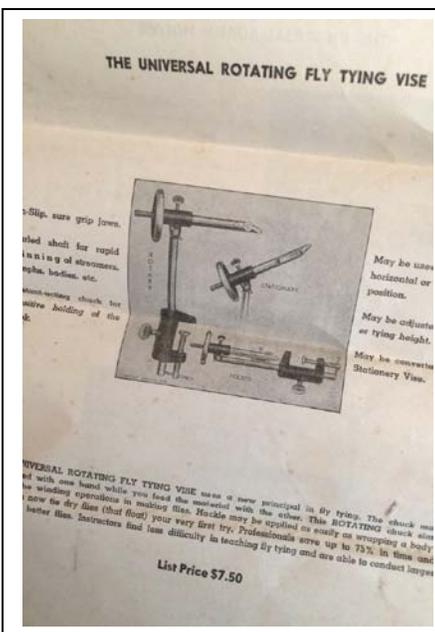
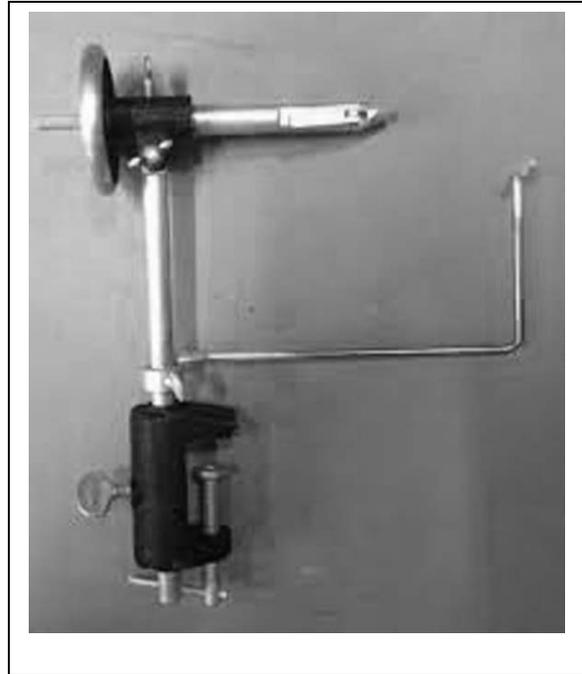


## The Universal Rotating Fly Tying Vises by Dennis Stead

I am finding it hard to get information on the Universal Company. Based on the information I have, it looks like they produced 4 fly tying vises. I would also estimate that these vises were sold between 1950 thru the 1980s. Their first vise was the Universal Rotating Fly Tying Vise Number One. It sold for less than \$10.00 and I believe it was the first true rotary vise. The address on the vise box at that time was Universal Rotating Vise, P.O. Box 335, Holyoke, Mass. No zip code. The non-mandatory five-digit ZIP code was introduced nationwide on July 1, 1963. So, the Number 1 was being sold before that date.



This is a great vise and with the wing nut on the shaft, you could angle it up like most of the vise at that time, or collapse it down for travel or storage. The wing nut on the top allowed you to lock the jaw shaft or unlock the jaw shaft to allow it to rotate.



The Number 1 vise was very popular and easy to use. It was copied in the early 2000 and found it for sale on ebay. The information that follows was the information on the copy and if I remember, it sold for almost ??????

Angler's Roost Enterprises (A.R.E.)

This is a unused Roto-Vise manufactured in the early 2000's by Angler's Roost Enterprises in New York state. . It is a replica of the old Universal Rotary Vise. I believe the founder of this company had ties to the old Angler's Roost shop in Manhattan run by Jim Deren. Not sure how many of these were made. This one is a as-new condition c-clamp model.

