

Updated 1/25/2017 by Dennis Stead

D. H. Thompson and Herter – the companies and their vises.

D. H. Thompson was American manufacturer of fly tying vises and tools. Herbert Thompson, a young mechanic and avid fly fisherman developed the Model A Thompson vise in the early 1900 (estimate 1909 or earlier). See the history taken from page 2 of the D. H. Thompson catalog #54 1989/1990.

THE LEGEND OF D.H. THOMPSON

Way back in 1897 William McKinley was in his first term as President and Utah had been admitted as the forty-fifth state. The U.S. Postal Service had initiated service to rural patrons for the first time. Postage for a letter was just two cents.

In the area around Elgin, Illinois a few streams were still blessed with brook trout although their populations were rapidly dwindling. In Michigan, experiments were underway with the foreigner from across the Atlantic that would eventually change the manner in which most Americans approach trout fishing. The foreigner was the Brown Trout.

A young mechanic living in Elgin at the time had already gained quite a reputation as a trout fisherman. A reputation which was probably enhanced because he fished with a fly rod. However, our young mechanic was having a serious problem because he had a sore thumb. Now that may not appear to be much of a problem for a mechanic or a fisherman, but Herbert Thompson, better known to his friends as Bert, had another avocation that eventually would lead to his full time occupation. He was a fly tyer and tackle maker of some renown not only locally but in neighboring states of Wisconsin and Michigan as well. The sore thumb was the result of continuously opening and closing the thumb-nut on the jeweler's pin vise which he had mounted on a bench for holding hooks while he dressed flies upon them.

Deciding that he could create what was then unobtainable, he started making vises of his own design and after several attempts the collet type vise, somewhat similar to the many vises in production today, was invented.

The fly tying fraternity in the upper midwest soon heard about the new highly efficient vise and more were produced and sold to other fly tyers, although initially Bert just made them and gave them to friends and acquaintances. Eventually, Charles Elliot, an outstanding fly tyer, angler, writer and artist wrote some articles on fly tying which were published in "Recreation Magazine". The articles were illustrated with cuts showing the new vise being used and inquiries began pouring in.

Almost immediately, word spread to the east coast and beyond to England. Frederic Halford, considered by many as the father of dry fly fishing and a renowned author of books on the subject, became the owner of one of the vises. H.G. McClelland, author of "How to make Flies for Trout and Grayling" and "How to Tie Trout Flies" obtained one of the vises just before his death and wrote a letter of appreciation and praise for the new product.

Orders continued to mount and Herbert Thompson began working full time producing the vises. Finally, after World War 1, he could no longer keep up with the demand and the Thompson Vise Company was formed. With his employees now handling the manufacturing, Bert could devote more time to experimentation, and it wasn't long before he had many other fine tools available for the fly tying trade.

The name Thompson soon became synonymous with the ultimate in fly tying tools. They were then, and still are today, considered the state of the art by leading tyers the world over. Thus, a legend was born — and all because of a sore thumb.

The original address for D. H. Thompson Manufacturing was 335 Walnut Avenue, Elgin, Illinois. This was Thompson's home and he keeps that address even after he moves his manufacturing to 11 North Union Street, Elgin, Illinois.

Herbert Leon Thompson had over 100 patents, and lived with Dorice H. Thompson at 335 Walnut Avenue, Elgin, IL. Google maps show this house at that location. The company name D. H. Thompson was probably name after Dorice.



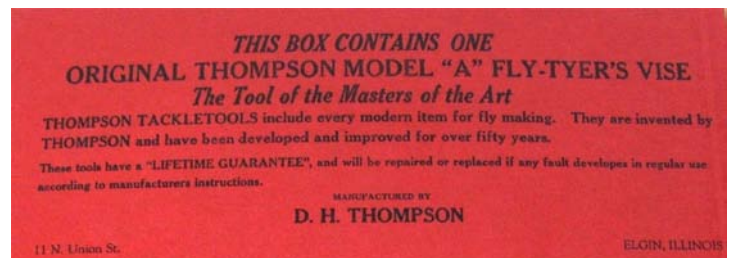
D H Thompson's home at 335 Walnut Avenue, Elgin, Illinois (Google Maps)



This was the address listed on the free catalog you received after sending then a request for it. This is where it all started. Later they moved manufacturing to 11 North Union Street, Elgin, IL. I have seen this address stamped on the boxes their tackle tools came in. Google maps show this building at that location.



D H Thompson's Manufacturing Facility, 11 North Union Str., Elgin, IL
(Google Maps)



Per George Leonard Herter in his book Professional Fly Tying, Spinning and Tackle Making Manual and Manufacturers' Guide publishing in 1941, page 3, states, "An American, Mr. D. H. Thompson, of Elgin, Illinois, made the first advancement in fly vises a good many years ago by bringing out a lever-operated model which worked on the cam principle. He also designed several pressure pin type operated models and various attachments for speeding up the production of flies in general." As Thompson patents ran out, many companies started copying or making minor changes to Thompson designs and putting their name. In the early 1940's, Herter's copied just about all of them.

In the book, "Modern Development of the Dry Fly" by Frederic Halford, published in 1910, he talks about the Thompson Model A fly tying vise. See the following information was taken from his book. See pages 46, 47 and 48. The main reason to have this information is to establish the date before 1910 when D. H. Thompson was manufacturing these vises.

"The Thompson Fly-tying Vice

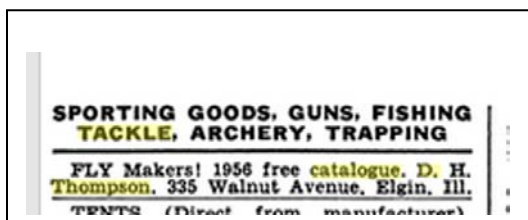
To the majority of amateur fly-dressers, the Thompson fly-tying vise is probably quite unknown. Described by Mr. Charles C. Elliott in an American periodical, this extremely handy tool has only recently made its way over to this country. Its originality of design might conceivably cause it to be looked upon with some suspicion, but its construction has been well thought out, and the inventor appears to have overcome all the faults and objectionable features which are inherent in the ordinary cheap vise, obtained for a shilling or so at the tackle shop....."

