

ULTIMATE INDEXER FLY TYING VISE BY DYNA-KING | Review by Brian Clark

Before we talk about the Dyna-King Deluxe Indexer, let's dish some industry gossip. Consider yourself forgiven in advance for not having followed every bit of news about companies that make fly tying vises, but there have recently been some significant realignments in the tying hardware realm. Last year, Mayfly Outdoors – the owners of Abel, Ross Reels, and Airflo – acquired Dyna-King, a venerable brand based in California with a long history of building exceptionally high quality fly tying vises and tools. This year Mayfly also bought Renzetti, Dyna-King's primary competitor in the rarefied niche of "true rotary" (read: straight-line axis) fly tying vises.

As I've been tying on the same Renzetti Presentation 4000 since the late 80s, I instantly became concerned – would I still be able to get parts? Dyna-King owners have been asking the same questions in various online forums. Fortunately, there's good news for current and future owners of both Dyna-King and Renzetti vises: in multiple exchanges with Jeff Wagner, the President of Mayfly, and Jeff Patterson, who looks after the fly tying product lines, it's clear that Mayfly has no plans to discontinue any of the existing models. Jeff² successfully allayed my concerns about parts, and that they fully grasp the importance of these heritage brands for our community. These folks aren't nameless, ruthless, shameless corporate types; they tie, they cast, they fish. They get it. They're loyal, life-long fans themselves. And they're stepping up to sponsor programs to sustain and enrich the community – watch our future issues for more about this topic.

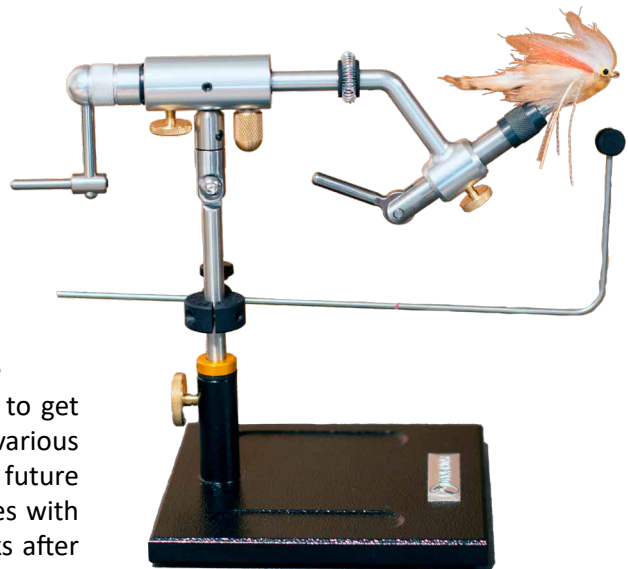
Now, about the Indexer. Even among serious rotary vises, this one stands out. Although most of its DNA is shared with the Barracuda Deluxe and Excalibur (\$100 less expensive and \$100 more expensive, respectively), the Indexer has a feature the others don't: it's possible to force the shaft to rotate through a range of eight stops (roughly analogous to the hours on a clock face, but imagine 8 clicks instead of 12 hours), and it can quickly and easily be locked out at any of these positions. This enables the tyer to exactly replicate the angles at which certain steps are performed on opposite sides of the same fly, a very useful advantage for tedious tying where precision is paramount – salmon flies, for instance. It also improves consistency from one fly to the next when tying volume, helping production tyers to standardize their angles by removing a variable from the equation. Last but certainly not least, when combined with a stopwatch, the Indexer provides a clean, systematic, repeatable way to avoid asymmetric results when curing epoxy.

The Ultimate Indexer has another feature not available on the Barracuda: a hinge in the vertical shaft that enables the entire head mechanism to be tilted up. This one may not seem as valuable to younger folks with still-sharp vision, but it's the kind of thing a more seasoned (read: bespectacled) tyer can definitely appreciate.

MSRP: US\$795

Website: www.dyna-king.com

Many thanks to Chris Johnson at Living Waters Fly Shop in Round Rock, Texas, for supplying a vise for these photos along with his own observations about the Indexer and other Dyna-King models.



The taller knob on the right beneath the cam is the Indexer; it can be tightened up to lock out the shaft to a particular angle or loosened to allow free rotation. The hinge on the vertical shaft allows the head to be angled up or down.

