

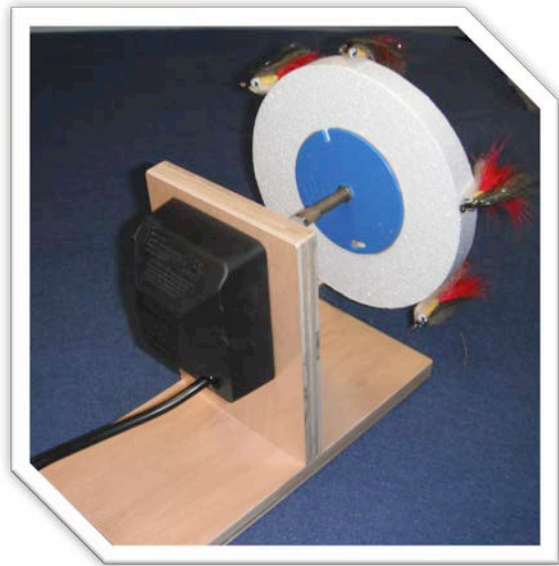
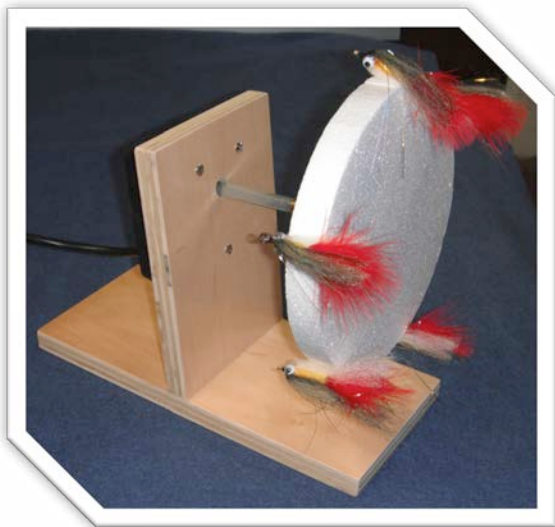
## An Easy to Make Drying Wheel

By Dick Erickson

Do you tie any flies with epoxy heads? Five-minute epoxy sets up quickly, making it easy to manually rotate the fly to prevent sag before the epoxy sets up. But, the working time is very limited, making it tough to do more than 1 or 2 flies at a time.

Thirty-minute epoxy makes it possible to do batches of several flies at a time. But then you need a slow - speed drying wheel to rotate the flies as the epoxy cures. That same slow speed rotation is very helpful for curing the coatings on wraps in making fly rods.

I first thought about making a drying wheel when building a fly rod. Finding the motor was the key to the project. I wrestled with finding an old microwave oven to get the turntable motor. I didn't have the time to chase all over town, so I gave up.



The motor comes with a metal plate to mount the motor to a grill. I took that off, using it as a template for drilling mounting holes in a stand made of scrap plywood. It takes longer screws to accommodate the plywood. The motor takes a 3/8-inch square drive shaft available at your hardware store.

You can use a wrap of masking tape to make the shaft fit more snugly in the motor. The wheel is a Styrofoam disc available from a craft store. That is fastened to a plastic round electrical box cover with double sided tape. That way the wheel can be easily replaced as it gets torn up with use. The box cover is fastened to a short piece of threaded tubing used in lamps. A coupling for the threaded tube makes the connection to the square drive shaft. Just grind or file off the corners of the square shaft and it will fit within the coupling. Use a little of that epoxy to make the connection solid, and you will have an inexpensive drying wheel that will help make more attractive flies.

Lately I've been tying some bigger flies for pike where the epoxy heads are appropriate. I looked at replacement parts motors for microwave turntables, but they are expensive.

After more searching I found that Ace Hardware carries a Grill Mark rotisserie motor that is ideal. It comes with a power switch and cord. I went to my local store and ordered one for \$17 and it arrived within the week.