

Feather Inlay



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Fish Image Inlays

Material Required :

- Feathers
- Punched Template or Decal outline
- 1/8th “ Masking Tape
- Razor Blade
- Black Marker
- X-Acto Knife, with #17 Blade
- Thread Tool
- Brilliance II (Thinned)
- Mixing Cup
- Finish

Fish Image Design Concepts :

- ★ Near Likeness of a species, E.G., color and markings.
- ★ Generic fish shape with colors relating to rod wraps or personal preference.
- ★ Open silhouette–specific fish species in shape. One color is used for the silhouette outline.

Preparation :

- ▶ The under wrap for the feather inlay should be a neutral color and contrast with the feather colors to be used. E.G., metallic pearl or NCP white. Metallic pearl wrapped over silver metallic is a good choice.
- ▶ The under wrap should be finished with sealant (if necessary) and one coat of finish.

Feathers :

- Generally feathers used for fly tying also work quite well for feather inlays.
- Many feathers are dyed ; Therefore, the dye has a tendency to RUN when sealant or finish is applied. In some cases, this helps blend colors together, However its wise to test the effect so the desired results can be achieved.
- Feathers with Luminescent Qualities turn dark when sealant or finish is applied. The exception to this is peacock herl.
- Try to select feathers with heavy webbing. Feathers used to tie dry flies are not good candidates for feather inlays.
- Peacock herl is the most versatile feather used for feather inlays. It can be formed into almost any shape and retains its Luminescent Qualities when sealant / finish is applied.
- Feathers may be layered to enhance or modify colors.

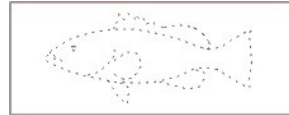
Applying Feathers :

- Some practice is necessary to pick-up a small feather and place it at a specific rod location. The general methodology used to accomplish this as follows:
- Apply a thin coat of sealant to the rod location where the feather is to be placed. (Only one location at a time) WAIT until the sealant becomes tackey.
- Put a SMALL Drop of sealant on the tip of the thread tool. Touch the tip of the tool to center of the feather to pick it up.
- Place the feather on the rod where the sealant was appied. Lift the thread tool. Wipe the tip of the tool clean. Use the tool to position the inlay. If done correctly, there will be no sealant on top of the feather inlay. Use the thread Tool to “ Roll” lightly over the inlay to insure full contact with the sealant. Try not to change the natural appearance of the feather fibers.

- The quill of the feather may be removed, when the sealant is **dry** .

Creating Fish Images :

- ▶ Fish images are created by transferring the images to the rod. Location in a dot outline form, then using the dot outline as a guide for placement of the feathers that represent the different body parts of the fish. Its important the feathers cover or hide the dots; however, dots are easily removed by applying a small amount of sealant and rubbing lightly with a thread tool.
- ▶ Trace a selected fish image to tracing paper. Increasing / decreasing the image to the desired size. Make two copies.
- ▶ Tape one fish image to a thin stiff cardboard (like a business card) using two sided sticky tape. Save the other copy of the fish image to measure feather lengths.
- ▶ Use a large needle or sharp pick to punch small holes along the outline of the fish image.
- ▶ Tape the punched card to the selected rod location.

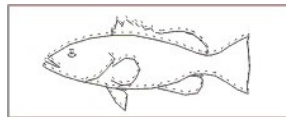


- ▶ insert a small sharp pointed black marker in each punch hole to create a small black dot on the rod. When finished, remove card.



Open Silhouette Image :

- Use copy 2, of the fish image to measure lengths of peacock herl to match the fish outline. Apply sealant along fish body outline. When sealant becomes tacky, apply herl to fish outline.
- Apply herl to fins, gill plates and tails.



- move herl with thread tool so all dots are covered.
- Herl may be shortened by cutting with a razor blade or X-ACTO knife using a spade blade after being applied to the rod. Use a straight down pressure cut Do not use a slicing motion.
- When sealant is very tacky, use a thread tool to remove any lose “fuzz” that may have separated from the peacock herl.
- Apply a coat of sealant. When dry, a coat of finish. When dry add eye, as described by “full inlay”.

Full Inlay :

- ◆ Select feathers to be used for each body part. Use copy two of the fish image to measure the size of each body part.
- ◆ Cut out top body part of the inlay. Use an up-down stroke to cut feather fibers. Cut off feather below the quill line.



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- ◆ Cut out bottom of inlay. Cut off feather above quill line.
- ◆ Cut out fin and tail parts (peacock herl may be used ILO feathers). Set parts aside.
- ◆ Apply body parts as described by “applying feathers”.
- ◆ Create head and mouth of inlay by using peacock herl. If the herl is too “fuzzy”, small amounts of herl may be removed by carefully scraping with a razor blade.
- ◆ When all feather parts are in place, apply a coat of sealant. Use a thread tool, Do Not Brush .
- ◆ When dry apply finish.
- ◆ Add eye by using a jungle cock eye or a paint pen (gold). Use a thin tipped black marker to add detail to inlay E. G., fins, body markings, Etc. When dry apply sealant and finish.