So, I started collecting the Thompson vises focusing on the cast iron models. I watched a YouTube video by the classicflytyer on Vintage D. H. Thompson Fly tying Visers. This is the link if you would like to see it.

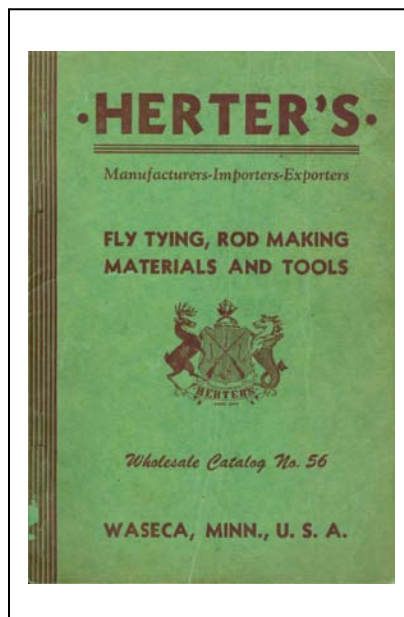
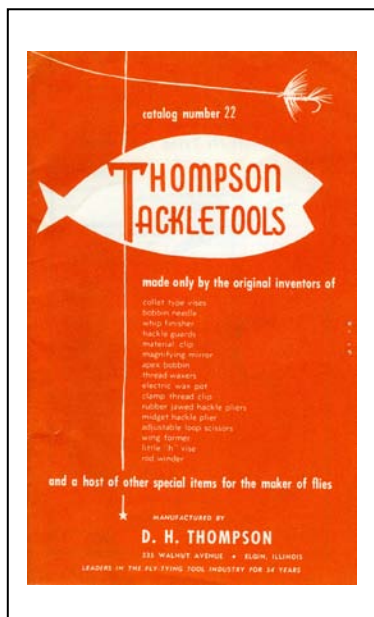
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynfj01c4RSw>

This was a great help in helping me understand about the different models that Thompson made. The last information I have on the D. H. Thompson Tackle Tools is in 1990. In 1990, they produced a VHS.

In Popular Science Magazine dated Jan 1956, Vol 195, No1 page 73, you could get a D. H. Thompson Catalog for free.



I wanted find a free catalog down load but was not successful. In my searching, I came across catalog number 22 which would estimate it was from the late 50's or early 60's. The catalog was published and mailed to a customer in California before zip codes were used and the postage for mailing this catalog was only 3 cents. I was able to purchase it.



One of the first problems I ran into was there were other vises, especially cast iron vises looked the same as Thompson but had the Herter's name on them. As D.H.Thompson's patents ran out, other manufactures like Herter copied Thompson's vises and tools. The Thompson vise had the Thompson Name and an alpha letter casted into the vise while the Herter's vise had The Herter's Name and a number casted the vise. The knobs and levers will be black, brown or the same color of the casting not red like on the Thompson.

Naturally, I had to find a Herter's Catalog so I can compare the difference between the two companies. The cover of the Herter's Wholesale Catalog No. 56 is shown above dated 1948.

My original focus was on the cast iron vises but I soon realize that the main seller for Thompson was the Model A and for Herter is was the Model 9. So they were included.

When I started purchasing these old vises, I bought more than one of the same Model. Even though they were the same model number or letter, there were variations between them. I can only assume that they must have been build at different times making one an early version of the other. In this report, I will show some of these variations.

Thompson's Model A – Below is the original copy of the page advertizing the Model A out of Thompson's Catalog. Next to this page is a photo of the model A I have.

THOMPSON "A" VISE

Our original and famous "A" vise for fly-tying has been an accepted favorite for many years. It is noted for its durability and top speed operation.

This vise has an elongated and flattened tempered steel collet which is drawn into the hardened steel throat to close the jaws by means of a steel spiral *double cam* which is integral with the comfortable finger lever that can be adjusted to jam at the right position to serve as a perfect rest for the hand while working on any certain size fly.

Any hook that would be used for a fly can be held with absolute rigidity with the point and barb covered by the collet jaws. The long flattened collet jaws permit full action of the fingers on even the smallest midges. Full adjustment for position and for wear is provided in this vise and with the fingers alone the knurled throat and bushing can be turned and locked to cause the cam lever to bind wherever it is most convenient.

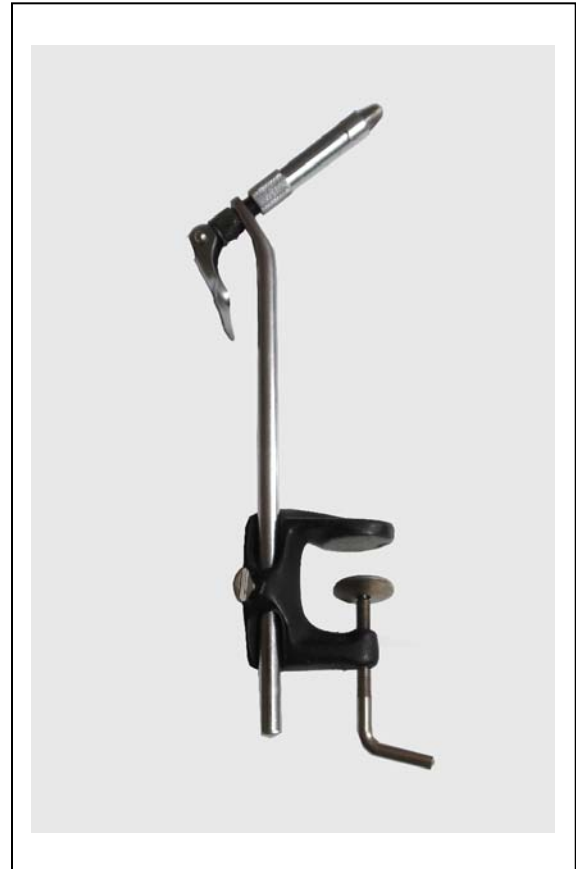
The collet can be turned in its sleeve to hold a hook out of vertical if desired. The single action of the cam lever to grasp or release the hook is the ultimate in speed and convenience. The standard is adjustable as to height and may be used by either a right or left handed tyer with equal ease.

