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BOBBIN FOR WINDING THREAD ON
FISH LURES

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This invention relates to bobbins for winding thread on fish lures, and more particularly to a bobbin adapted to be held in the hand and arranged for winding thread about a fish hook for holding feathers, hackle, hair, etc. in place as required for making a desired type of fishing fly.

A bobbin has been provided heretofore for this purpose in which a spool of thread has been loosely mounted on a spindle held in the hand and the tension of the thread has been manually controlled by pressure against the spool. It is desirable that the thread be held under a uniform but adjustable tension requiring no control on the part of the operator during use of the device. Also, the thread should not unwind when the bobbin is temporarily released from the grasp of the operator. It, moreover, is desirable to employ a spool of thread as obtained from the store so as to avoid the tedious labor of rewinding the thread on a spool held within the bobbin.

It is one object of my invention to provide a bobbin for making fish lures which is simple in its construction and small and compact in size, so that it may be easily held within the palm of one hand during the operation of making the lure, and which is so constructed that it may be readily and efficiently used.

Another object is to provide a bobbin which permits the use of a supply spool of thread without a rewinding operation.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a device of this type wherein the thread that is used for winding the lure may be held under any suitable tension which may be adjusted readily as desired and wherein the thread cannot unwind from the spool when the bobbin is temporarily released, so that the operator may employ both of his hands in arranging the hair and feathers preparatory to a further winding operation. Further objects will be apparent in the following disclosure.

Referring to the drawing which illustrates one embodiment of this invention:

Fig. 1 is a central, sectional, substantially full size view of the device with a spool of thread held in position;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the device with the spool of thread removed; and

Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the same.

In accordance with my invention, I have provided a bobbin 10 shaped to be held in the palm of the hand during use. The bobbin may be made of wood or a suitable molded plastic material. It is preferably hollow or provided with

a chamber of a size and shape suitable for holding and concealing a standard spool of thread and keeping it out of contact with the hand of the user. The spool chamber may be formed as an open ended cylindrical recess 11 in the end of the cylindrical portion of the bobbin, as illustrated, which receives the spool in axial alignment with the recess axis. The bobbin tapers at the other end to form a substantially conical tip 12 which may be moved closely around the fish lure during a thread winding operation. The spool of thread 15 may be freely mounted within the recess, but it is preferably removably held on a headed post 16 passing through the axial opening of the spool and adjustably and removably secured within a threaded hole 17 tapped within the body in axial alignment with the recess 11. This post permits ready replacement of the spool.

One feature of this invention involves a friction brake engaging the spool within the bobbin which, without manual effort on the part of the user of the bobbin, resists rotation of the spool when the thread is pulled and thus imparts a suitable tension to the thread as it is wound on the fish hook.

Means is provided whereby the friction pressure may be adjusted to provide any desired tension. To this end, I employ a friction disk or disks, such as metal washers loosely mounted on the post 16, which are held against the spool under a predetermined but variable pressure. As shown, a metal washer 18 may be provided to serve as a bearing between the spool and the base of the recess within the bobbin. Another metal washer 19 may be held against the outer end of the spool by means of a coiled compression spring 20 placed between that washer and the head 21 of the post or screw 16. When the screw is threaded into its socket by applying a screw driver to the head 21, the tension of the spring 20 against the spool is increased to furnish the desired frictional resistance to the rotation of the spool.

The thread 24 is guided from the periphery of the spool to the bobbin tip, and this guide may be shaped as a conduit which extends from near the middle portion of the spool to the tip. This may comprise a hole drilled through the bobbin or formed by suitably molding a plastic body. In the form illustrated, the conduit comprises an open ended pipe 25 having a smooth interior surface for carrying the thread. This pipe passes through a suitable hole fashioned in the bobbin. The pipe may be made of soft

and bendable brass which may be readily bent as it is forced into the somewhat arcuate shaped hole in the bobbin, or the body 12 may be made of plastic molded around the pipe and associated parts. The outer end 27 of the pipe 25 may project at the apex of the cone of the bobbin and form the winding tip which is small and may be readily moved closely about a small sized fish hook. If desired, a set screw 28 may be threaded through a suitable opening in the side of the conical portion of the bobbin, and this engages the pipe and helps to hold it rigidly in position.

