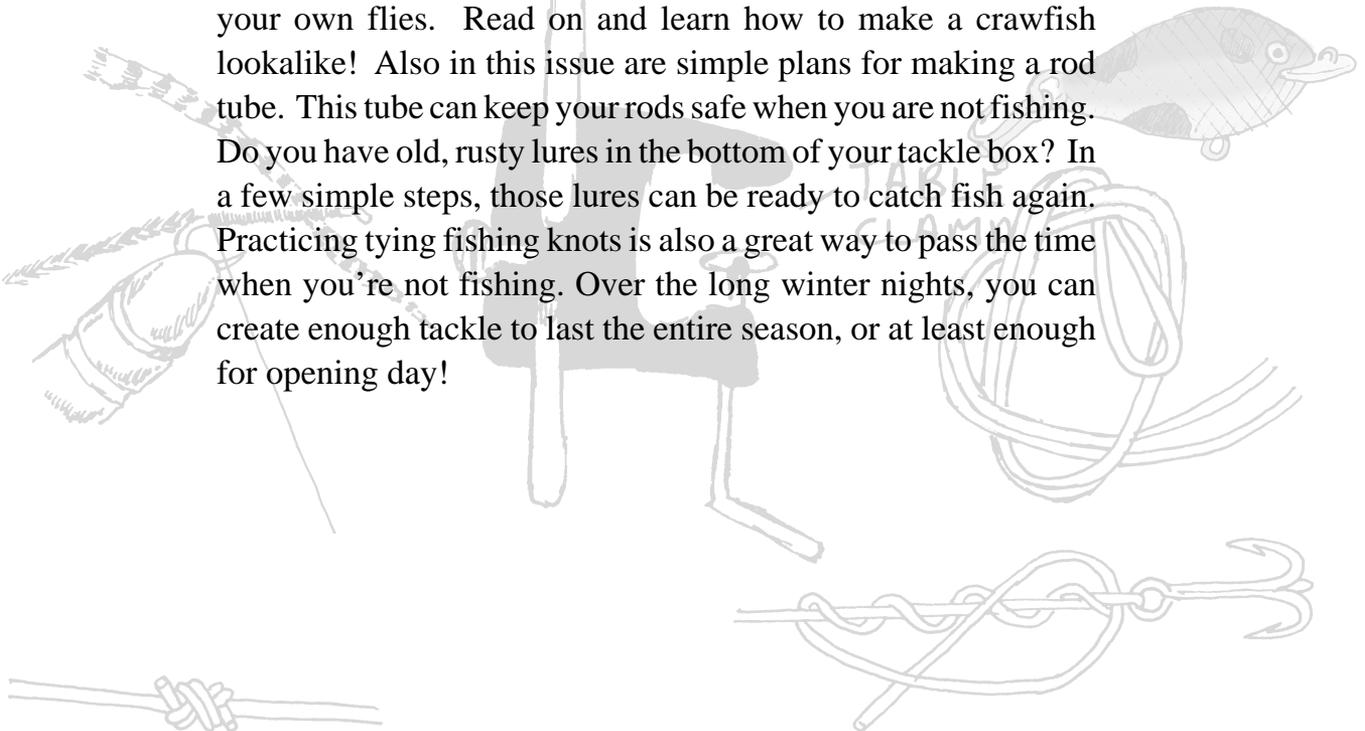
Pennsylvania • League • of • Angling • Youth



Tackle-crafting

by Dennis Tubbs

What is tackle-crafting? It is making your own fishing tackle or accessories. Tackle-crafting can be easy, fun and a great off-season activity for anglers. This PLAY newsletter provides instruction on some simple tackle-crafting projects. These projects require only a few special tools and materials. The skills are simple, too—if you can tie your own shoes, you can probably tie your own flies. Read on and learn how to make a crawfish lookalike! Also in this issue are simple plans for making a rod tube. This tube can keep your rods safe when you are not fishing. Do you have old, rusty lures in the bottom of your tackle box? In a few simple steps, those lures can be ready to catch fish again. Practicing tying fishing knots is also a great way to pass the time when you're not fishing. Over the long winter nights, you can create enough tackle to last the entire season, or at least enough for opening day!