A table clamp, as illustrated, or a pedestal base can be supplied at the purchaser's option. The pedestal is fastened by wood screws to a table or bench, either above or inverted below, a hole being drilled through the bench to allow for up and down adjustment of the vise standard.

The "A" vise is finished in polished plating, with the bushing blued for contrast. The clamp and pedestal are black crystal lacquer.

"A" Vise
With Either Clamp or Pedestal
\$7.50

Page 4



Herter's copy of Thompson's Model A was call Model 9. One of the noticeable differences was that Herter's vise Stem is 2.5" longer that Thompson's Model A.

FINEST PRODUCTION TOOLS FOR FISHING TACKLE MANUFACTURERS

HERTER'S FAMOUS MODEL 9 FLY TYER'S VISE

This famous vise has long been the accepted favorite for durability and top speed operation. It is one of the finest and fastest operating vises available. This model of vise can be adjusted for height to suit individual tastes. It can be used by both right or left handed operators.

The jaw is turned from a solid rod of tool steel. Its jaws are correctly shaped to permit perfect work on all sizes of flies.

Through the adjustment of the sleeves and collar of this model, hooks from sizes 22 up to 2/0 can be handled with ease. A single motion of the cammed lever of the vise grasps or releases the hook.

Model 9 Vise With Clamp Mount

The vise clamp is made of sturdy metal with an even baked cracked enamel finish. Nothing has been spared in making this vise the finest quality throughout.

The vise comes in two styles of mounting, the clamp style and the pedestal type mount. The clamp style can be readily clamped onto any table top or board.

Model 9 Vise With Pedestal Mount

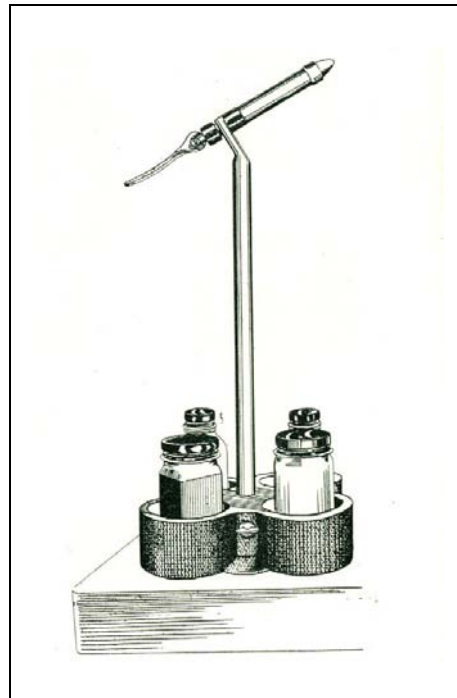
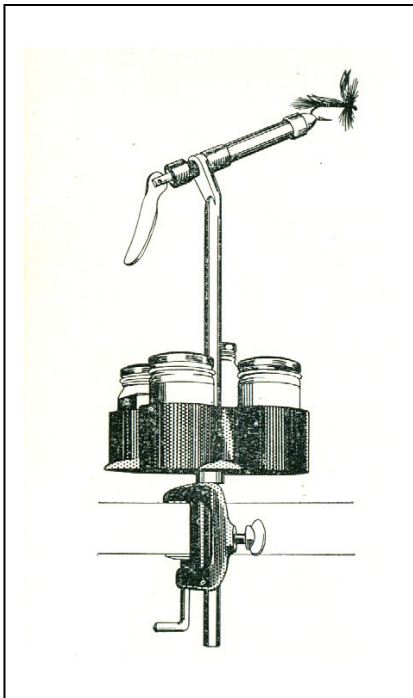
WASECA, MINN. 7 HERTER'S



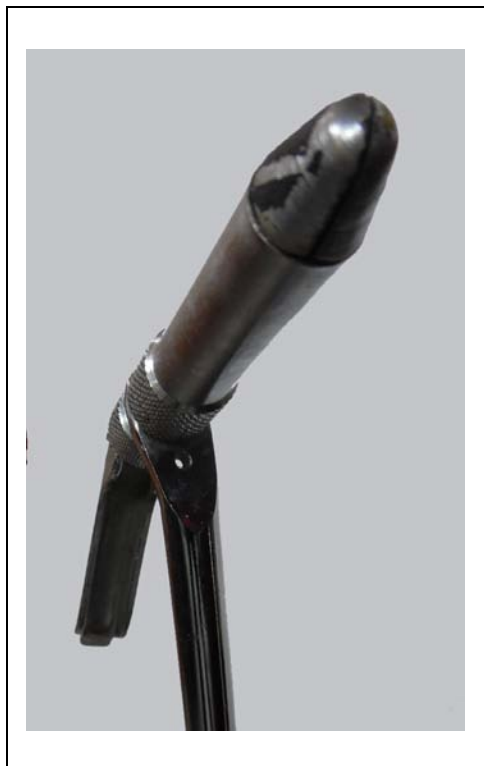
On the c-clamp casting Herter's vise is the name Herter's and No 9. Thompson's c-clamp has no markings.



I like the longer Herter's No. 9 vises. Because of its longer length, you could add either a revolving utility tray or a Pedestal Mount Utility tray. Look under the revolving utility tray below and you will see a bearing which is usually missing. But you can get one from Ace Hardware. The Pedestal mount tray screwed into you work area and a wing nut to lock the vises shaft.



If you look close at the Herter's No 9, you will see a hole in the shaft. With the hole you could insert a leader with a loop and weighted end and use that for a material clip.

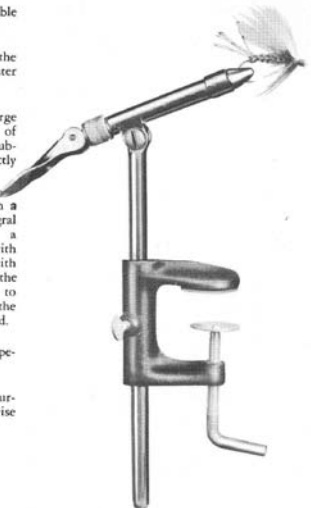


D. H. Thompson also produced a variation of the Model A that they call the "Ultra" Vise. This vise allowed you to adjust the angle of the jaws. Do not have one of these.

