



Glenn C. Overton
P.O. Box 1262
Libby, Montana 59923
Tel. 406-293-3967 U.S.A.

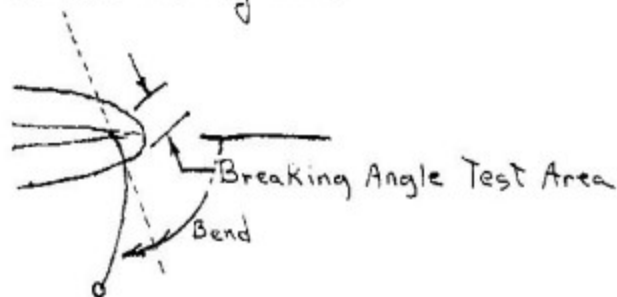
Dear T. Shimoda

Thank you very much for the samples of hooks. Enclosed is a test I made on each box and I hope you will take it serious as I do and pass this information around and try my ideas. I want your hooks to be the best in the world and I feel you can do it. I find many so called fly fishing experts in our field know little about metallurgical characteristics of metals and hook designs. My intention for this letter is that I care very much about your hooks.

Eighteen years ago I design this simple test on fly hooks and it is a good way for you to test the consistency on all hooks before packaging. Years ago I have seen hooks temper in this way, sold by Hertel's, but are know longer made and they are know longer in business themselves.

I place a hook in a fly tying vise and check what degree of angle the hook will break. I have found that the best angle at breaking point is 75° angle. This angle will allow enough spring in the wire to absorb the shock of a fish and still be in a safety zone of not being brittle. Seventy five degree angle is the ultimate strength, just think a test to get every bit of strength that wire can stand and still be in a safety zone. I hope now I got you thinking? This test works with all sizes of wire and hooks sizes and it makes know different if the hook is a size 4 or a size 24.

Overton's Heat Treating Test



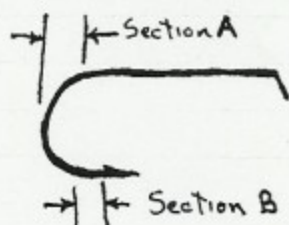
Note: This test can be done in a sideways bending test as I did, or in a upward direction

This is my results of my test and you should have better equipment than I do to get a better reading. I use my own fly tying vise and a protractor, a crude method I must say.

Hook	Size	Breaking Point
TMC 200	12	65°
TMC 300	10	120°
TMC 400T	12	93°
TMC 102Y	13	100°
TMC 100	14	75°

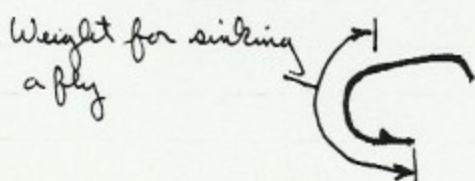
Number 200 at 65° needs the big fish strike test, 100 is perfect and 300 is on the soft side for fly fishing.

The following report will cover my ideas of hook designs.



Section B is usually too long by most manufacturers in this area. It's a design from bait hooks to hold bait (a worm) and still keep the barb far enough ahead for hooking a fish. Fly hooks use know bait and this length is not needed.

Section A is usually too long in this area and I like to keep the body of the fly as far back as possible for tails and body both. The more wire covered with fly tying materials, the less weight use for sinking a dry fly to float on the surface.



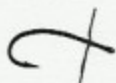
TMC 200 size 12



Wire: Excellent for nymph fishing

Shank: Excellent for natural look nymphs and the length is excellent for the direction of pull to hook a fish.

Note: I would also make a hook of a shorter shank and as small as a 18 hook



Eye: Diameter is excellent, maybe it could be one size smaller. I prefer a down eye on this hook because I tie my flies with a turtle knot. A down eye version might sell well.

Bend: The sharp bend could break easy on large fish but I feel the larger diameter wire might well support the hook from breaking but unknown on four to six pound trout.

Sharp Bend



Point: Excellent penetration angle

TMC 400T size 12

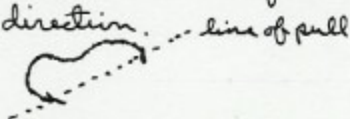


Wire: Excellent diameter

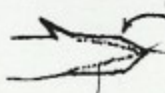
Shank: A natural nymph shape. I would tie a nymph with the point facing up.

Eye: Again and most might not agree but I would prefer a down eye for line pull in hooking a fish.

Bend: I would hook my fish very carefully because of poor line of pull. I would manufacture the hook in the opposite direction.



Point: same length less angle

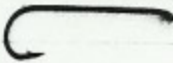


Bring this area back farther, maybe at the barb area!

New angle

Barb: Excellent

Note: In 1881 to 1902 this hook was considered a "Gravitation" style

TMC 300 size 10 

Wire, excellent

Shank: I feel it is excellent for some flies but I feel most tyers prefer a hook of this design in 4x, 3x, and 2x long. Hooks in those length will sell well and some of the larger sizes with a smaller wire.