**Angler's Roost**

**5820 Main Street, Suite 502**

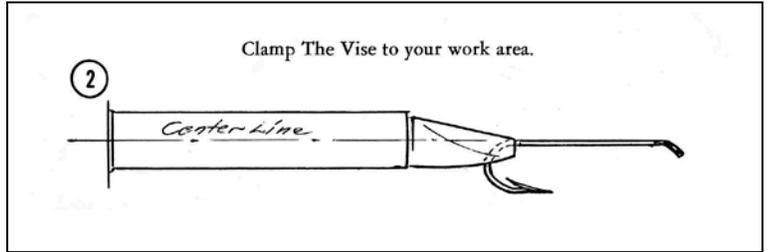
**Williamsville, NY 14221**

Tel: 716-565-9838 Fax: 716-565-9838



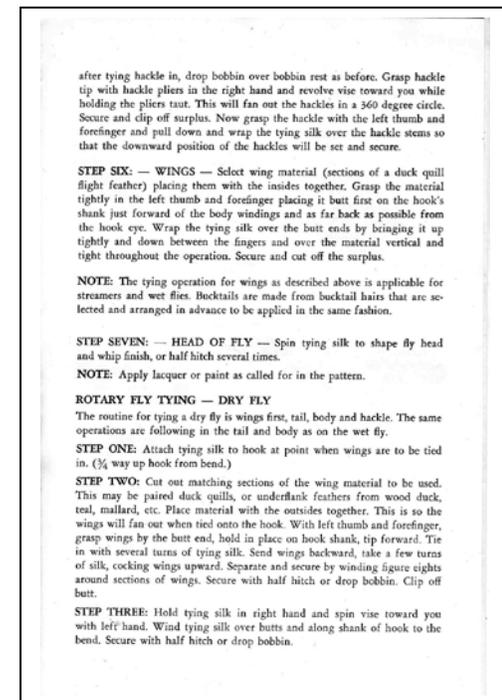
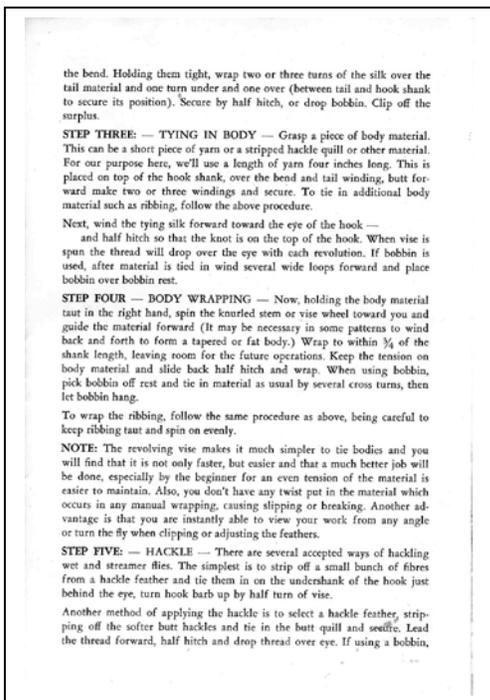
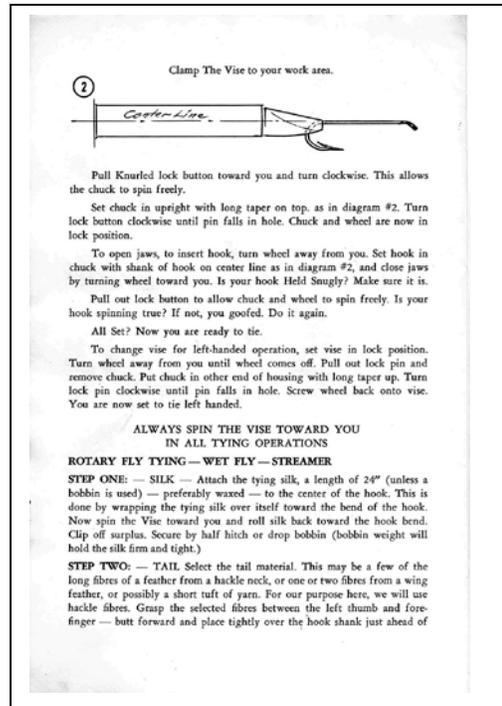
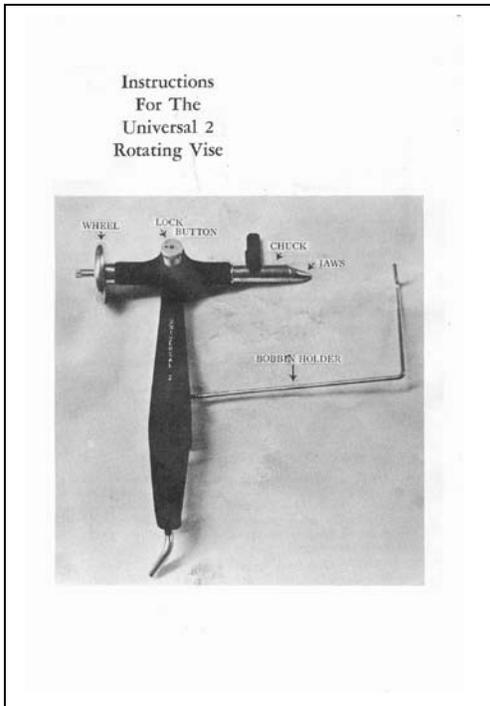
The Universal Rotary Fly Tying Vise Number 2 is another nice true rotary vise. I was collecting cast iron vises and when I came across this Universal cast iron vise, I bought it. Since that time I have been tried to get information on the company. I did find a great YouTube video for servicing and taking apart the Number 2 vise. The link is