Beginning Fly Tying

by Carl Haensel

Flies use natural and artificial materials to imitate insects, fish and other things fish eat.

What You Need:

Fly tying vise

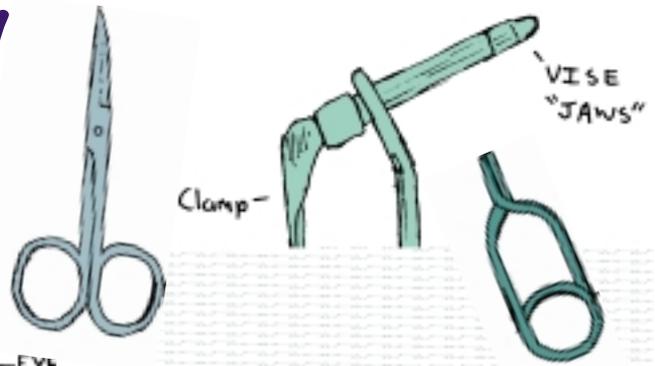
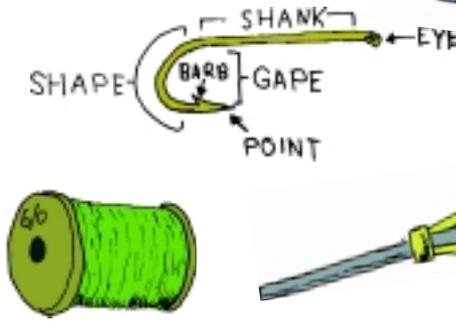
Thread - size 6/0

Bobbin

Hooks

Scissors

Hackle pliers



Tying Your First Fly: "Woolly Worm"

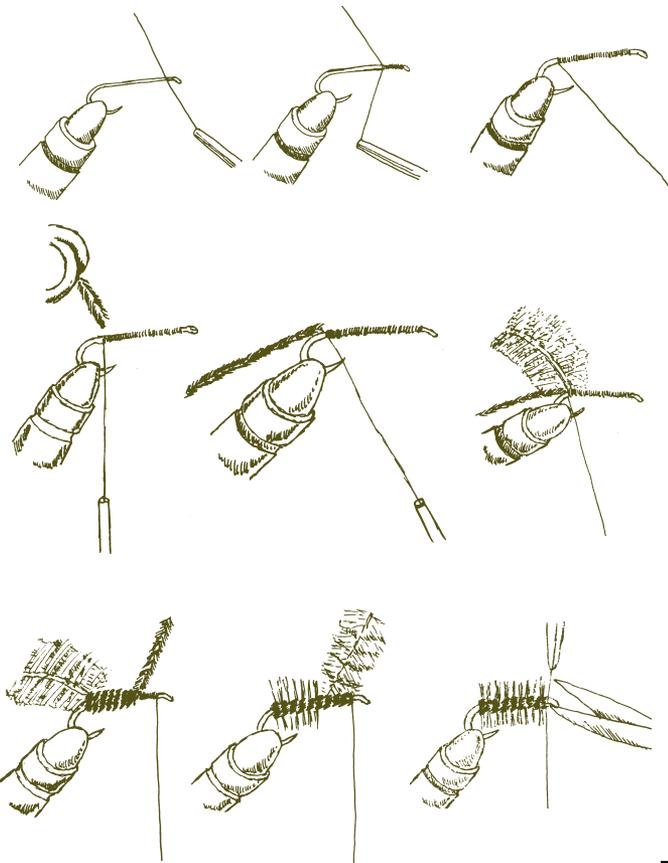


Hook

Chenille or yarn of any color

Hackle (chicken feathers) of any color

- * Secure the hook in the vise.
- * Attach the thread by laying it across the hook and wrapping the thread toward the rear of the hook.
- * Use thread wraps to attach materials to the hook.
- * Attach one piece of chenille and one feather at the bend of the hook
- * Wrap the thread to the front of the hook.
- * Wrap the chenille forward, secure it with thread, and cut off the excess.
- * Wrap the feather forward, secure it with thread, and cut off the excess.
- * After attaching all the materials, knot and trim the thread.
- * Glue your thread wraps if you like, and go fishing!



