



THE ORIGINAL SINCE 1981
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CUT OUT TO BE TIMELESS

*TCFF's International Field Editor At Large
Hans van Klinken talks about one of
the most essential yet underestimated
tools on your tying desk.*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY:
Kamil Jerzykowski
Leon Links

Besides the fly-tying vise, scissors are without a doubt the most essential yet underestimated tool on any tying desk. We do not just snip threads, feathers and other materials, but also use our scissors to cut out and prepare materials for individual tying steps. Of course you can cut deer hair bodies with a razor blade, but the final shape of flies like bombers or bugs or any other deer hair creation is hard to make without a very sharp pair of scissors. I have a friend who mainly ties CDC flies and he has told me many times that his scissors are his most important tool. I use scissors quite extensively to make my own dubbing as I have to cut several materials before I can combine them in

a coffee grinder. Scissors are used far more frequently than most of us realise, which gave me the idea to write a story about a small family business in Poland that, as far as I am concerned, makes the best fly-tying scissors in the world.

HOW I FIRST CAME ACROSS RENOMED

I have lost count of the many different brands of scissors I have used since 1976, and I have been dissatisfied with the majority of them. It has now been nearly two decades that I've been dedicated to the same brand of scissors that I use for my personal fly-tying. I value them so much that I even put them in my pocket when I take a break from my fly-tying demonstrations and classes.

SOME HISTORY BEHIND THE RENOMED BRAND

As to the history of the company, there has been some confusion about its early development, so I would like to take a moment to clarify the story. For nearly two decades, countless people have seen me using my pair of Polish scissors. Because of their unique and unmistakable design, quite a few people believed they were produced in Switzerland because Renomed supplied a Swiss company with similar-looking scissors, and they made them in quite large numbers too. The same Swiss company in turn supplied these high-quality Renomed scissors to Marc Petitjean and C&F in Japan, but under a completely different name. Many people therefore assumed that my Polish scissors

were in fact made by Marc Petitjean or C&F, but that wasn't true because neither Petitjean nor C&F make any scissors. The Renomed company in Poland did all the manufacturing, and for as long as they produced the scissors, they were known for their extra-ordinary quality and clients all over the world were happy.

In 2011, the relationship between Renomed and the company in Switzerland came to an end, and the Swiss company had to search for another supplier. They found one, but the quality of their new lookalikes were far inferior to those produced by Renomed. Now I know Marc Petitjean and C&F well, and both are very concerned about providing



I aquired my first pair of Renomed scissors in 2001 after an international military exercise in Germany. It was my weekend break and I wanted to tie some big mouse poppers with long rubber legs for our upcoming northern pike fishing summer holiday to the Yukon Territory of Canada. Tying these huge deer hair patterns really makes a mess, so I moved a table and chair outside my army tent. Spring had just begun so the weather was really pleasant. While I was having fun, a Polish and a British officer passed by and stopped to strike up a conversation. They too were fly fishermen, and asked if they could have a demonstration of how I tied my pike flies. We had a wonderful afternoon of chatting and tying flies and, as we parted, I gave them each a handful of my trout and grayling flies.

Weeks later and back at home, I received a package containing two amazing pairs of scissors as a gift from the Polish major. In the enclosed letter he stated that he had seen me struggling to cut the deer hair bodies with my blunt scissors and that he thought I could put these new ones to good use. He explained that they were handmade in Poland for the medical market, so they were of exceptional quality. It was a most welcome gift. I was completely hooked on their design and performance. The major never gave me more background on the manufacturer and I couldn't find much information on the company, mainly because they didn't sell their product as fly-tying scissors at the time. I do remember a little logo printed on the inside but that faded away with intense use over the years. Later I discovered that fly-tyers in the know indeed bought scissors from Renomed's medical collection, but other than that, the Renomed name was unknown to the international fly-tying community.

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the best quality to their customers. This resulted in both Petitjean and C&F stopping their orders from the Swiss company. It didn't take them long to find out that it was actually Renomed in Poland that manufactured the original scissors. They approached Renomed directly and custom ranges of their most-preferred scissors were created. That is why their sizes, shapes and blades are different from what Renomed puts out as their standard range. The Petitjean and C&F scissors now have the words "by Renomed" behind their company names on the in- or outside of the scissors.

