

Issue 190

TROUT FISHER

Fly-focussed but totally transferable

Spring 2024

**Confessions of an Addicted Salmon Angler ~ Opportunity Plus!
Tongariro Update ~ Where there's a will . . .**



THE KLINK: FEATURES AND REVIEW

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Personally I believe that most mistakes that are made while tying Klinkhåmers occur because people are stubborn, don't read the instructions properly, and tie my fly from looking at pictures and don't listen to the thoughts behind the pattern, and why I use certain materials.

Extracts from Chapter 6 of The Klink and the leader system used worldwide, by Hans van Klinken. ©



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It's an early 1960 Spring and a boy is targeting a heavily-overgrown section of a Somerset brook, already fully aware that's where to find the least-disturbed fish.

By Peter Storey.



Tongariro Update 15

One afternoon a few summers ago, on another river not too far from here, I was carrying a good sized trout back to my car when I stumbled across the farmer who owned the land we had trespassed on.

By Ross Baker.



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Japanese tempura is recognised as the lightest form of frying. This recipe called karaage, is used when a larger fritter is fried rather than individual items. It is a good way of making a small amount of fish go a long way.

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Para Poly Sedge 24

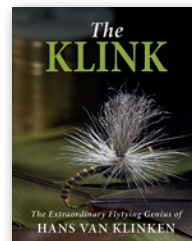
Since I retired, I have plenty of time to go through all my fishing and flytying diaries and it is quite amazing to see how productive I was in the 1980s and 1990s.

By Hans van Klinken. ©



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While my actual salmon fishing for the 1995-96 stopped with me finally having employment in what was meant to be a relieving casual position, it turned out to be mostly night shifts that left not enough time to fish.

Part 7 of Confessions of an Addicted Salmon Anger, by Larry Burke



Where there's a will . . . 42

In subzero temperatures, I stood, rugged up in my winter warmers, surveying the 180 degree views over the gum forest lands, by the Eucumbene River meandering through naked grasslands.

By Matt Hoole



Cover

Klinkhåmer Special. (Leon Links ©)

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Hans de Groot, Franklin Moquette and Ton Lindhout came up with the striking name . . . while editing my story for the Nederlandse Vliegvisser and it has stuck ever since . . .

Klinkhåmer Special

Forty years of dry fly success

Excerpts from Chapter 6 of The Klink, by Hans van Klinken ©

Personally I believe that most mistakes that are made while tying Klinkhåmers occur because people are stubborn, don't read the instructions properly, and tie my fly from looking at pictures and don't listen to the thoughts behind the pattern, and why I use certain materials. I have dozens of examples why Klinkhåmer Special flies fail and most I can refer back to people using different materials to the ones I suggest in my dressings. I think before attempting to tie a Klinkhåmer Special properly, you would benefit from knowing what I was thinking when I created the pattern. Quite a bit already has been described and explained in my Parachute chapter. My great preference for parachute flies was definitely the start of the Klinkhåmer thinking progress just a few years later. It was the foundation of the development to keep my crazy iceberg shape fly floating so extremely well.

I repeat that when fishing for grayling with dry flies, I believe that it is a combination of the shape of the mouth, the speed of the rise, and their way of taking the fly that causes a grayling to push away a regular floating pattern. A parachute-style dry fly reduces this problem, and an emerger that hangs deep in the surface works even better. I proved this theory many times after designing the Klinkhåmer Special. The iceberg shape, or deep surface-hanging emerger style in which I tie my flies, solved these problems and improved the catch rate incredibly.

Even flytying expert and master flytyer Oliver Edwards told me that his catch results went up a lot after he started using the Klinkhåmer or Klinkhåmer style flies. I also observed that at least nine out of ten grayling were hooked well in their upper lip when using Klinkhåmer flies.

Flyfishing with deep subsurface hanging parachute flies offers many benefits. A well-tied parachute fly lands perfectly on the surface and floats wing upright the entire drift. Because of the 'iceberg shape' in which most of the mass of the Klinkhåmer Special is below the surface, the upper part of the fly is vertically stable. If tied correctly and with the right materials, this fly floats through riffles and strong currents without tipping on its side or sinking.

For me, the idea of a parachute fly is to create a strong fly silhouette for a fish. I think that it is this deep in the surface, hanging presentation of my Klinkhåmer Special that allows the fly to imitate all types of emerging mayflies, caddis and even some terrestrials. The appearance of an insect caught in or below the surface film makes a tempting target for trout and grayling, but the position and shape of the hook also allows you to hook fish more frequently and securely. Even Atlantic salmon, notorious for merely bumping flies with their noses, are at certain times hooked more frequently with the Klinkhåmer than with traditional bomber flies or bugs. Seatrout sometimes can go mad for them too but they prefer slender ones.

When we tie imitations of insects, only a few points seem important. We consider the size, shape, colour, and mobility of the naturals, and replicate these elements in our patterns. But I think there are more points of interest, and I search for them every day. For example, several years ago I started thinking differently about fly design, and today I teach my flytying students





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to consider the silhouette a fly produces. I don't mention the shape anymore. Thinking like this suddenly makes the length of the wing extremely important.

I try to look and see things in a different way. Wind can improve mobility and we already include that element in our flytying. But how many tyers take into account the effect of the sun on the fly as it rests in the water? I now realise more and more the importance of silhouette and the great influence of the sun and rain on the colours from patterns like spiders and other flies that you fish just underneath the water film.

I can offer no other explanation as to why some selective fish will only take a certain fly when the sun sets or rises or just disappears behind a dark cloud. After fishing Klinkhåmers for forty years I changed my mind radically about the length of the hackles within the parachute too, and that is why I have also a good number of Klinkhåmers with extremely long hackles in my fly boxes today.

WHAT DOES THE KLINKHÅMER IMITATE?

I must confess that when I developed the Klinkhåmer Special, my depth and understanding of entomology was at a very early stage.

The first Klinkhåmer was meant to imitate what I found in the stomach of the grayling I took for lunch. I only knew that what I tried to imitate was a caddis pupae, right on the verge of hatching.

I first tried to imitate its curved body using a grub hook. And I could replicate the emerging legs with the parachute hackle. These elements best describe what eventually gave rise to the fly's appearance today.

Now four decades later, I view my Klinkhåmers not only as wonderfully effective flies, but as an imitation of a series of flies. I can alter the basic pattern in ways which imitate emerging sedges, midges and many species of upwing flies. In addition, my Klinkhåmers have become a perfect imitation for many different types of large, struggling terrestrials. Even when there is no visible evidence of a hatch, fish love to rise for it and take it. This fact alone makes the fly a truly great dry fly searching pattern.



*Beautiful grayling, over 50cm,
caught in a lovely stream in
southern Finnish Lapland.*