**We Proudly Present
OUR NEW "ULTRA" VISE**

It has been difficult to improve on our original and famous "A" vise. However, through our experimental work, we have been able to apply several new ideas to our "Ultra" vise. Namely:

1. The "Ultra" vise is adjustable for collet angle.
2. The double cam embraces the collet . . . allowing greater strength.
3. The cam bears upon a large hard collar, the position of which is adjusted by a substantial knurled nut directly on the threaded sleeve.
4. The sleeve is formed from a heavy stamping with integral projections pierced for a strong screw and swaged with radial teeth which mesh with corresponding teeth on the upper end of the shank to form locking means for the adjustment of the vise head.
5. The throat is made from special hard and tough steel.
6. The "Ultra" vise is our sturdiest and most adaptable vise for fly-tying.




Pat. No. 2635495

Price \$9.00

Manufactured by
D. H. THOMPSON
335 Walnut Avenue Elgin, Illinois

Page 3

Thompson's Model B – I have two model B's. One manufactured early and the other newer.



THE "B" VISE

For rugged utility the "B" vise leaves nothing to be desired. It is used by a host of professional tyers all over the world.

The collet and sleeve are the same size as we have on the "A" vise, but the sleeve is forced forward by a threaded hand nut instead of having the collet drawn into it by a cam.

The finish is black crystal lacquer with a red handle. The bright parts are plated.

"B" Vise complete \$4.75

THE SHORT "B" VISE

This vise is exactly like the "B" vise, except for its length. Its height is 4½ inches, or one-half the length of our standard "B" vise. A fine tool for the tyer who prefers a short-shank vise.

Short "B" Vise \$4.75

THE "C" VISE

This little tool, while smaller and less expensive than the "B" Vise, is still a very capable tool. It will hold hooks just as strongly as the "B" Vise and is just as durable. It is used by many professionals.

The operation of the "C" Vise is identical to that of the "B", but it is smaller, lighter and does not have the expensive elongated collet. The integral cast iron clamp will hold it firmly to any support and it will stand continuous heavy use indefinitely. All working parts are hardened steel and it is finished in black and red crystal lacquer and plated.

"C" Vise complete \$3.25

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As you can see, the older model B had a Brass disk on the C-Clamp and the new model used a metal disk. The color red is brighter on the new model. All the cast iron vises had the model letter and the D H Thompson Elgin ILL on the vise.

Thompson's Model SB – was a short version of the Model B vise. It was called the Short B. On the side of the casting is the letters SB. I am still looking for this Short B for my collection. It was 4.5" high while the B was around 8.5" high. Catalog description is above.

Herter's Model 3 and Model 4 was another copy of Thompson's Model B and Model SB.

FINEST PRODUCTION TOOLS FOR FISHING TACKLE MANUFACTURERS

HERTER'S MAGNIFYING MIRROR FOR THE MODEL 9 VISE



Magnifying Mirror, Arm and Clamp

glass held in a nickel plated metal holder. It has a metal back with a baked enamel crackled finish. The nickel plated support bracket fits onto the vise rod by means of a fully adjustable clamp.

No. T9MM—Magnifying mirror complete with special bracket and clamp for Model 9 Vise only.

PRICE: Each, \$1.30; per dozen, \$12. Shipping Weight each 1 lb.

HERTER'S MODEL 3 VISE

Our model 3 and 4 vises are the favorites of thousands of professional fly tyers, both here and in Europe. They are excellent vises in all respects. The frames and locking knobs are made of solid metal and finished in a beautiful, baked, crackled enamel. The clamp is incorporated in the metal frame. All working parts of these vises are precision machined of fine quality heat treated tool steel.

HERTER'S 10

FINEST PRODUCTION TOOLS FOR FISHING TACKLE MANUFACTURERS

The vise is operated by turning the knob which puts pressure on two hardened pins. The pins push on the hardened sleeves, closing the vise's jaw. This is a positive and dependable action that has proven itself over many years.

The height from the table to the jaw tip on the Model 3 vise is approximately 8 1/2 inches. The jaw itself is turned from a rod of tool steel. This vise will handle hooks from size 22 to 2/0 with ease.

In addition to the above features it has the jaw and jaw sleeves finished in hand polished, chrome plate.

No. T3D—Deluxe only.

PRICE: Each, \$1.95; Per 12, \$19.80; Per 50, \$80.00; Per 100, \$155.00. Shipping weight each, 3 lbs.



Herter's Model 3 Vise

WASECA, MINN.



Herter's Model 4 Vise

WASECA, MINN.

HERTER'S MODEL 4 VISE

This vise is identical to our Model 3 vise in all respects, except that it is approximately 6 1/2 inches from the table top to the tip of the jaw. Many fly tyers prefer a vise of this height and we make this Model 4 vise to accommodate them.

Thousands of these vises have been in use for years. Many by world famous fly tyers.

Like the No. 3 it has the jaw and jaw sleeve finished in hand polished chrome plate.

No. T4D—Deluxe only.

PRICE: Each, \$1.95; Per 12, \$19.80; Per 50, \$80.00; Per 100, \$155.00. Shipping weight each, 3 lbs.

HERTER'S MODEL 6 HEAVY DUTY VISE

It is a great improvement over our model 6 Heavy Duty Vise which was so popular before the war. A great many fly tyers prefer a vise with a large, heavy jaw. This type jaw makes it easier to put in and take hooks out of a vise, and gives your hand solid, ample support while you are working on your fly. This new model 6 vise, as well as our old model was developed for tyers working on large hooks, treble hooks, salmon flies, streamer flies, salt water hooks, etc., and where soldering or wire-forming was necessary on hooks. For these purposes no other vise will do. However, when we brought out our first model 6 vise many years before the war we quickly found out that although we sold hundreds for the above purposes we also sold quantities to tyers who preferred them for regular fly tying. Manufacturers not only like it, but have replaced

HERTER'S 11

Of the Herter Vises, I have one Model 3 and two Model 4's.