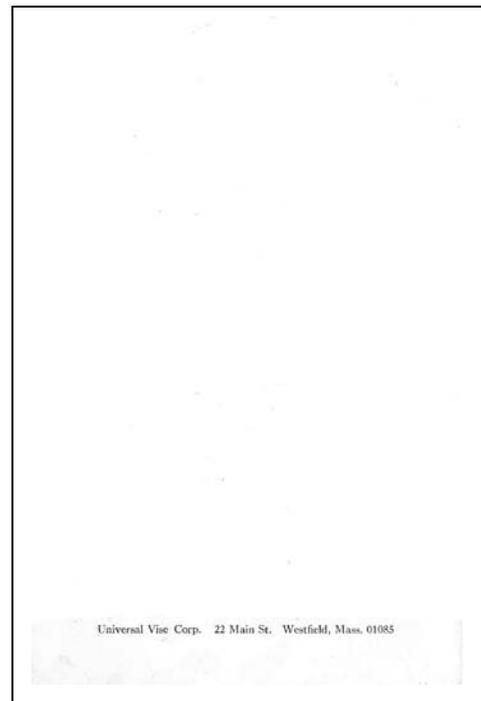
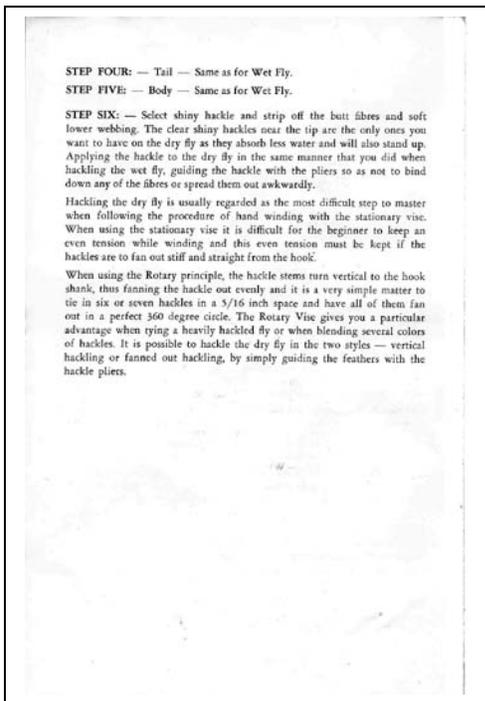
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fyqCdQvUbkg>



Clamp The Vise to your work area.

