



Fish Hooks

a higher standard of quality for the American fly tier

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9283

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9288

For dry flies and nymphs. Forged straight, turned down forged eye, bronzed. Available in sizes 6 thru 20.



9289

Where turned up eye fits pattern best. Forged, straight, turned up forged eye, bronzed. Available in sizes 6 thru 20.



9255PP

New 2,000 hour salt water finish. O'Shaughnessy, ringed, forged, long shank, permaplated. Available in sizes 5/0 thru 6.

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Larger Hooks . . .

a different and perhaps more natural shape.

I tied a dark quill-bodied nymph on a short-shanked hook with the body running just slightly down the bend. The body was thus bent down a little and the tail came out at roughly a 45-degree angle. I felt that the posture of this fly was very much like that of a swimming nymph, and when I compared it to one of my standard ties I realized something else—I had tied a #24-size fly on a #20 hook. Although a certain nonangling member of the family wasn't properly impressed by this realization, the advantage of a larger hook bend, especially on tiny flies, is obvious.



Of course, the abbreviated fly dressing is far from a new idea (the low-water salmon fly comes immediately to mind), but as far as I know the short-shanked hook has never been widely used in its construction. Since more of the entire length of the shank is used for the body, the extra exposed metal one finds on standard abbreviated patterns is eliminated, while the larger hook bend is retained.

Virtually all fly patterns can be adapted to short-shanked hooks (Mustad 9479 down-eye and 9523 up-eye hooks), which are available in sizes down to #20. With a few rare exceptions, this is now the smallest hook size I use, and after several seasons I can safely say that I'm hooking a significantly larger percentage of fish than I was on other patterns.

Coming next . . .

The cutthroat trout is the native trout of the Old West, yet few anglers are aware of it. Editor-at-Large Ernest Schwiebert draws and discusses the various strains of cutthroat and explains why the species should hold a special place in the hearts of American anglers.

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FLY FISHERMAN

SEASON-OPENER • 1979

Volume 10 • Number Four

April • Price \$1.75

