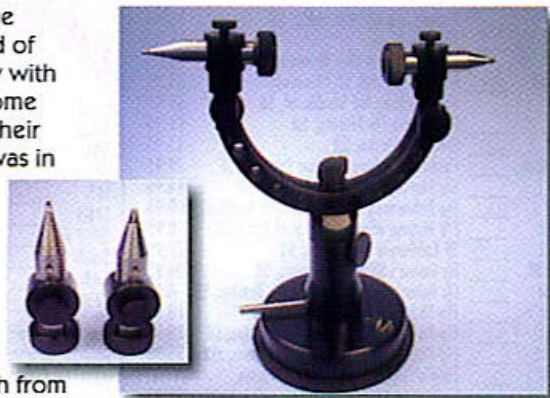


Vosseler Fly Tying Vise Midge Jaws

Last year I reviewed the Vosseler Fly Tying Vise and, at that time, expressed some concern that the unique design of the hook holding mechanism (I hesitate to call them jaws because it is a nearly unique method of holding the hook and cannot really be called jaws at all) could potentially create a problem, particularly with extremely small hooks; kinking, or even breaking them. While that never occurred while I was using it, some of the small, fine-wire hooks did take on some alarming bends while in the vise but always returned to their normal shape when released. The manufacturer was, apparently, aware of this problem and a solution was in the works. Vosseler now recommends the standard jaws for hook sizes down to 14 (and I have used it for hook sizes up to 3/0).

For smaller hook sizes, the new midge jaws (and this time they are conventional jaws) provide a secure grip on hooks down into the 20s. In fact, Gamakatsu sent me some size 30 hooks which, although I only tried to tie one fly of that size, presented no problems; at least no problems that could be attributed to the vise. In the picture, the standard jaws are shown on the left and the midge jaws on the right. Another handy feature is the ability, by simply removing a spacer and installing the jaws, to have both sets mounted at the same time and having only to swivel the vise frame 180 degrees to switch from one to the other. The midge jaws are crafted from the same surgical steel and high-grade aluminum as the standard jaws and look very nice when paired off that way.

I've been tying on this vise at a number of fly fishing and fly tying shows over the last couple of months and its unique appearance and its cutting-edge engineering and design never fail to elicit a lot of interest. The vise itself, with one set of jaws, is priced at a reasonable \$224.00. The midge jaws, by themselves, are \$89.00.



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Vosseler DC Fly Reel

I'm impressed with the appearance, as well as the performance and price of this reel. They are made in Germany and, in this case certainly, the reputation of German design and manufacturing quality has been fully upheld. It is available in three sizes, the DC2, DC3 and DC4; the DC2 is suitable for up to WF 3/4 lines, the DC3 for WF 5/6 and the DC4 for WF 7/8. The reel comes standard with a large-arbor spool but a conventional spool is available. I was sent a DC3 with both spools and decided to put a 4-weight line on the large arbor and a 6-weight on the conventional spool to cover a range of fishing from trout to summer-run steelhead. The completely sealed, and extremely smooth, disc drag is fully capable of handling them all.

One interesting feature of the reel, which I didn't notice until I'd been using it for a while is its cutaway cage. This provides superior rigidity while maintaining light weight and leaving the entire lower third of the reel's frame open. I can vouch for the rigidity, having dropped the reel on hard surfaces more than once without bending anything; something which can't be said for quite a few of today's reels.

This high-quality and surprisingly affordable reel has a hard-anodized finish available in three colors: titanium, natural or black. The wooden handle is counterbalanced and the drag control knob is large, easy to grasp and

tightens the drag in a smoothly progressive manner. Reels and spools come with a protective case.

Model	Reel	Spare Spool
DC2	\$199.00	\$89.00
DC3	\$209.99	\$99.00
DC3	\$219.00	\$109.00

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