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Knot Sense

by Steve Whinham

Knots are often the weakest link in our fishing tackle. Many fish have been lost because of a poorly tied knot. Use the off-season, or time between fishing trips, to practice tying knots.

Materials

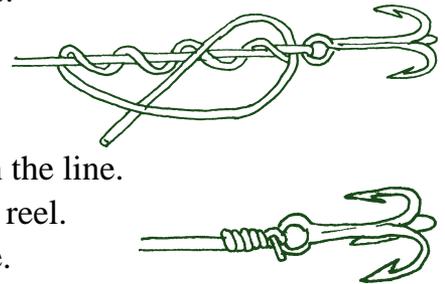
- * Pieces of old fly line or nylon parachute cord 6 inches to 12 inches long.
- * Practice-casting plug, or clothespin with screw eye attached.

With these materials, practice these important knots. Practice while watching TV! Make sure you don't lose a big one next time because of a poorly tied knot!

Clinch Knot

Used for attaching hooks, lures and sinkers.

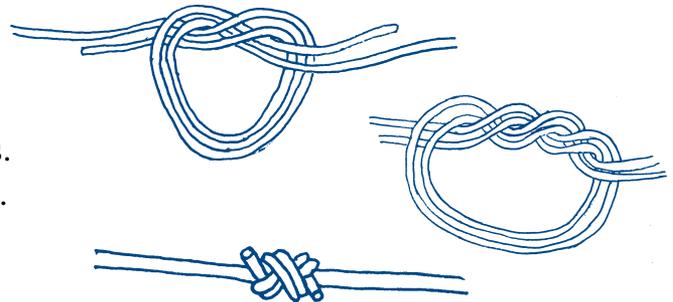
1. Thread the line through the hook eye and double back on the line.
2. Wrap the loose end around the line five times toward the reel.
3. Thread the loose end through the first loop above the eye.
4. Pull the knot tightly.



Surgeon's Knot

Used to attach line to line, or line to leader.

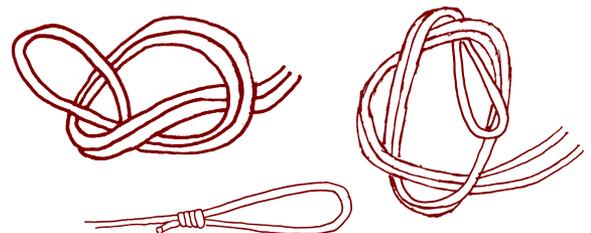
1. Place six inches of each line side by side.
2. Tie a loose overhand knot using both lines.
3. Pull the loose ends through the knot again.
4. Pull the knot tightly.



Surgeon's End Loop

Used to attach snelled hooks, swivels and lures.

1. Make a loop about two inches long.
2. Using the loop, tie a loose overhand knot.
3. Pull the loose ends through the knot.
4. Attach hook by threading loop through the eye and passing the loop over the hook.



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Making Jigs

by Dennis Tubbs

A jig is a hook with a weighted head. Some jigs are plain, with just a head. These are used to fish bait, or plastic taillike lures. Some jigs are dressed with materials, making them look like minnows or crayfish. “Dressing” a jig means placing something on the hook. Hair from deer tails, feathers, synthetic materials and rubber are used as dressings. An easy dressing to master is rubber skirting.