Eye: I prefer more angle, similar to the dry fly hooks.

Bend: Excellent

Barb: Excellent

Point: Excellent on this hook but on some hooks sent I would lengthen the angle on the bottom



Section B. This might be acceptable for the length of shank but I recommend as you shorten the shank to 4x, 3x, and 2x short, this area should be shorten each time the shank is shorten.

Hook TMC 100 size 14

Wire: Excellent diameter

Shank: Excellent, section A is short and very well like.

Eye: Excellent, the right size, not large.

Bend: Being old fashion, I like the round bend hook but I feel the shape of this hook is superior because there is less radius in the breaking area

Hesters
7029T

Point: Too short, should be the same degree of penetration angle as hook TMC 102Y or my favorite point angle, of the Hesters 7029T

Hook TMC 102Y

Wire: Excellent diameter

Shank: Excellent for this design of bend

Eye: Excellent

Bend: I know it is excellent and I like to test the breaking on big fish. A higher temper can be done with this design without breaking

Point: Perfect

Barb: Excellent

Color: The black hook sent I do not know if the darker color is better or a disadvantage over very educated, catch and release brown trout. There is know brown trout in my area to make this test. A gold plated shank for yellow and cream dub bodies is an old idea of mind to keep the body material lighter in color when wet.

Note: I feel of all the samples sent, that this point, barb and wire diameter will hook the fish better than any other hook sent. TMC 100 hook will take more pressure to hook a fish than this hook TMC 102Y

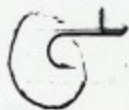
Walt Carpenter a well known rod builder of bamboo rods is a close friend and we did alot of research together, several years ago. He has much respect for my scientific knowledge and fly designs any you might know him because he sell one of your hooks under his name.

I have send you copies from and old book on angle of hook points with also other interesting ideas. Note the date I wrote on the copies!

Hal Janssen and Dave Whitlock statement in Umpqua Feather Merchants made a statement about your hooks as having, short sharp points. I have talk to Hal and he feels short points will hook fish better. I hope you do not believe such a farce and untrue statement. Can you believe this angle \angle will hook fish better then this angle \angle . I hope I ended this thory. I also agree a point will have problems if to long and thin. I wonder, how many pounds of pressure does it take to penetrate a fish with each different angles, on the point of the hook?

I put alot of work into this report and I am serious in the problems I have found. I feel you can make the best fly hooks in the world and I care. The price in the U.S. is high for your hooks and I hope they will be lower in cost in time, so a wider range of users can buy these hooks and to create greater sales.

Let me know what you and your workers feel about using the "Overton's Heat Treating Test", to achieve the same breaking angle and degree of temper on all hooks. I'm very concern with improving the angle of the point for easier penetration and reduce the shock on the bend of the hook. I am also concern of keeping section B, short.



This part circled is perfect, the bend, the barb and the point. I feel section B, the point and barb of this hook should be used on all youafly tying hooks. I suggest you take a photo of this point and barb x 10, x 20, x 50, x 100 for a chart, in factory use. I would like to see a little more study in this area. I wonder, would it be a change in your hooks or another design hook, that also match the hook chart sent!?

A simple test is to get your favorite fish, alive, and find out the shock per pound on the hook from a 1 pound fish $1\frac{1}{2}$, 2, $2\frac{1}{2}$, 3, and up to six pounds etc. Then find out the pressure it takes for penetration of the hook into the flesh of a fish for each size hook, wire size, barb size, point angle, size etc. One thing, you can eat the test results! With your studies you might need a lesser angle of breaking than 75° . Let me know your findings. Whatever angle it should be, it should be the same for all hooks.

I hope this letter will reach many people and I hope I started something. If you need me for anything or check out something, let me know and let me know about my findings.

My best wishes

Glenn C. Overton



TAISO SHINJUKU BLDG. SHINJUKU 1-26-12, SHINJUKU-KU, TOKYO, JAPAN 160
CABLE ADDRESS: "TIEMCOLTD" TOKYO TELEPHONE TOKYO 341-3781 TELEX: 72-32223

Mr. Glenn C. Overton
P.O. Box 1262,
Libby, Montana 59923,
U. S. A.

Jan. 28, 1986

Dear Mr. Overton,

I should have written you much much earlier about the fly hooks.
Please accept my thousand apologies.

Enclosed are some of the new hooks we have recently introduced
in the market. They are made based on more traditional design
concept - model perfect bend. Enclosed are TMC5210, 1XF dry fly
hook and TMC5262, 2XL, 2X Heavy hooks for nymphs; equivaleny to
Mustad's 9671.

I hope these are much to your liking ^{and}, try your tying on them
for coming season.

I also hope that these hooks will answer some of the questions
you raised in your test report you kindly took labor to make for
us.

Other than these, we have TMC5230, three ex fine version and
TMC5263, 3 ex long hook. I have also enclosed a few of them.

When you feel like trying some other hooks we have including the
models we introduced in the first year, please feel free to tell
me so. I would be more than delighted .

Sincerely yours,

Toshi Shimoda

Encl.