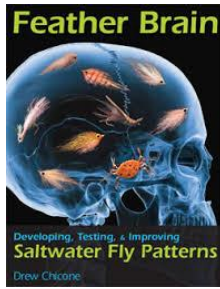


## Fly tying for feather brains



I was put onto a good thing by Raymond Meneses this Christmas. He had just resigned to take on a new job and was in dire need of some perspective. We both agreed that perspective, at least at this time of year, is best found on the flats off Wilson's Warf. Too much perspective is not a good thing. It needs leavening which is why sunset found us at a nearby pub, noses buried deep in beer. It was then that he told me about his new bible, Drew Chicone's feather Brain.

Now I do not use the bible metaphor lightly. Raymond has been known to turn down fishing trips because they conflict with his devotion to church and pulpit. That is of course leavened by a career in law which may explain his other great passions, reptiles and the fly designs of [Bob Popovics](#). It is just that Raymond, as you have no doubt gathered, is a man who lives his life at the interstice of great extremes. And go ahead, call me a voyeur, but the balance between Bob Popovics and reptiles is one that fascinates me.

But I digress. It is just that when Raymond gets passionate about something it is worth taking notice. So when he told me that "man he had found this great new fly tying book" I ignored that shrill little voice in my head telling me they are all the bloody same and asked that he tell more. Now it has to be said that I Phones are not the greatest medium for studying fly tying books (yes there is a kindle edition) but even so it took just a glance to tell me that this was no ordinary fly tying book.

Raymond is right. This is no ordinary book. First it is the first thoughtful treatise I have read devoted exclusively to tying salt water flies. Second it approaches the subject with such commendable simplicity that anyone can learn something from this book.

You see Drew does not get hung up on the little things like triggers. His approach to choosing flies and thus tying them is all logic.

- first it helps if you know what you are fishing for;
- second you should know what your quarry is eating;
- third you should know where the fish are feeding; and
- fourth it helps if your fly is swimming right.

What follows is a very practical examination of materials, how fish view them and what one should take into account when designing and tying a great salt water pattern. If you ever wanted to design your own great pattern but did not have a clue how to go about it, this book is for you. Exclusive Books has a couple in stock. You can also get it from the trusty [Netbooks](#). Alternatively if round R350.00 is too steep for you (Netbooks is slightly cheaper) some of what is in the book can be found on [Drew Chicone's blog](#).