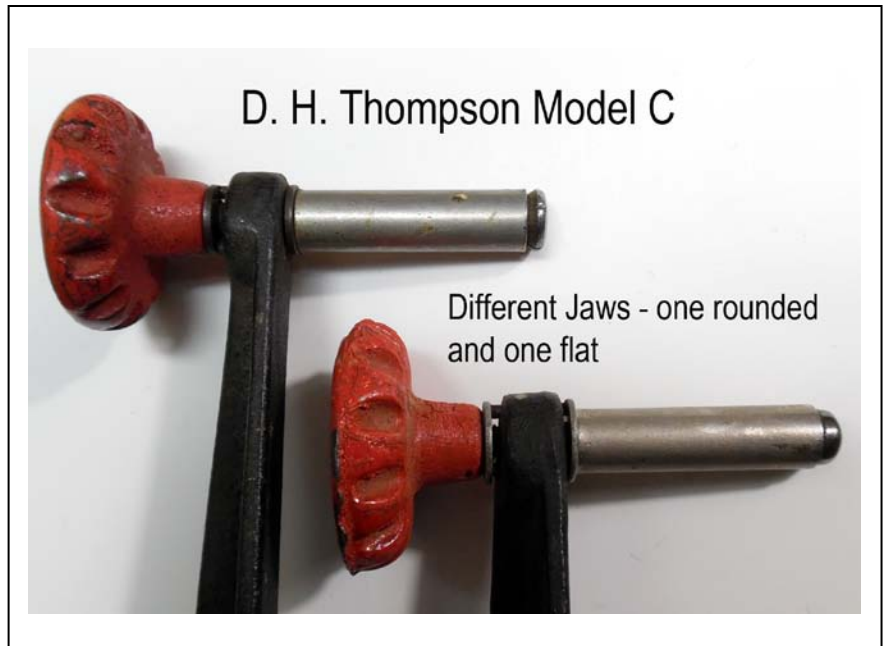


There are some variations in the two Model No 4's show below. Notice the casing that holds in the jaws and the jaws are different.



The Herter's Model 4 was not as short as Thompson's Model Short B. Herter's Model 4 was 6.5" tall.

Thompson's Model C – Information on the model C from Thompson catalog is listed on the page above. I have two of them. One has a Flat jaw and the other has a round jaw. Again, another variation. This might date the vises but have no way of finding out.



D.H. Thompson had a "Special C" Vise. Do not have one of them.

OUR NEW "SPECIAL C" VISE

In our experimental work we have applied our efforts toward designing a vise that would incorporate some of the attributes of our better vises, and still have a monetary appeal to the buyer. We know you will agree that our new "SPECIAL C" vise has these advantages.



1. The standard is adjustable to height.
2. The vise can be used with equal ease by either a right handed or left handed tyer.
3. The vise is compact. It will lie flat, making it an excellent tool for use in fly-tying kits.
4. The vise weighs only eleven ounces, which makes it easy to mail.
5. The trim lines of the vise are enhanced by chrome plating finish with black crystal lacquer trim.
6. It is a sturdy tool and will give excellent service.

Patents applied for

Price \$4.50

MATERIAL CLIP



This highly tempered clip snaps onto the sleeve of any of the collet type vises and will hold stray material out of the way. It will cling but can be moved to any position.

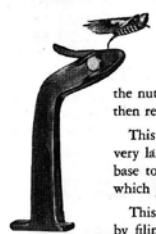
Material Clip30

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Thompson's Model D – this model had a one piece jaw and the lever was held in place with a hex bolt. The side of the jaw where the hex head was, was cast to hold the hex head. The base was a screw base not a c clamp. The letter D is cast on the side. They had another Model G with the same jaws but it had a c clamp for clamping to your work area. I do not have either one of these vises.

THE "D" VISE

For the man who only occasionally makes flies and makes them of all sizes, the "D" vise makes a very handy and inexpensive tool.



It is cast in one piece of semi-steel and the jaws are actuated by a lever acting as a nut on one end of a strong hexagon headed screw, which draws them together. The screw is held from rotating by two ridges which confine the head by two opposite sides. The lever can be made to bind in different positions by loosening the nut until the head is out of engagement with the ridges and then re-engaging it by different sides.

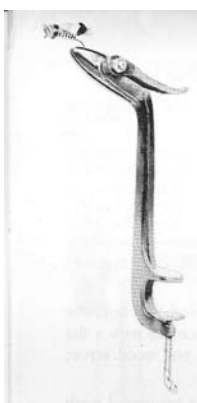
This vise is very sturdy, powerful and fast and will hold the very largest hooks as well as the smallest. It is made with a flat base to be held to a board or table top with one wood screw, which permits turning it to different positions.

This vise is not hardened and it is often used for special work by filing the jaws to some unusual shape which can be readily done.

Many professionals find it ideal for large flies and other lures on large hooks.

"D" Vise \$2.00

THE "F" VISE



The cut on the left shows the "F" Vise. It is similar to the "E" in size and operates just the same way. Its only advantage over the "E" Vise consists of the integral clamp with which it can be attached to a bench or table.

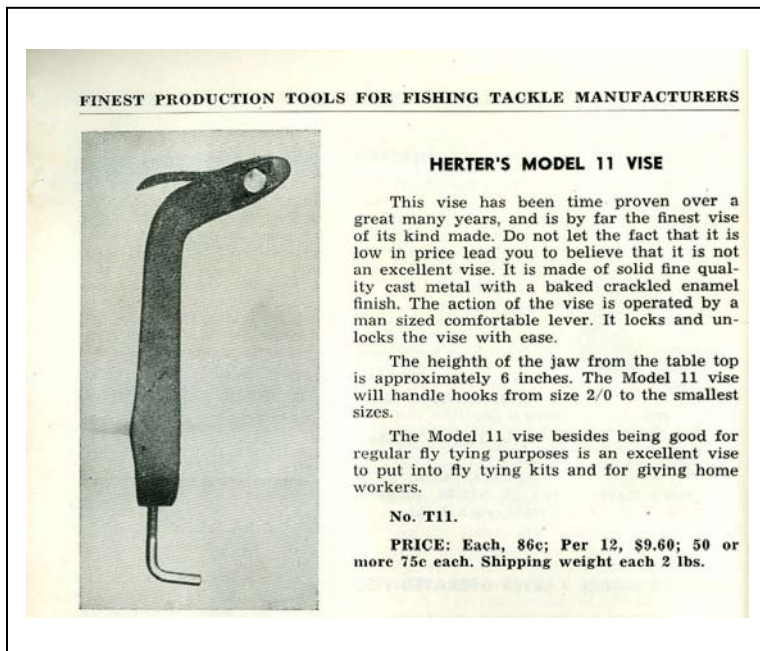
"F" Vise \$3.00

THE "G" VISE

The "G" Vise is precisely like the "D" Vise in size, shape and material. However, it has an integral clamp for fastening it to its support much like that on the "F" Vise.

