

The Lapsley Legacy

To keep alive the places where wild trout still live, Peter Lapsley's fly-tying kit is to be auctioned

Peter Lapsley, one of fly-fishing's most formidable writers, columnists and fly-tyers, bequeathed his entire fly-tying kit to the Wild Trout Trust requesting that it be auctioned, the proceeds to go to the Trust whom he supported right up to the day he died.

Author of over ten books on fly fishing and fly tying, including *Trout from Stillwaters*, *River Fly-Fishing*, *The Bankside Book of Stillwater Trout Flies* – and more recently, *Pocket Guide To Matching the Hatch*, Peter contributed to every issue of *Fly Fishing & Fly Tying* magazine since it was first published in the summer of 1990 along with writing countless articles in other magazines and journals.

Clearly this is a rare opportunity to use the materials and the tools amassed over fifty years by a fly-fishing expert and fly-tyer such as Peter. The kit he used to tie the flies that he wrote about and originated, the patterns he praised and - as fly-tying instructor - taught beginners to tie.

A flyfisher's fly tying kit is highly personal. It gives a rare insight into its owner's and creator's attitude to fly-fishing and flies. Peter's kit is no exception. Peter was many things, but his fly-tying materials gives two insights into his personality.

First, above all, Peter was a trout fisherman at heart. The materials in his kit - everything you need to tie up dry and wet flies and nymphs, for both river and still-water trout fishing - reflect this. Secondly, as a military man, his kit is comprehensive, well-ordered, carefully stored away and looked after. Finally, all the materials are of the highest quality. (No chunks of his great aunt's fur coat collecting moths in the bottom of one of the drawer.)

Untouched and unaltered since he last tied a fly, Peter Lapsley's kit is an Aladdin's Cave for any fly-tyer, amateur or professional.

His legacy to keeping alive the places where wild trout still live.

- Neil Patterson (*FlyFishing & FlyTying*)

A brief introduction to Peter Lapsley's Fly-tying Kit:

Peter stored away tools and materials in two grey metal Bisley multi-drawer cabinets stacked one on top of another. The top cabinet has 5 drawers. The lower cabinet, 6. They sit together as one unit.

There is a wooden portable fly-tying cabinet, judiciously sectioned off to take threads, tools, with a flap cover on the lid to store feathers and furs.

There are also two shoe boxes, and a jug of tail feathers, mainly pheasant tail.

Portable Teak Fly-Tying Cabinet, made by Tara Designs, Reepham, Norwich, Norfolk, measuring 18" (45.5cm) x 11" 28cm (+ handle) x 4.4" 10.5cm: Two or Peter's three fly-tying vices and his tools that include several pairs of scissors, stacker, pliers, hackle pliers, a selection of silks, bobbin holders (with silks loaded), a dubbing comb, varnish, a flat wooden thread/tinsel spoon holder with ten silks loaded, tinsels, a 20-peg fly wooden tying rack for drying and displaying flies and various other tools.

Shoe Box 1: is a circular bobbin rack that stores 10 fully-charged bobbins and a C&F Fly Wheel, a rotary fly drier with micro slit foam.

Shoe Box 2: a large selection of hooks of all brands and sizes, up and down-eye. Silks, flosses, wires, tinsels of a large selection of types, colours and diameters.

Two Bisley metal multi-drawer Cabinets, (top) 5 drawer (bottom) 6 drawer. Combined measurements: 39" (99cm) high x 11" (28cm) wide x 16" (40.5cm) deep

Top Cabinet (5 drawers):

Drawer 1: labelled '**Spare tools**': Varnishes, Epoxy, a further selection of tools, including hackle pliers, thread bobbin holders, a gallows tool - and a third vice

Drawer 2: labelled '**Chenille, Yarn & Spare Silks**': A wide selection of silks in many colours, various wools, flosses, yarns wires and tinsels

Drawer 3: labelled '**Synthetics**': As the name suggests: 35-40 packs of various synthetic materials, including Flashabou, Thin Skin, foams, Suspender balls, micro fibbets, Magic Glass, nymph body materials, Crane Fly legs

Drawer 4: labelled '**Quills, Wings & Herls**': 35-40 packs in total containing wide selection of marabou in many colours, mallard, goose, peacock, swan, teal feathers and quills, peacock eyes, large cock hackles of all colours, goose biots

Drawer 5: labelled '**Loose hackles**': Loose hackles, dubbings, marabou, a wide selection of Waspi Super Fine dubbings (a favourite of Peter's)

Bottom Cabinet (6 drawers):

Drawer 1: labelled 'Capes 'A': A section of the highest quality, little used capes and 9 saddle backs for the tiniest of lies, in white, grizzle, red, furnace, black, Cree, blue dun, 25 superlative items in total

Drawer 2: labelled 'Capes 'B': A selection of 30 capes, cock and hen, various colours, in excellent condition

Drawer 3: labelled 'Various feathers': A selection of 35 items, including quills, mallard wings, cul de canard in various shades and colours, condor substituted, golden pheasant tippets, partridge, marabou, teal, loose jungle cock

Drawer 4: labelled 'Assorted Hair & Fur': A selection of 35 packs including, hare's ear, horse hair, muskrat in various colours, deer hair of all sorts, mole, moose mane hair, fox, calf, zonker strips, angora goat & more Waspi dubbings

Drawer 5: labelled 'Calf tails Etc': A selection of 35 items, Mainly calf tail in variety of colours, including orange, black, white – and tan, as used to tie Goddard's Poly May patterns, Peter's favourite mayfly pattern. Plus two squirrel tails

Drawer 6: labelled 'Spare hooks, Beads & Fur': A large selection of various hooks of all shapes and sizes and brands, including Kamasan and Tiemco. 4 dubbing dispenser boxes each with an assortment of 12 shades eg: Glister Premium Dubbing Dispenser, Angora Goat Dubbing, Seal Fur Dubbing. Also Damsel, Epoxy and Stick-on Eyes

Separate jug: A dozen pheasant tails

Separate item: A box of UNI-TRAY 2 Spool Material dispenser containing a selection of 30 flosses, Uni-flosses, Wires, tinsels