THE RUCIŃSKI STORY

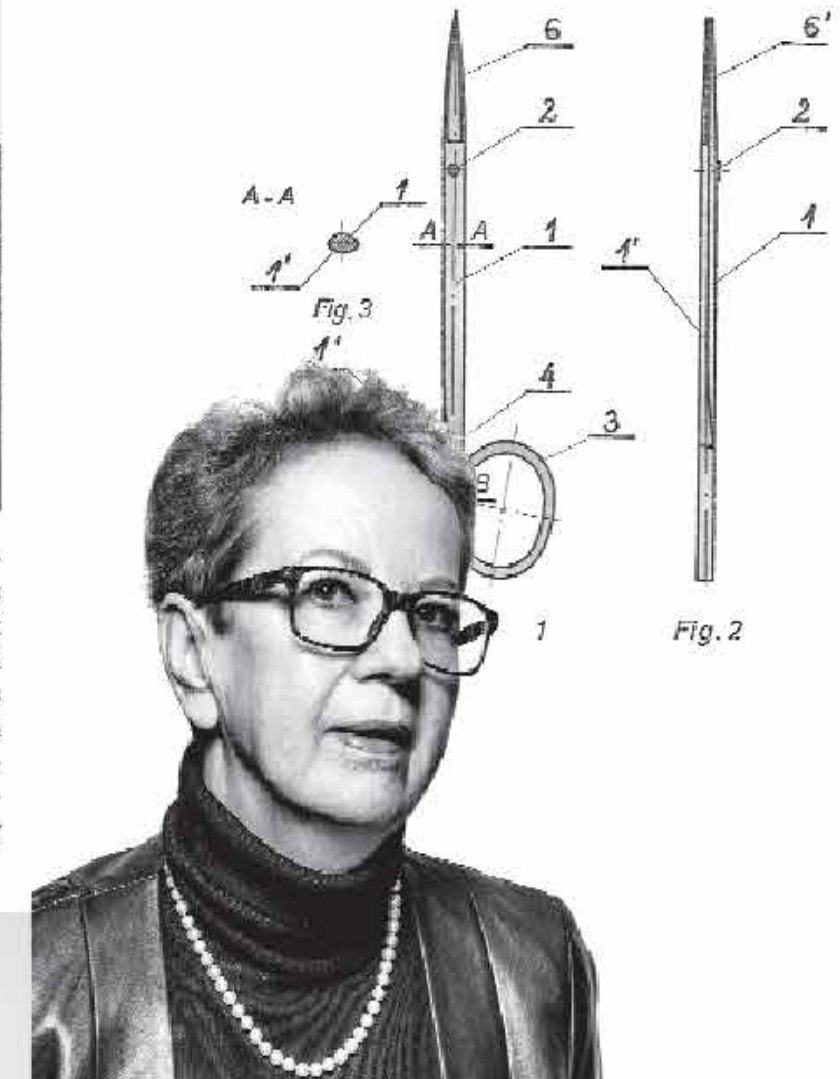
Renomed Technika Medyczna Marek Ruciński was established in 1981 as a sole proprietorship, and together the company founder Marek and his wife Donata worked in perfect harmony with the idea to renovate high-tech medical tools and devices. In the same year, Donata developed a new design that was distinctly different from any existing scissors on the market with a completely new manufacturing process.

"Due to special sharpening technology and years of experience, Renomed scissors stay sharp for a very long time, and the extra-fine blades have a smooth and extremely accurate cutting action."