"G" Vise \$2.25

Herter's No 11 was a copy of Thompson's Model G with a c clamp. This one I have



In the picture of the two jaws above you can see the difference. One is cast in one piece jaw and the other has separated jaws with a spring between the jaws.

The Thompson Model E and Model F have the separated jaws. I have the Model F but not the E.

THE "E" VISE

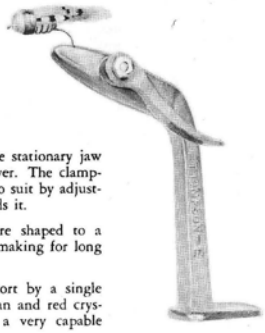
There are times when a vise of great range in holding capacity is required. The "E" Vise is designed with this in view. As the jaws are separate and held apart by a spring, they are capable of a very wide opening. The closing of the jaws is accomplished by a face helical cam on the stationary jaw co-acting with a mating cam on the lever. The clamping position of the lever can be varied to suit by adjusting its position on the screw which holds it.

Composed of semi-steel, the jaws are shaped to a fine end which chills to a hard temper, making for long service.

The "E" Vise is attached to a support by a single wood screw. It is finished in black japan and red crystal lacquer. While inexpensive, it is a very capable tool.

"E" Vise\$2.50

Page 7



THE "F" VISE

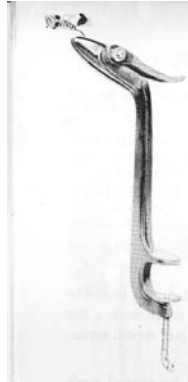
The cut on the left shows the "F" Vise. It is similar to the "E" in size and operates just the same way. Its only advantage over the "E" Vise consists of the integral clamp with which it can be attached to a bench or table.

"F" Vise\$3.00

THE "G" VISE

The "G" Vise is precisely like the "D" Vise in size, shape and material. However, it has an integral clamp for fastening it to its support much like that on the "F" Vise.

"G" Vise\$2.25

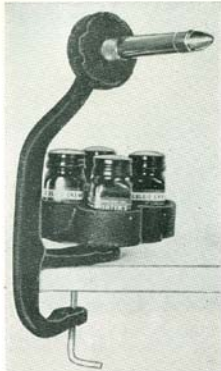


Model F – I have. This is just like the Model E but has a c-clamp for securing to the work area.



Herter offered a few more vises. The Model 6 Heavy Duty Vise, a Model 6A Vise , a Model 7 lever operated vise, a Model 11R Fast production Revolving vise and a Model 12 R Revolving vise.

I do have the Model 6, or the Model 6A or the Model 11R or the Model 12R. But do have the Model 7. The pages to follow are from the Herter's 1948 catalog.



Herter's Model 6 Heavy Duty Vise

so that no bottles can be tipped from them, yet wax, hooks, and tools can be picked out with ease.

The vise and tray is all metal and has an oven baked, crackled, enamel finish. The jaw sleeve is chrome plated. We are so sure you will like this model that we want you to see it. Order one out today. If you are not completely satisfied return it within 48 hours after arrival. We will pay the transportation on it both ways and refund your money.

No. T6HD—With 4 compartment tray.

PRICE: Each, \$4.75; Per 12, \$45.00. Shipping weight each, 7 lbs.

No. T6H—Without Tray.

PRICE: Each, \$4.00; Per 12, \$37.10. Shipping weight each, 5 lbs.

Be sure to read about Herter's New Professional Fly Tyer's Cabinet on page 31.

HERTER'S

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WASECA, MINN.

ed many of their regular size vises with this new model 6.

The jaw is large and sturdy, made of finest high-carbon steel, hardened. The point of the jaw is shaped so that you can really get your fingers around it comfortably and work with ease on either the smallest hooks or the largest. It will hold any hook you desire as rigid as a rock.

The jaw is opened and closed by an operating knob. Just a fraction of a turn will lock the hook in the jaw. This permits fast operation equal to that found in any model vise large or small.

The stand of the vise is unique as you well can see. The stand is curved so that the jaw is slightly over the table top. This is the most comfortable position for the operator. Helps take the fatigue out of fly tying and permits much more accurate work. The center of the jaw is 7 1/4 inches from the table top. The clamp for fastening the vise to the work table top has an inch more gap than that found on any fly vise ever made. Regardless of how thick your table top is this vise will clamp to it. The top section of the clamp has a steel peg set in it, and a four compartment durable cast metal tray revolves on this peg. You have your fly head cement, enamels, wax, and hooks right at your finger tip, instead of scattered all over your table. The compartments are deep enough



Herter's Model 6A Vise

HERTER'S MODEL 6A VISE

After our Model 6 heavy duty vise had been in use for less than a year we had so many requests for a similar vise in a light model that we brought out the 6A. The stand, clamp, tray and finish are the same as on our Model 6 heavy duty vise, but the jaw is standard size. It is made with the same fine materials and workmanship as are used on our Model 6 vise. Center of the jaw is the same distance from table top as the Model 6. The operating knob and action is similar to the Model 3 or 4 vise. Order one out today. If you are not satisfied return it. We will pay the transportation both ways and refund your money.

No. T6AD—With 4 compartment tray.

PRICE: Each, \$3.35; Per 12, \$28.20. Shipping weight each 5 lbs.

No. T6A — Without Tray.

PRICE: Each, \$2.70;

Per 12, \$22.80. Shipping weight, each 3 lbs.

HERTER'S MODEL 7 LEVER OPERATED VISE

This vise has gained great popularity due to its ease and speed of operation. When pressure is applied to the cam action lever, it pushes on the sleeve and closes the jaw. It can be opened or closed in a split second with the slightest effort. The vise jaw is approximately 7 1/4 inches from the table top. The frame and lever are made of finest solid metal with a beautiful crackled enamel baked finish. The jaw is turned from a rod of fine tool steel and heat treated. The frame curves over the table top. This vise is the only one made enabling you to place and lock a hook with one hand.

