

Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : Rod building

Re: Rod building

Author: : JackM

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URL:

Yes, you can save money. What is your time worth? I save money cutting my own lawn, too, but some Saturday in June when flies are hatching, I think if I didn't also need the exercise, I'd be wise to pay the neighborhood teenager \$25 and go fishing instead.

Anyone can learn to build a rod and if perfection in appearance isn't top priority for you, I would say to go for it. I have built and rebuilt several. They seem to work as good as any I've purchased. You can spend as little as 30-40 bucks for a generic blank and you can choose inexpensive reelseat components. Pay for good cork (I use pre-made handles) and good guides, though, as they take a lot of the strain of use. I was fortunate to get a good book at the local library, but I think I found some instructional information on-line by searching as well. Take your time on the first one and "measure" twice or three times before epoxy is applied because once it starts to harden, there is no time to recalculate. With wrapping guides, you can always unwrap and rewrap if you aren't happy-- inspect them well before using the color preserver or coating. I don't sweat minor imperfections if the rod still functions.

There are quite a few on board here that have built rods, so ask questions as you tackle your first project. There is no reason it can't be built over a period of days so you can make sure you are progressing correctly.

Good luck.