The annular or hollow portion of the bobbin which carries the spool may have a slot 30 cut therein parallel with the axis of the spool. The upper end of the pipe 25 projects into this slot and preferably is located near the middle of the slot and at some distance from the periphery of the spool. This permits unwinding the thread readily from the spool.

In its use, a standard spool of thread 15 may be mounted on the spindle 16, and the latter is screwed down until the tension imposed on the thread 24 by the spring pressed friction brake is sufficient to hold the spool from turning when the bobbin is suspended by means of the thread. This insures that when the operator releases the bobbin and allows it to hang from the fish hook while the feathers and hair are being arranged thereon, the thread will not unwind. The spring may be compressed to give even greater tension if desired and depending upon the strength of the thread and the nature of the winding operation that is required for making a particular fishing fly. In its ordinary use, the bobbin is held concealed within the operator's hand, while with the other hand the operator holds the feathers and hair in place on the fish hook and the bobbin is moved around the fish hook so as to wind the thread in place. After sufficient thread has been wound on the hook, more thread may be drawn from the bobbin to provide three or four half hitches around the stem of the hook. Thereafter the parts may be secured in position by means of an insoluble lacquer.

In this construction, the resistance to rotation of the spool is constant and the frictional force imparted by the brake is predetermined by the adjustment of the spring tensioning device. The tension does not depend upon any pressure of the hand against the thread or spool or any braking device, and it thus remains uniform so that the operator's whole attention may be given to the step of winding the thread in place. The construction is such that if a different size of thread is required for another fishing fly, then the spool may be very quickly removed by simply unscrewing the screw 16 from its socket, and another spool may be readily put in place. The thread may be very quickly threaded through the brass pipe 25 by means of a flexible needle or it may be sucked through by the operator placing his mouth over the lower end 27 of the pipe and drawing thereon. The tension cannot be disturbed during the use of this device and the thread moves smoothly and easily under a controlled tension as required. Various other advantages will be apparent to one who is skilled in the art of making and using the

various types of fish lures required for the different fishing operations.

It will be appreciated in view of the above disclosure that various modifications may be made in the construction of this device and that the above description is to be interpreted as illustrating the principles of my invention and a preferred embodiment thereof and not as limitations on the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A bobbin for winding a thread on a fish lure comprising a hollow body shaped to be held within the palm of the hand and having an open ended recess arranged to hold a spool of thread rotatively therein, said body having a tapered tip and a thread guide leading from adjacent the periphery of the spool to said tip which are so arranged that thread may be drawn freely from the spool and the tip revolved closely about the fish lure to wind the thread thereon, and a friction brake which imposes a predetermined constant resistance to rotation of the spool and thus holds the thread under tension during a winding operation.

2. A bobbin for winding a thread on a fish lure comprising a body shaped to be held within the palm of the hand and having a winding tip at one end and an open ended recess arranged to receive a standard spool of thread, means for rotatively and removably supporting the spool within the recess, a spring pressed friction brake engaging the spool and imposing a uniform resistance to rotation thereof, means to adjust the frictional resistance of the brake, and means providing a thread guide leading from adjacent the periphery of the spool to the winding tip, so that thread may be wound on the lure under a uniform tension.

3. A bobbin for winding a thread on a fish lure comprising a body shaped to be held within the palm of the hand and having a tapered tip at one end and an open ended recess at the other end arranged to receive a standard spool of thread, a post removably and adjustably threaded into the body for rotatively supporting the spool within the recess, means providing a conduit for guiding the thread from the spool periphery to the tip, a friction brake engaging the spool and a coiled spring mounted on the post which holds the brake in place and imposes a constant resistance to rotation of the spool as determined by adjustment of the post.

4. A bobbin for winding a thread on a fish lure comprising a round body shaped to be held in the palm of the hand and tapering at one end to a winding tip, a wall forming a chamber opening at the opposite end from the tip which is arranged to receive a standard spool of thread and permit rotation thereof, said wall having a slot parallel with the spool axis, a conduit for the thread extending from the tip to a position within the slot which serves to guide the thread from the spool, and an adjustable friction brake which imposes a predetermined constant resistance to rotation of the spool when the thread is drawn therefrom.

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