This vise is a great favorite of thousands of fly tyers. For tyers with an injured hand this vise is a necessity.

The vise has the jaw and sleeve finished in hand polished chrome plate.

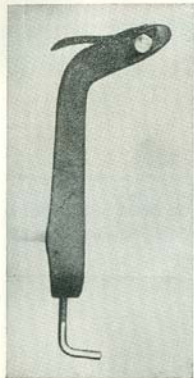
No. T7D—Deluxe only.

PRICE: Each \$2.75; per 12, \$22.80. Shipping weight each, 3 lbs.

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HERTER'S



HERTER'S MODEL 11 VISE

This vise has been time proven over a great many years, and is by far the finest vise of its kind made. Do not let the fact that it is low in price lead you to believe that it is not an excellent vise. It is made of solid fine quality cast metal with a baked crackled enamel finish. The action of the vise is operated by a man sized comfortable lever. It locks and unlocks the vise with ease.

The height of the jaw from the table top is approximately 6 inches. The Model 11 vise will handle hooks from size 2/0 to the smallest sizes.

The Model 11 vise besides being good for regular fly tying purposes is an excellent vise to put into fly tying kits and for giving home workers.

No. T11.

PRICE: Each, 86c; Per 12, \$9.60; 50 or more 75c each. Shipping weight each 2 lbs.

HERTER'S MODEL 11R FAST PRODUCTION REVOLVING VISE

We worked on this vise and test ran trial models of it for years, before it was first offered for sale. This vise has been a great aid to the fly tying industry. At present the use of these vises is more important than ever. Labor has always been the largest cost of a finished fly. Today with wages at a high peak, it is absolutely necessary to cut down as much as possible on the length of time necessary to tie flies. This vise increases your production on flies, streamers and snells. It wraps bodies and tinsel tighter and more evenly than they can be wrapped by hand. The vise can be stopped in any position you desire to tie on tails and wings. If you desire to use this as a non-



Herter's Model 11R Revolving Vise and Attachments

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revolving vise all you have to do is push in the lock lever and it locks automatically.

These vises are precision-engineered. The bearings are made of genuine Oilite and need little lubrication because they hold their own oil. The frame is cast metal with an oven baked, crackle, enamel finish. The jaw is cam operated by a lever, the quickest and most effortless known. The jaw and jaw sleeve is made of high carbon steel hardened all the way through and chrome plated. The clamp for the table is heavy duty and it has an extra wide gap for mounting on heavy table tops. The vise is balanced for torque and vibration.

The jaw is offset so that the hook shank revolves on the center perfectly. The jaw arm is made so that it not only acts as a torque balance but also provides a rest for your hand. New, quick action material and thread clips are provided. The thread clip has a wide slanted bar that you cannot miss. When the thread strikes the bar it is guided into the thread clip proper.

The stand of this vise is made so it projects the jaw over the table instead of at the edge. The center of the jaw is about 7 1/4 inches from the table top. The vise has a revolving four compartment heavy metal tray for holding head cement, wax, enamel, etc. On the side of the stand is a hanger for your hackle pliers, scissors, etc. Everything is planned on this vise so that you waste no effort or motion. The thread clip provided with the revolving vise also has a special built in hook holder to steady the hook shank when tying wire bodied flies.

We want you to know a few of the trials and experiments we went through in perfecting this vise. Our first model was a foot pedal type. We found that a foot pedal driven vise could not possibly be made to work satisfactorily. They could not be started or stopped quickly or accurately enough to do fast perfect work. Next we tried operating the vise with a small motor controlled with a rheostat. We had great hopes for this method but in tests it failed dismally. No rheostat known will give the split second stops and starts or the various speeds necessary on short runs. We also tried the split pulley method of motor operation, but this, too, was only another disappointment.

We proved that the quickest method of operating a revolving vise was turning with the left hand.

The handle is on the left of the vise. You do not have to lift your arm high enough to develop fatigue. You can control the vise to exactly the speed you want with pin point accuracy. The vise winds the material and of course your tying thread. All you need or can use is your right hand. You will understand this perfectly when you operate this vise.

If you are doing production work at all this is the vise you should have. This vise will pay for itself in a short time through extra production from your operator. Our revolving vise will handle all sizes of hooks from size 12 to the largest but it cannot be used on offset bend hooks. Complete detailed instructions furnished with each vise.

No. T11RD—with 4 compartment tray, thread clips, material clips and hook steadier.

PRICE: each, \$18.75. Shipping weight each, 17 lbs.

No. T11R—with thread clips, material clips and hook steadier.

PRICE: each, \$18.40. Shipping weight each, 15 lbs.

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HERTER'S

FINEST PRODUCTION TOOLS FOR FISHING TACKLE MANUFACTURERS

**HERTER'S MODEL 12R REVOLVING VISE
A NEW MODEL**



Many of our customers requested that we produce a relatively inexpensive revolving vise limited to fly tying production. Our model 12R is the result.

It is a fine quality tool throughout and will produce as well or better than any other revolving vise made except of course our famous Model 11R. Our model 12R will handle hooks from the largest to the smallest. It has a locking feature so that it can be used both as a revolving vise or a stationary type. It has a clamp style mount that allows it to be adjusted to any desired height. The jaw is made of fine tool steel plated and heat treated for maximum wear. The clamp is made of metal and finished in baked, crackle enamel.

Your satisfaction with our Model 12R vise is guaranteed. Order one out, if you are not satisfied return it within 48 hours and we will refund your money and pay the transportation charges both ways.

No. T12RD—deluxe vise only.

PRICE: each, \$5.25; Per 12, \$50.00.
Shipping weight each, 4 lbs.

HERTER'S WINGING PLIERS MODEL 31W

This pliers is the answer to one of fly tyings most difficult problems, tying the wings on flies so they are not badly cocked or twisted. Tye's really appreciate this pliers.

Herter's Winging Pliers are ideal for trout flies, trout streamers, salmon flies, salmon streamers, and bass streamers.

