

VICES FOR FLY TYING

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A hard and fast rule for fly tying tools is: buy the best you can find within your budget! You are better off to buy a used vice like the ones listed than the cheap imports.

Everyone has their own preference or you can call it bias and I am no different. When I started tying, the **Thompson** vise was the vise everyone including professionals was using. If you wanted something better, you needed a custom built vise. There were many attempts to produce something to compete with the **Thompson**. They all failed until **Bill Hunter** designed and built his vise, called the **HMH** in the early 1970's. This was a take-off of the **Thompson** with some improvements. You could easily adjust for changes in hook sizes, it would rotate so you can see all of the sides of the fly and you could change the jaws. The **HMH** is still being manufactured today. **Ron Abby**, a machinist, was requested to build a strong vise and he did. The result is called a **Dyna-King**. **Andy Renzetti** came out with a vise, termed, **True Rotary** vise. After that most of the companies have their own version of a rotary vise.

You need to determine what flies you will be tying and that will help you make the best choice. Rotary vises shine when wrapping body material and to palmer hackle. Otherwise they are awkward to tie with. The **Thompson, HMH (API)** and **Dyna-King** vises are comfortable to get your hand around the vise jaws to place materials but you must wrap the material around the hook by hand. The **HMH, Dyna-King Professional** and **Supreme** can be adjusted to make the hook parallel and rotate to place body material however the hook is not centered as with the **Renzetti** and **Nor Vise**. **Dyna-King** does have a true rotary that will compete with the **Renzetti**. Some of the others are **Peak, Able, Griffin, Anvil, Nor Vise** and **Regal Vises**. The list goes on and on. I stay away from the vises manufactured in Asian countries. Knock-offs will disappoint you and are a bad choice. The steel jaws must be tempered properly. It is all about the jaws and tempering. I have tied on all of these vises at some time and if money is an issue, the first choice is a **Thompson**, not the knock offs. The older **Thompson** vises are superior to the new ones. Whichever you decide on, it must hold a hook without it slipping.

<http://www.hmhvises.com/>



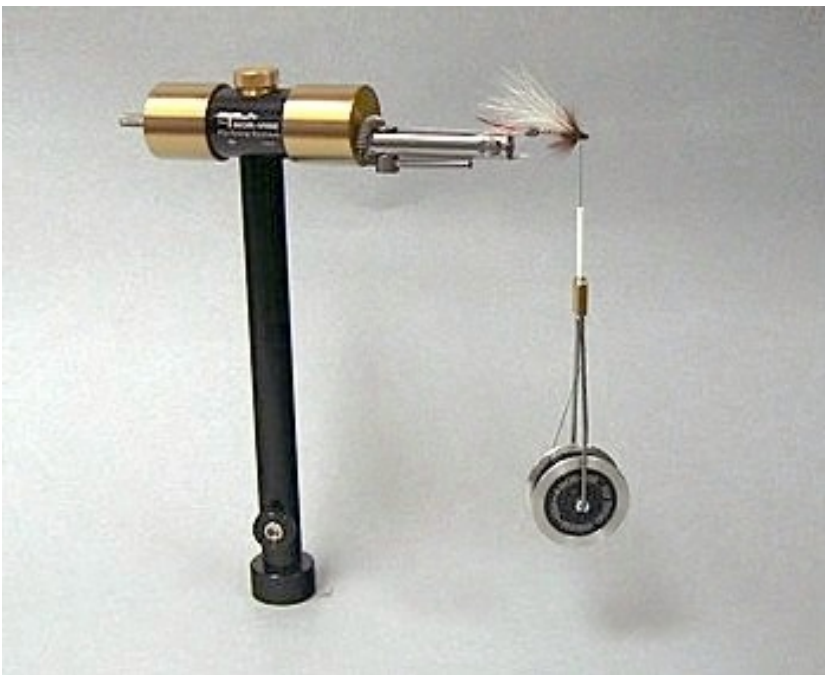
<http://www.dyna-king.com/>



<http://regalvise.com/>



<http://www.nor-vise.com/>



<http://www.renzetti.com/home.php>



<http://anvilusa.com/fly.htm>



<http://www.peakfishing.com/>



<http://www.dhthompson.com/vises.php>





These are the older Thompsons, the good ones.