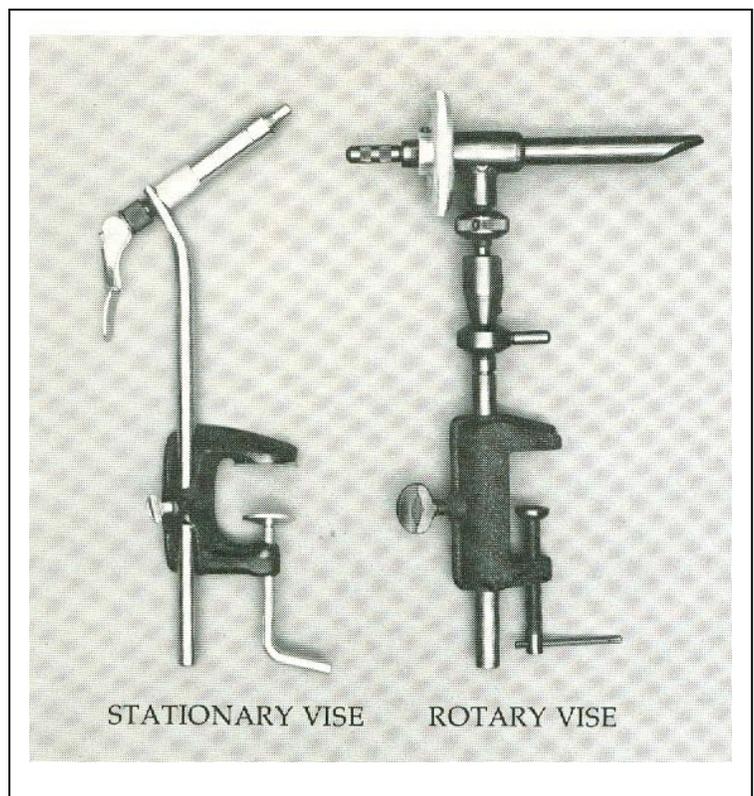
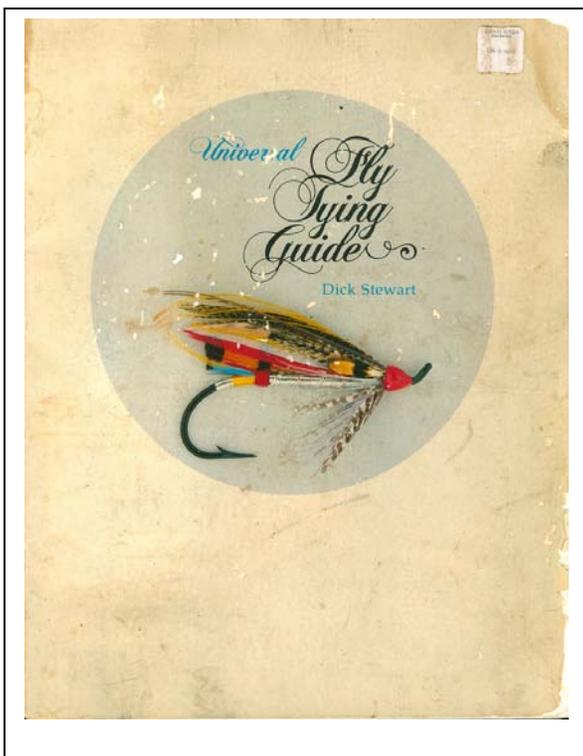
Above, show the alignment of the hook, making it a true rotary. I have the complete instruction manual that came with the vise and that will follow.



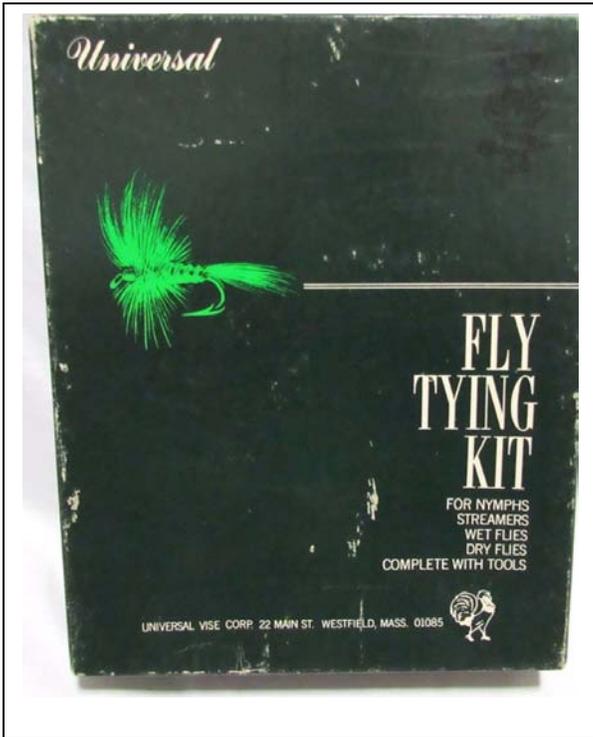


The reason I included the last page of this instruction manual that came with the Number 2 vise is to show and address change. The address is Universal Vise Corp, 22 Main Street, Westfield, Mass. 01085. So it looks like the company moved and then because of the ZIP code being added to the address, this Number 2 model had to be made after 1963. Probably late 60's and 70's.

Universal Vise Corporation published a book in 1979 called "Universal Fly Tying Guide by Dick Stewart". In that book, page 4, Basic Tools, they show their last two vises.



A Stationary Vise which was being produced earlier for the fly tying kits at the 22 Main Street address.



The Rotary vise was their Number 3 rotary vise but I have seen it call the Elite Rotary Vise. The company's address changes again at this time it was Universal Vise Corporation, 16 Union Avenue, Westfield, Massachusetts 01085. I don't have the last two vises for my collection but I am still looking. The following picture was sent to from John Walter. He has the Number 3. It is an impressive vise. You can rotate it or bend it a number of way that you cannot do with the Number 1 or Number 2 . But if you want a good true rotary vise the Number 1 and Number 2 will get the job done.



Hope you find this information interesting.