You merely place the wing or wings in the winging pliers, put your tying thread through the hole in the winging pliers jaw, place the pliers on the hook.



shank in the position you desire the wing, and pull down on your tying thread binding the wings in place. Pass the tying thread again through the hole in the pliers binding the wings down with a double wind. Then remove the winging pliers and complete the tie off. Each winging pliers is shipped with illustrated instructions. Be sure to include one on your order.

No. T31W.

PRICE: Each, 85c; Per 12, \$7.80. Shipping weight each, 2 oz.

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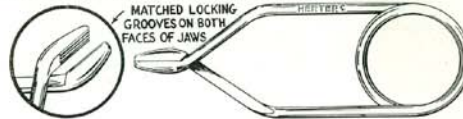
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FINEST PRODUCTION TOOLS FOR FISHING TACKLE MANUFACTURERS

HERTER'S FAMOUS ENGLISH MODEL HACKLE PLIERS

The small sized favorite for trout fly tying is back!

This famous hackle pliers is the only model of its kind made in North America and the most widely used. The jaws are finely slotted so that it gives a positive grip. No other hackle pliers is made with this type of slotting.



They are made with strong spring tension for proper grip. This tension can be adjusted.

No. TA1A (Standard size 3 1/4 inches long).

PRICE: Each 55c; Per 12, \$5.50; Per Gross or more, 38c each.

No. TA1B (Trout fly size).

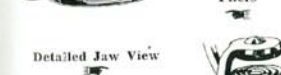
PRICE: Each, 60c; Per 12, \$5.80; Per gross or more, 40c each.

Shipping Weight each, 3 oz.

HERTER'S FAMOUS RUBBER-CUSHIONED HACKLE PLIERS

This is a type of Hackle Pliers, made of the finest flat spring steel heavily nickel plated.

One jaw has a rubber pad permanently set in it. The other jaw has a solid brass piece with circular grooves cut into it. The circular grooves grasp the hackle as the rubber pad in the opposite jaw forces the hackle down onto them. Because the grooves are circular they grasp the hackle no matter what direction you put the hackle into the pliers. No other pliers of this type has this feature. This Hackle Pliers is a good tool in all respects.



Besides being a good Hackle Pliers for regular fly tying, they are ideal to include in fly tying kits, and for home work fly tyers because of the low cost.

No. TA1C.

PRICE: Each, 30c; Per 12, \$3.00; Per 144, \$30.00. Shipping weight each, 3 oz.

HERTER'S MODEL 42 BOBBIN

This type of bobbin is commonly referred to as the British Type Bobbin as it originated in England.

It is a great favorite of thousands of fly tyers and far superior to all other bobbins with the exception of our Model 63 Bobbin. The Model 42 bobbin is made

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HERTER'S




Here is a closer look at the Model 7's I have.





Both marked No 7, but the jaw housing and the jaws are different. The c-clamp screws are different, one is 3.15" and the other is 2.4". The lock nuts are different. I like this vise because of the c-clamp gap. The c-clamp gap is 1.6" and most vises c-clamp gaps are 1.4" or less. Because of the strange gap in the vise, it can be angle out or in. When you clamp down on your hook, it is not ever going to move.

In D. H. Thompson's catalog, they show additional vises. But not being cast iron and very basic, I have not focused on collecting them. But here is that page.

THE "F" VISE

The cut on the left shows the "F" Vise. It is similar to the "E" in size and operates just the same way. Its only advantage over the "E" Vise consists of the integral clamp with which it can be attached to a bench or table.

"F" Vise \$3.00

THE "G" VISE

The "G" Vise is precisely like the "D" Vise in size, shape and material. However, it has an integral clamp for fastening it to its support much like that on the "F" Vise.

"G" Vise \$2.25

THOMPSON "H" VISE

This little vise was developed by us as a real encouragement for the beginner in fly-tying who does not wish to spend much until he tries the art for a while.

The "H" Vise will hold any ordinary hook as strongly as the larger vises will. Its jaws are closed by a convenient cam lever which contributes to very rapid use. It is made of cold rolled strip steel and is deeply case hardened all over; even the rivet which closes the jaws. It is crowned for strength and stiffness and will wear as well as the larger vises. It is simple and small, but no toy.

"H" Vise \$1.10

NEW THOMPSON "J" VISE





This vise is similar to the "H" vise, with the exception of a new type clamp. This important improvement permits the vise to be held to a bench of almost any thickness. It also provides broad support surfaces which enable it to stand extreme clamping pressure to hold it so securely that no pressure within reason can disturb its position.

The competent action and perfect size of this vise makes it ideal for kits. It is also an excellent vise for the beginner in fly-tying, who wishes to make a limited investment.

PATENT NO. 2,769,607

PRICE \$1.50

There is currently a D. H Thompson Inc. Selling Thompson Vises. The Vise they are selling:

<h3><u>Thompson Cobra Vise</u></h3> <p>This vise is revolutionizing the way people think about vises. With a fully rotational base and stunning finish this is the vise every serious fly-tyer must have.</p> <p>click for more info...</p>		<h3><u>The 360 "SLT" Vise Series</u></h3> <p>The Thompson vintage vise. Exhibits stainless steel/solid brass and quality machining.</p> <p>click for more info...</p>	
<h3><u>Thompson "Pro Vise" Series</u></h3> <p>Completely portable with our no-glare black finish, the Pro Series Vises are perfect entry-level vises.</p> <p>click for more info...</p>		<h3><u>Thompson "Model A" Vise</u></h3> <p>Classic beauty of over 100 years! The vise that ushered in the modern era of tying - often copied but never equaled.</p> <p>click for more info...</p>	

There address is different from the original D. H Thompson, It is D. H Thompson Inc., 200 Industrial Drive, Hampshire, IL 60140-7903, phone 847-683-0051. They must have bought out the rights to the Thompson name and the products that Thompson was making. Their packaging has the new address and they are stating that they have been in business since 1919.



I tried locating the address on Google maps but just shows me storage buildings.

Of the vises from this Thompson Company, the Pro – I have. This was an update to the original model A.



This is my start, trying to understand a little of the history, understand the differences between the two companies, and some of the differences in the vises with the same model letters or numbers. As I continue to collect, I will update this article.