



Flies on steel

Text & fly tying: Andre Scholz Photo: Peter Stark

I was a small boy of 8 years, when I started to flyfish for salmon and it didn't take long that I wanted to tie my own flies. I used primarily double hooks and for bigger flies I soon used aluminium tubes. For the larger flies I was quite pleased with both the look and the performance, but smaller patterns looked disproportioned on a 3mm diameter aluminum-tube. Over the years I tried different tube-fly systems, but I still liked the rather classic approach and found some smaller diameter tubes in the modelmaking sector. While I was holding a class in Italy, a friend of mine gave me some, so called „Needle Tubes“, that he had bought online.

I finally had found what I have been looking for. Only the liner tube that they were using didn't satisfy me to 100 %. The tubes are made from stainless steel and the raw material is normally used to produce injection needles for veterinarian purposes. For a while I have been cutting my own tubes, but luckily I found a source for both, the liner tube and the tubes themselves.

Here is why I like to tie my flies on small diameter stainless steel tubes:

It's easy to tie on the small diameter tubes. The 1,5mm version is great for many different fly sizes. For really big early season flies you might want to look for a 1,8-2mm version. If you melt the inner tube carefully

you can use a tippet size up to 0,45 mm on the 1,5 mm tube and even heavier material on the bigger tubes

They are more durable than aluminum tubes and a bit heavier. Due to the slim diameter and the small amount of extra weight they penetrate the surface immediately, and the fly starts fishing right away. Still they are lightweight enough to move freely in the current.

You can create very neat heads and slide a separate cone over your leader to add some extra weight in cold, high water conditions, or when fishing small pockets, or fast runs.

To be flexible I always carry a small collection of different cones with me, but in 95% of the cases I fish my flies without adding the extra weight. The hook can be fixed with a small silicon tube. I try to adjust my fishing depth by using different shooting heads and polyleaders in matching sinking rates. I want to keep the fly as moveable as possible.

When tying my flies, I vary the material that I use, depending on the expected fishing situation. On some patterns I tie a traditional body, or I use small diameter mylar tubing for the whole body, or parts of it, usually with a bite point at the end of the tube, using tying thread with several coats of varnish or UV glue, to make the fly more durable. I always leave some space for the small silicon tube for fixing the

hook. For the wing I use fox or templedog, together with a mix of Angel Hair, Fluofiber and Micro Krystalflash in matching colours. I use the common method of folding back the first wing, to create some support for the following layers on the smaller flies and for fishing slower water. For faster water, or bigger flies I use Polar Bear or bucktail for the underwing. ●

Black and Green Variant

Tube: Stainless steel tube in 1,5mm diameter in different length

Body and Butt: Small mylar tubing in silver or pearl/ fluo green tying thread varnished

Body hackle: Chartreuse or fluogreen cock saddlehackle ripped with small oval silver tinsel

Underwing: Polar Bear chartreuse or fox hair, A few strands of Micro Krystal Flash chartreuse when using Polar Bear.

Second wing: Black silver fox or templedog Peacock herls, dyed fluo green

Flash: Mix of Angel Hair, Fluofiber and Micro Krystalflash

Throat Hackle: Large soft hackle, black

Cheeks: Jungle Cock, dyed fluo green

Thread: Uni 8/0 black

Contact: scholz.andre@gmx.net
www.andrescholz.net