

TACKLE BAG

Attention to detail Salar Flies

The quality of factory-tied flies has improved steadily over the past few years. Poorly tied flies are still out there, but to my mind it's now foolish to write off all factory-tied flies as if they are overdressed and/or liable to fall apart second cast.

So, strolling around the CLA Gamefair this year I happened to spot the Salar Flies stand. It took me back a few years when I tied small salmon flies for a large UK retailer. Most of the patterns I tied were for Iceland. There in the trays on the Salar Flies stand were familiar patterns – virtually every pattern I tied for that retailer, down to the smallest fly – and tied exceptionally well. From tiny trebles to large flowing tubes. Frances' from one-and-half-inch copper tubes down to #18 trebles – in every colour! Snaelda, Undertakers, Willie Gunns, Black Sheep, Blue Charm, etc., then Ally's in all colours, Stoats, Pot Bellies, Templedogs, tiny hitching tubes, long sleek Sunray Shadows and Collies.

As I looked through the trays it was clear the standard of their flies was high: good hooks, some Partridge, some VMC; good tying materials; excellent attention to detail and tying consistency.

Prices vary depending on hook and patterns but seem not unreasonable to me. The lowest prices I can find on their website are £2.40 per fly and the most expensive I can find is £3.99 per fly; prices seem to vary by size and complexity – and flies tied on Partridge hooks command a small premium.



From: Salar Flies. Tel. 0203 239 2022 (www.salarflies.com).
Trade enquiries will be passed to Shadow Flies.