

## TYING SMALL FLIES CLASS NOTES

A class devoted to tying small flies is different than other fly tying classes. As a rule small flies are not difficult to tie once you get a feel for the proportions required to create a realistic fly on a small hook. Although a few patterns may incorporate a number of materials, most small flies are by necessity simple. Some may consist of just two or three materials including the thread used to tie them. If the truth be told you just can't pile that much stuff on to a size 24 hook!

With that in mind we'll probably tie a higher number of fly patterns in the class than you do in a standard fly tying class. We'll also probably spend more time talking about materials than practicing any specialized small fly tying techniques. In some cases we'll discuss how you should fish a pattern.

For the most part you will be able to tie the small fly patterns without any special equipment. However, listed below are some tools and considerations that may enhance your class experience.

1. Although you should be able to tie the small flies with any modern fly tying vise, if your vise came supplied with midge jaws bring them.
2. Magnification in the form magnifying eye glasses or a mounted magnifying glass makes a big difference especially if your near vision is blurry.
3. Bring your fly tying lamp. Good light really helps when you're tying the small stuff.
4. I'll have three threads for you to try: Veevus 14/0 in black and gray and UNI Trico 17/0. You'll be able to tie all the flies with these threads. Feel free to bring any threads you have in the higher "ought" numbers or the lower denier numbers.

Any other supplies are optional are just fun to use such as an Umpqua Midge Whip Finisher or sharp fine-pointed scissors.