

NEWSLETTER

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The Power of the Tube Fly

The tube fly is one more interesting way to tie a fly. Popular with saltwater, steelhead, and salmon fisherman, tube flies provide something that tying on a hook does not - longevity. Other than sliding the leader through the fly instead of tying to it, there is no difference in fishing tube flies over hook tied flies. The only difference is you need to provide a hook when fishing. The benefit is using shorter shank hooks like the Owner Hooks we talked about in the [Specialty Hooks](#) Issue. Simply slide the leader through the tube and tie it to the bare

hook.



The advantage of tying on a tube is the longevity of the fly along with hook placement. The lifespan of a fly can be undesirably short with fish constantly chewing on the fly during a fight, even more so if the fish is toothy. Tube flies

When fighting a fish, a tube fly will slide up the leader away from the fish. Less time in a fishes mouth, less time being destroyed by teeth. You also have the option of what hook you wish to use deciding on size range and whether you want a single hook or run a tandem hook rig. You can also play with hook placement by having the hook right up to the tube, or you can tie a loop in the leader and do a loop

connection to your fly. Now think about that for a second. If you love fishing the same baitfish or streamer for all kinds of fish, you don't need as many flies with different hooks. Use the same fly but change the hook as needed. For example, if I am using the same pattern for salmon and sea-run cutthroat in Puget Sound such as a 4 inch sandlance, I can use a size 6 for the trout, then bump it up to a 4 or 2 for salmon, all while using the exact same fly.

Another benefit to tubes is the ability to stack them. Stacking tubes is a predatory fisherman's trick to mix colors and change fly size. For example, lets take a marabou tube fly—a dubbed body with a hackle wrap to support the marabou collar. In total, the tube you tied on is 1.5 inches, total fly length is 2.5 inches. You tied them in 5 different colors, black, purple, blue, pink, and orange. Now here are your options: you can



fish a single tube for a smaller fly, or stack 2 or 3 on top of each other to get a longer fly. Now you can keep all of them the same color, or interchange them. Use black as your front half and change the second half to something else like pink or blue, Giving more variety in your fly selection with fewer flies in your box. You can go a step further and tie a more elaborate fly for the front and simple marabous for the back and use the same concept. Same goes with any trout or pike streamer. This is why tube flies are something that every fisherman should venture into

that loves larger flies.

Instagram Fly Of The Week!!!!

Thank you

@ambaxter1 for tagging

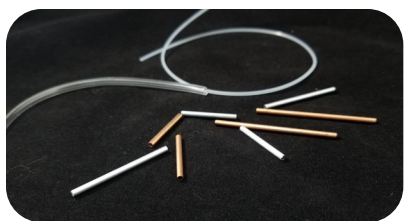
@NaturesSpiritFlyTying

Pattern: The Wood Special



HMH Tubes

With tube flies being such a pivotal advancement in fly tying versatility, HMH came-out with a great selection of tubes to pick from. Not just plastic tubes, but advancing the type of plastic material they are made from and adding some metal tubes to the mix. Each with have their advantages in different fishing situations.

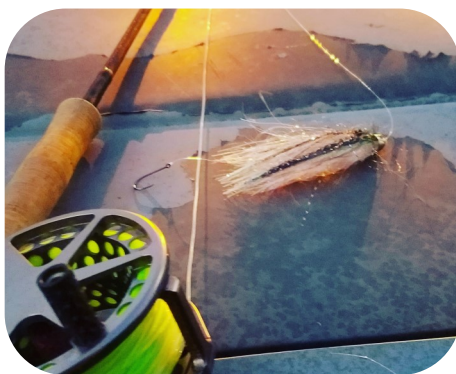


Lets start with metal, the metal tubes from HMH come in three different styles—aluminum, small copper, and large copper. Aluminum is for a lighter fly that still sinks at a slower rate, perfect for fishing shallower water conditions. The copper tubes are also known as heavy tubes. They come in two different sizes, 1/8 and 3/32. These tubes are great for fishing deep water. 3/32 is perfect for smaller patterns, and 1/8 is needed to help your larger flies get down.

Now where you need to pay attention when tying on metal is the length. The metal tubes come in several different sizes, ranging from .5 inches up to 2 inches in length. Why this is important is because your tying the fly to fit the tube. For example, if you tie a wooly buggler or an intruder you need a longer tube for the body of the fly. If you're tying say a clouser minnow you only need a .5 inch tube for the smaller tying space. So, just like the size of your hook, you should know the size of the tube you need before buying them.

Plastic tubes are a little different. They come in 5-inch pieces that you can cut to any length that you need, allowing you to cut them as you need them or pre-cutting them all to the desired length. Another benefit to the plastic is they do not rust like metal with over time. As for weight you can always add cone or bead, or let your fly line do the work by having different sink rates. The plastic tubes also allow you to fish top water flies. The type of tube you need depends on the type of fish your are targeting and the conditions you're fishing in.

There are two kinds of plastic tubing from HMH, there is a harder Ridged Tube and slightly softer Poly Tube. The ridged tube is harder tubing that is great for most fishing conditions, and is hard enough to spin deer hair on. This makes it a perfect tubing when you need a lot of tying pressure to hold material in place. The only down side is that ridged tubing can become brittle in really cold waters. That is where the poly tube gains ground. Being a slightly softer and more flexible tubing, it doesn't lose strength in cold water, making it a perfect tube for winter steelhead and winter trout fishing. As funny as it may seem, it does pay to pay attention to the plastic tubing that you use. And just like the copper tubing, the plastic tubes come in different diameters—ridged comes in three different sizes where poly comes in two.



Tools for Tubes

The one thing about tubes is they do require a special tool or vise to tie them. Now if you're just getting into tubes, the best thing to get is the Starter Tube Fly kit. This is an attachment that you can clamp into your vise that hold the mandrels. It comes with mandrels to fit both the large and small sizes of tubes, and also comes with a few large and small ridged tubes to get you started. Not only is this a great kit to get you started but it also makes for a perfect gift item. There is also a Premium model as well that comes with upgraded mandrels.



If you're a dedicated tube fly tier, HMH has a few vises made just for you. These vises are rotary vises designed for tubes, a couple of these vises have replaceable jaws that allow you to switch from hook jaws to tube jaws. Then there is the SX Crossover vise, this is an all-in-one vise that hold both hooks and tubes. It has 4 teeth that tighten down at every 90 degrees, holding the a hook like any normal jaw or holding your tube on all 4 corners. It also has a hinged neck so you can put the jaws at a straight 90 degree line or tilt them up when tying on a hook. This is one of the best all-around tying vises that you can get for someone that loves tying on both hooks and tubes.

With the benefit of tube flies you should really give them a try. Like all things, you will go through a few before you get used to them. But the advantages to using tube flies is well worth the investment in learning how to tie them. Whether you enjoy steelhead, tarpon, stripers, trout, bass, or pike, tube flies are something that has really stepped up a fisherman's options and HMH is right there to help you hit every one.

