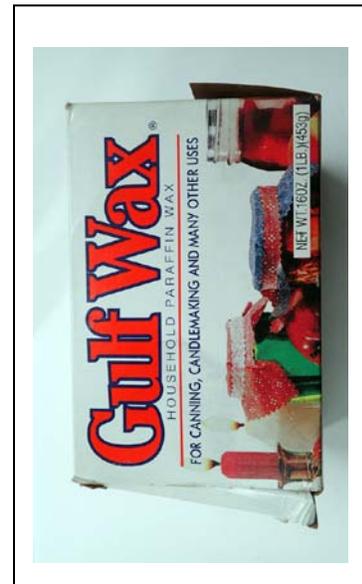


Xylene, GOOP, and PARAFFIN WAX by Dennis Stead

About a year ago, I shared with you how to make Dave's Flex Cement and then how to make a solution to Waterproof Dry flies and Hair Body bugs. I forgot where I learned about the flex cement, probably on YouTube. The waterproof solution came out of Herter's Professional Fly Tying, Spinning and Tackle Making book, published in 1941.

The materials you will need to buy, Xylene, Goop, and Paraffin.



Dave's Flex Cement - I bought a 1 oz bottle of Dave's Flex Cement for \$5.95 and a 1 oz bottle of Dave's Flex Cement Thinner for \$5.95. Every time I went to use the flex cement, it had thickened and I had to add thinner. Before I used up my fluid 1 oz of flex cement, I had gone through four bottles of thinner. I like the flex cement but there just had to be another solution instead of spending all that money (5 @ \$5.95 = \$29.75).

So, I made up my own Dave's Flex Cement. I have been using it for almost a year now and love it. Nellie, a friend of mine, uses it on a lot of his hand crafted crappie and bass baits. I talked with Terry Tanner and he uses it on his flies. Here is how you make it. Purchase a tube of GOOP from Ace Hardware \$3.95 and up depending on the tube size (it must be GOOP) and a pint of Xylene from Ace Hardware for \$10.00. I used a 1 to 3 ratio, 1- Goop to 3-Xylene. The Goop will dissolve in the Xylene overnight. I like to mix it so that it is not too thin and the drop of Flex cement will stay on my Bobkin. Whenever it gets a little too thick, just add a little Xylene. I mix it up in an 8 oz Ball jar and would estimate it costing me less than \$5.00 for the whole 8 oz jar or \$0.63 per oz. Give it a try and share some of your 8 oz. with another fly tier

Waterproofing - In Herter's Professional Fly Tying, Spinning and Tackle Making book, published in 1941, they talk about waterproof the Dry flies and hair bodies bugs before selling them. They recommend dissolve three-eighths of an ounce of paraffin in a half pint of carbontetrachloride.

....They said to dip the fly in the solution and take it out after a short pause. Then, without delay, place the fly on a rack in front of an electric fan.

I could not buy or find carbontetrachloride. I remember using carbontetrachloride aboard the ship to clean electric panels when I was in the Navy. Boy, you can get high on the fumes. Since then they found out it was toxic and stop selling it.

So, I have tried a number of things. Kim Shultz recommended dipping the dry fly in Rain-X solution. Ty had me try Hairline's Water shed. It just did not work like I would like it. Sometimes the old ways are better.

Then I got a visit from Larry Wegmann. He was going to try some of my Dave's Flex cement. I fill a little jar for Larry and gave him a small bottle of Xylene. When and if the goop and Xylene get too thick, I told him to add a little more Xylene. It will thin out the cement. And then Larry said something magic. He said that he used "**XYLENE IN THE LAB TO DISSOLVE PARAFFIN WAX**". I could not believe what he was saying. So, I got out some paraffin wax, put shavings in a small jar and filled the jar ½ full of Xylene. After a few hours, the paraffin wax was dissolved. The solution was nice and clear.

Now I have an old fashion solution to waterproof my dry flies and hair bodies dry. Here is how to make it. Shave about 3/8 to 0.40 oz of Paraffin in an 8 oz mason jar. Add about 8 oz of Xylene. The wax will dissolve over night. Then just dip your fly in the waterproof solution for a second or two. Shake off the excess. Then let it dry in front of a fan. You only need one coat. With one coat, you do not see any wax build up and it did not change the look or color of the fly.

I know some of you are thinking, if one dip and dry works, a second dip and drying will work better.

So let me tell you this, I dipped and dried my strike indicator big ugly, then dipped and dried my strike indicator big ugly for the second time, then dipped and dried my strike indicator big ugly for the third time. After the third time you start to see some changes to your fly. Once should be enough. Good luck and hope you try it.