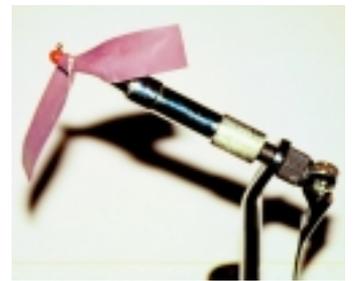
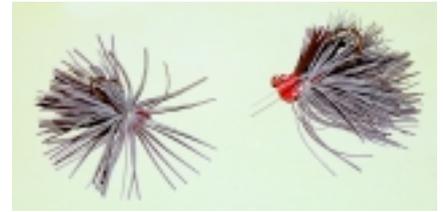
For making rubber-skirted jigs, you need the following items:

- * Scissors
- * Needle-nosed pliers
- * Craft wire (from a craft shop)
- * Wire cutters
- * Rubber hackle or jig dressing (buy at a tackle shop or on the Internet)
- * Fly tying vice (an old used vice will work well)
- * Jig heads of 1/16-ounce to 1/2-ounce (find at a tackle shop)

Be very careful when using the scissors and wire cutters.

To make a rubber-skirted jig, follow these steps:

1. Place the vice on the edge of a table.
2. Adjust the vice to hold the hook with the eye up.
3. The rubber should be twice as long as the distance from just behind the hook eye to the bend. Cut the rubber to this length.
4. Cut a piece of wire about 2 inches long.
5. Fold the rubber in half. Place the doubled rubber on the hook shank just behind the eye, and wrap the wire tightly. Wrap two times and then twist the ends together. Trim the ends, but do not cut the twist. Push the twist tightly to the hook shank. This may take some practice.
6. Pull the fat pieces of rubber into three smaller pieces. Then pull a small piece away from the jig (pull hard). Slowly cut the fine strands apart. If the rubber pulls off the hook, the wire has to be tightened.
6. After you cut all the small pieces, trim the length to be just longer than the hook bend.
7. That’s it—your first jig!



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Recipe for a Rod Tube

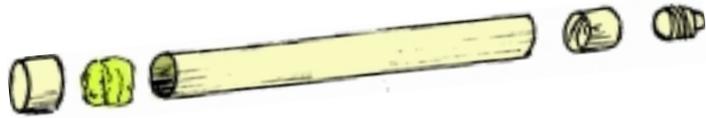
by Walt Dietz



Step 1: Ingredients

You need to purchase and assemble some “ingredients” for this project:

- * 2-inch to 6-inch white plastic drain pipe (often sold in 10-foot lengths so that two rod tubes can be made from one piece)
- * 1 end cap—just slips over the pipe
- * 1 threaded plug and threaded fitting (also called a cleanout and plug)—also to fit pipe
- * foam rubber a half-inch to one inch thick (to cushion the ends)
- * PVC pipe cement
- * Rubber, contact or barge cement
- * Handsaw
- * Safety glasses



Step 2: Measuring everything

Wear safety glasses. Measure and cut the pipe. Five feet should be more than enough. Don't worry about a straight cut, since you'll be covering the ends with caps. Be extra careful with the saw and have an adult help you.

Step 3 – Cookie cutter

Lay the foam on a flat surface. Press the end cap on the foam, as if it were a cookie cutter. Cut the foam along the cap impression. Glue the foam cutout into the end cap using contact cement, rubber cement or barge cement. Repeat this step with the screw-in plug. All gluing should be done outside or in a well-ventilated room.

Step 4 – Putting it all together

Make sure you carefully read the directions on the PVC glue can and use plenty of ventilation. Carefully use the glue applicator to coat the area where the end cap and the cleanout fitting touch. Make sure you remove the plug from the cleanout fitting. Otherwise, glue may spread to the threads and the plug will get stuck. Twist the caps a quarter-turn when you put the joint together. The twist smears the glue and seals the joint. Hold for 30 seconds while the glue sets.

Step 5 – Add your personal touch (optional)

You can paint or add stickers to your rod tube. Just remember to allow the glue enough time to dry completely—about 5 minutes.