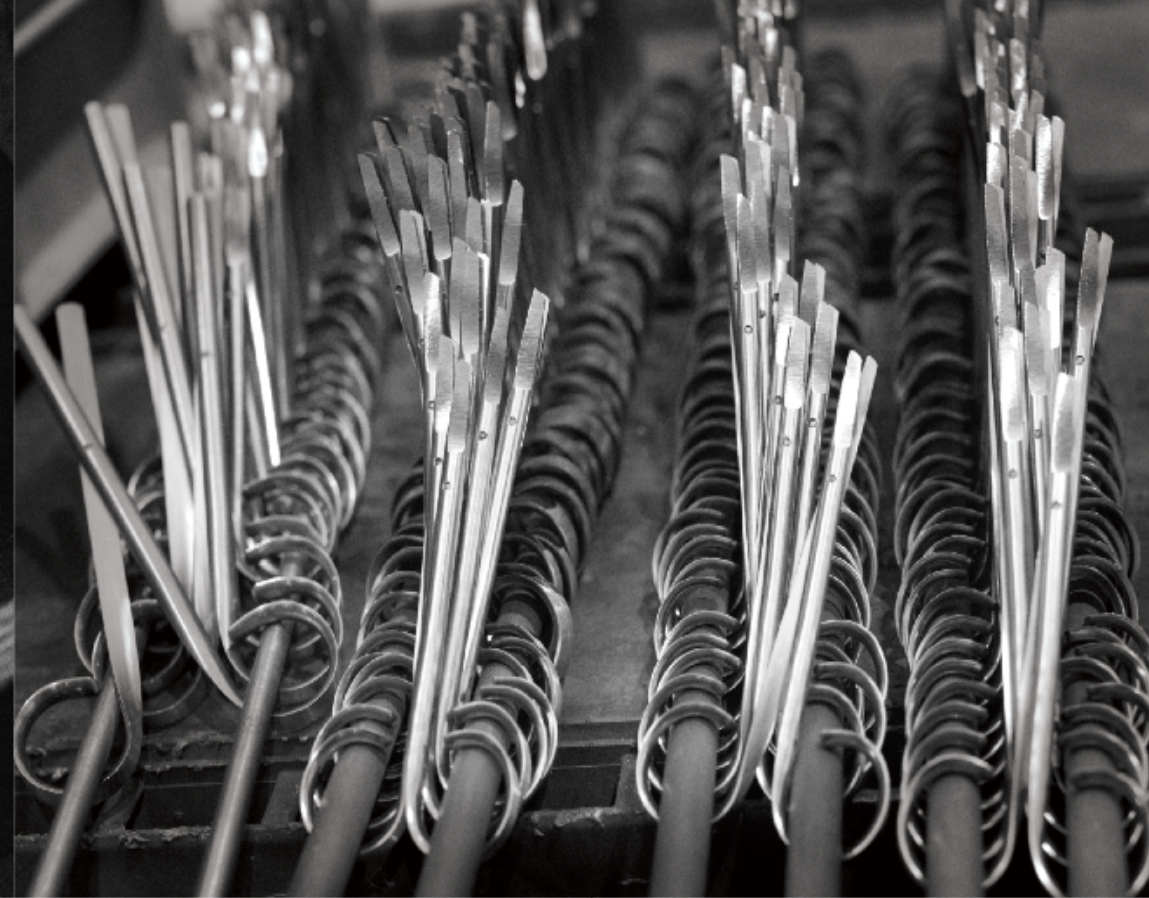


Once the originator's conception and design were registered in the Patent Office in Poland, Renomed started its production of these unique scissors in April 1982. The first batch was sold to Denmark. The Danes were so impressed that a business deal was quickly struck, and thereafter sales to many other countries followed. Donata's great attention to detail and unique designs quickly turned out to be an unbelievable success, and over the years many different models of Renomed scissors were produced in order to satisfy the demand of their customers.

This page clockwise: The Rucinski family – Marek, Donata, Michal and Maciej.



Renomed has won several national and international design awards, including the Top Design Award at the Prozan International Fair in 2015, a gold iF Design Award in 2016 and the German Design Award in 2017 (Renomed is only the second Polish company to ever receive a gold award). In 2019, 67 jurors from around the world bestowed another iF Design Award for the company in the category "packaging". (The iF Design Award is one of the most prestigious design awards in the world. It is a seal of quality for exceptional design and outstanding services.) Today, a set of Renomed scissors forms part of the permanent exhibition at the National Museum in Warsaw, as well as the National Museum in Cracow.



"When I see participants struggle with their scissors, I always let them try mine. It is usually just a matter of seconds before I get the "Wow" or "Oh my gosh" moment as they realise what they have been missing out on."

Currently Renomed is still the same Polish family business with over 35 years of trading history behind its name. As CEO of the company, Marek is in charge of the special manufacturing and quality assurance processes. Donata is still the designer of the scissors, while their son Maciej oversees finance, suppliers and technical solutions. Their other son Michal is responsible for development, sales and things required to keep a family business running smoothly. The company headquarters is based in Poznań and the manufacturing plant in Nowy Tomysl where ten skilful employees form the production line. Today, over 90% of the Renomed products are exported to more than 15 countries across the globe.

SOME INTERESTING PRODUCTION FACTS

Because most of the manufacturing processes are done by hand, Marek was able to create the scissors with hardly any waste at all. The Renomed scissors are made from high-quality stainless profiles. The bars are bent, twisted and delicately sharpened by highly skilled artisans. A unique feature is that the scissors are joined in a way that they cannot be separated. This means the handles have open loops and the material transcends into the blades and tips, which creates a beautifully shaped instrument. Each pair of scissors is tempered, polished and sharpened by hand. Due to special sharpening technology and years of experience, Renomed scissors stay sharp for a very long time, and the

extra-fine blades have a smooth and extremely accurate cutting action. Some of the manufacturing processes are proprietary, so I cannot go into more detail. There are specialised ranges of Renomed scissors for various applications from medical (eg the Dr Cut collection which can be sterilised and disinfected over and over again without any problems), cosmetic and universal everyday use, to a special fishing collection. What follows is a brief description of the scissors that I currently use for my fly-tying and fishing needs.

