



## The Eclectic Angler

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### 19th Century Furling Tool

Here are a few tips to help you get started with your furling tool. If you have not read my article on making tapered, knotless, furred horse hair fly lines, please do. You can get a copy here:

<http://eclecticguy.com/2009/05/08/horse-hair-fly-line>

The furling tool is really quite simple. It consists of three color-coded components. The color coding was my innovation to help you stay organized during the furling process. Each stick is custom fitted to its goose quill. Most importantly, since the quills are tapered, there is a "top" to each quill. If you drop a quill section, simply fit it to its stick – whichever orientation leaves the longest projection of stick above the quill is correct.

Each quill section is wrapped with thread and varnished. This significantly strengthens the quill to prevent splitting. I imagine that early line makers using this technique kept a supply of quills on hand in the event of breakage. This simple addition almost eliminates breakage problems. The thread also provides a bit of texture on the slippery quills to make them easier to grip.

The furling tool really does not any maintenance. Do not over-clamp the quills by forcing them onto their sticks. In use, the horse hair must be held loose enough to slide easily when pulled but taught enough to securely hold the twisted hair. Spend a minute experimenting/practicing with a single tool and 6 strands of hair and you will get the hang of it.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [mhackney@eclecticangler.com](mailto:mhackney@eclecticangler.com).

Tight(ly furred) Lines!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Michael Hackney'.

Michael

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