



THE INGENIOUS OUTDOORSMAN

MAKE THE CASE

Build your own fly box for practically nothing

■ Old VCR cassette cases make perfect saltwater fly boxes. These plastic hulls are lightweight and water resistant. The smaller Beta boxes are perfect for petite bait-fish patterns like silversides and sand eels. And the VHS cases are ideal for medium to large streamer patterns. My favorites are made of clear plastic because you can see if the pattern you want is inside. Your local video shop or big box store usually has extras. Hardware or art supply stores have many different types of inexpensive foam for sale by the sheet.

—TOM KEER

1. **Cut two blocks of closed-cell foam to size.** So that the box will close easily, cut one side a bit shorter than the total width of the hull. The other side should be just longer than your flies. Put a block at each end of the hull. If you are creating a box for very small flies, say shrimp or crabs, you can add a third piece in the center to fit even more patterns.

2. **Use a waterproof glue** (I use Gorilla Glue) to cement the foam to the box. Place some weight on the foam during the drying process so that it seats flat.

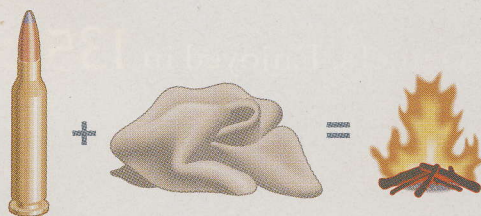
3. **Add your flies**, maybe write a description of the contents on the outside of the box with a waterproof marker, and head for the beach.

SURVIVAL

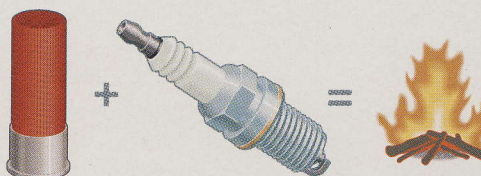
TO START A FIRE

■ In dire need of fire but there's not a flame to be had? Or perhaps you've used your last match unsuccessfully on a pile of wood wet enough to wring dry. Here are three unorthodox ways to spark a flame if your life depends on it.

—T. EDWARD NICKENS



Cartridge and rag. Remove half the powder from a rifle cartridge and pour it into dry tinder. Plug the cartridge with a bit of frayed, dry cloth, place it in the gun chamber, and fire. Retrieve the burning cloth and use it to ignite the powder.



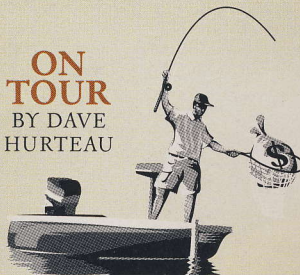
Shotshell and spark plug. Remove powder from a shotshell. Moisten it with a few drops of gas. Take the spark plug from an outboard motor, but keep it connected to the line. Hold the firing end of the plug near the powder and turn over the motor.



Battery and steel wool. Connect the terminals of a 9-volt transistor battery with 0000 steel wool, and the material will ignite with a flame hot enough to start a well-laid fire.

BE THE NUMBERS

ON TOUR
BY DAVE HURTEAU



■ Total number of annual FLW and B.A.S.S. tournament events: **181** ■ Total amount of cash prizes for both tours: **\$26.75 million** ■ Largest single-event purse: **\$1.5 million** (FLW Tour Championship) ■ Total number of fish caught on last year's FLW tour: **12,245** (27,666 pounds) ■ Heaviest five-fish limit ever caught on B.A.S.S. tour: **45.2 pounds** ■ Total number of bass anglers in the U.S.: **Over 18 million** ■ Total number of pros on FLW and B.A.S.S. circuits, respectively: **200 and 158**