That's it! You just made a handy rod tube. No more broken rod tips or handles! Just remember to circle the tube opening with your hand and slide the rod through your fingers. Your hand is easier on the guides than the hard rim of the tube.

Make sure you place the ferrule ends into the tube first. The ferrules are the parts where the rod pieces fit together. Putting the rod tip in first can cause damage.

Best yet is to make a rod sock, but that's a project for another day.

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Fixing Old Lures

by Dennis Tubbs

There are probably lots of old lures in your tackle box. Some likely have rusty, worn or even missing hooks. Others have chipped paint—though hopefully it was chewed off by lunkers taking the lure! Lures are expensive, and there are several ways to make old lures like new.



Re-painting

Vinyl or epoxy paint works best when re-painting or touching up old lures. Most tackle shops and mail-order catalogs have these paints. These paints are applied with a brush or come in spray cans. Try to match the original colors or get as close as you can. Don't worry about being exact.

This is also a great time to change the entire look of a lure. Get color ideas from other lures at the tackle shop or from pictures in a catalog. Wild colors may catch that lunker you have been after. Orange, purple, yellow or bright green are good colors to try on your first lure.

Replacing hooks

In addition to new treble or double hooks, you will need split rings and split ring pliers. Using the split ring pliers, or wire cutters, remove the old hooks. Place a new split ring on the hook. Then put the new hook on the lure. Sometimes hooks just need to be sharpened. A small, fine mill file can do the trick. File the point on three sides.



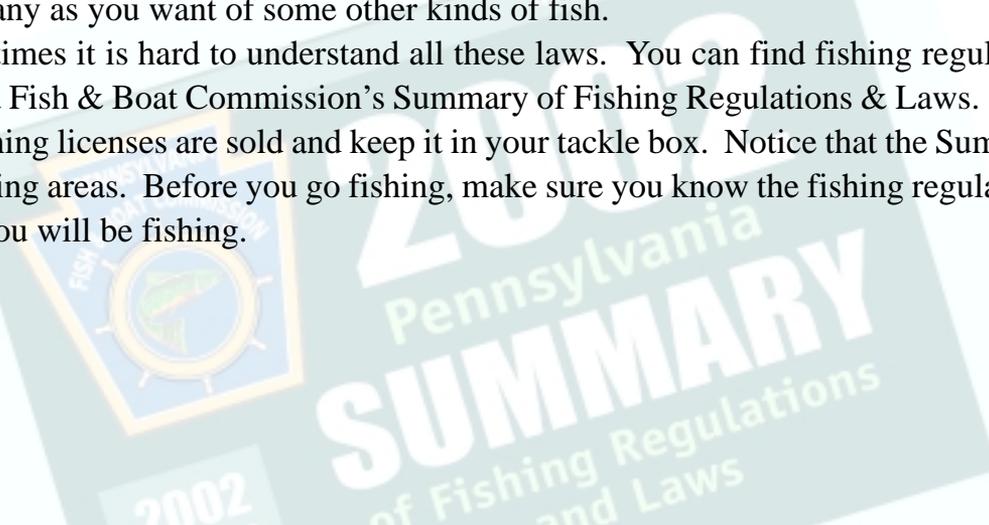
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It's the Law!

by Keith Edwards

If you want to go fishing, you don't need to buy a fishing license until your 16th birthday. Until then, you can fish without buying a license if you obey all the fishing laws. For example: Different kinds of fish can be caught only at certain times of the year. Some fish have to be a certain size if you want to keep them. You can keep only a certain number of some kinds of fish. You are allowed to keep as many as you want of some other kinds of fish.

Sometimes it is hard to understand all these laws. You can find fishing regulations in the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission's Summary of Fishing Regulations & Laws. Pick one up wherever fishing licenses are sold and keep it in your tackle box. Notice that the Summary shows different fishing areas. Before you go fishing, make sure you know the fishing regulations for the area where you will be fishing.



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