THE FISHING COLLECTION

With great attention to detail, the Fishing Collection offers incredibly precise scissors for the fly-tyer. After working with the original Renomed scissors for nearly 20 years, you'd think it would be hard for me to remain objective, but given the quality of these scissors, it's actually very easy. I get to see a lot of different scissors during my workshops as most of the participants bring their own tools, so I continuously handle and therefore compare scissors made by many other companies from across the globe. When I see participants struggle with their scissors, I always let them try mine. It is usually just a matter of seconds before I get the "Wow" or "Oh my gosh" moment as they realise what they have been missing out on. I never push anybody into buying one; I just let them try it and they can make up their own minds.

PRACTICAL TIPS TO ENSURE A LONGER LIFESPAN FOR YOUR SCISSORS

- Don't cut wires, tinsels or very hard materials with your scissors as this will dramatically reduce the lifespan of your scissors.
- Scissors are not designed to cut braids. Use specifically designed scissors like the BraidCutter.
- Cover the fine tips of your scissors with protective rubber sleeves when not in use. I do it all the time and it has saved a lot scissor tips when accidentally dropped.
- Never try to reshape or disassemble scissors; they will never be the same again!
- With normal usage, the cutting performance of Renomed

scissors should be the same for up to 15 years. But all scissors finally get blunt, even Renomed scissors. Never try to sharpen scissors yourself as you will do more damage than good. Renomed resharpenes their scissors free of charge, you only need to pay for the postage, but considering your investment it's worth it.

- Never leave scissors wet. Even high-quality stainless steel gets stains, especially after contact with salt water.
- To get the best performance for the longest period of time, put a small drop of oil (it can be mineral or synthetic, just not olive oil) in between the arms (where the screw is but in between the arms). Open and close it a few times and remove the excess oil, that's it.





The FlyTier – (FTS straight) (FTC curved)

The top model in Renomed's Fishing Collection is the FlyTier. It is the all-round solution for professional tyers where you get a SuperCut blade and larger scissor handles, which in combination provides more comfort, extraordinary performance, durability and functionality. (The SuperCut was created by making one blade serrated and the other as sharp as a razor.) With a blade length of 21mm, they are perfect for small to medium dry flies, soft hackles, emergers, nymphs, streamers, salmon flies, terrestrials and deer hair flies. It also works equally well with soft materials such as CDC, as well as rough materials, foam strips and even skin. The scissors are ideal to cut away the rough hairs from bodies after they have been dubbed.

The BraidCutter (straight only)

Officially designed as serious fishing scissors for carp fishermen to cut all kinds of braids and fibres, the profile of the BraidCutter and its precise blade design allows for easy cutting through materials like Dacron, Spectra, Dyneema, Micro Dyneema, Twaron, Kevlar, Dynacords, GSP and more. The BraidCutter's blades include proprietary processes, and I use it to cut all kinds of super threads, aramid fibres and thicker parts of synthetics. The SuperCut blades are 20mm in length and have round tips.

Above: The FlyTier. Below: The FS8 SuperCut.



Above: The FS9 with straight, sharp tips

The FS1 (straight) and FS2 (curved)

The FS1 and FS2 are extremely popular fly-tying scissors, especially because of their excellent price. Both are great for working with CDC and delicate materials. They have a blade length of 15mm, and the very sharp tips make them perfect to work with a variety of small to medium flies.

The FS3 (straight) and FS4 (curved)

The FS3 and FS4 are medium-sized scissors that offer the perfect fit for most hands. With a blade length of 20mm, they feature very sharp tips and are used by many fly-tyers across the globe who cover small to large dry flies, wet flies, soft hackles, nymphs, emergers, small and large streamers, small to medium salt water flies, etc. I like using the FS4 to cut out my curved-shaped shellbacks for caddis larvae.

Model FS5 (straight) and FS6 (curved)

These sizes are highly underestimated by many fly-tyers as they seem too large for practical fly-tying use. I personally think they work like a charm for cutting off barbs from feathers or hairs from skins or from dubbing clamps. The straight, 40mm-long blades are great for cutting off even strips from Flexibody, foam or any synthetic or silicon materials that you use as shellback or bodies, and are also per-

fect when tying all kinds of larger flies like streamers, big terrestrials, poppers, large salmon and pike flies, big bugs, bombers and large salt water flies. They also come in very useful when cutting shellbacks, a large bunch of synthetics or strips of foam or other body materials from sheets.

FS7 (straight only)

I use the FS7 a lot for cutting foam or when I prepare my body dubbing and need to cut the fibres or hairs in my dubbing holder before placing them in my dubbing loop. Perfect for tying all kinds of larger flies, and very useful when cutting shellbacks, a large bunch of synthetics, or cutting strips of foam or other body materials from sheets.

FS8 SuperCut (straight only)

Similar to the FS7 with its 40mm blade length and round tip, this version features the SuperCut blade.

FS9 Xtra (straight sharp tips) and FS10 Xtra (straight round tips)

These scissors feature extra long 45mm blades for the job that requires yet bigger scissors.

For further information, visit www.renomed.eu