

Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : Rod building

Re: Rod building

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Date: : 2007/1/3 12:32:06

URL:

I'd say go for it. I use Cabela's blanks, and the last time I built myself some rods, four of them, two years ago. I figured it cost me about \$110 per rod. Considering the mark-up on factory built rods is close to 50%, a similar rod if I could find one would run me a couple hundred dollars. The deal was on the blanks, something like buy 4 pay for 3. I spent extra on getting good reel seats, the single foot guides I use, and the better quality preformed grips.

I don't think you need that rod building set unless you plan on building several rods.

As mentioned you can build your own rod wrapper/support from 3 pieces of wood or thick cardboard with tension for wrapping thread supplied by a thick book, and a round cup serving as the thread holder. The turning motor can be made from an electric motor used to turn a spit on a grill, or any low RPM motor you can pick up cheap. Just make sure the wrapping/turning stand are at height to be able to use the motor. Reamers can be made by gluing various grits of sand papers around a wood dowel, or if you have access to loose grit you can coat various diameter dowels with 5 minute epoxy and roll it in the grit and let dry. You can use your thumb or a teaspoon for a wrap tightening tool. You won't need a tip top sizer, if you're buying a kit, the one you get with the kit should fit the rod. Tip Top adhesive- Super glue if you're fast, 5 minute epoxy if you're not or whatever they give you in the kit to glue the reel seat and grip to the blank if it cures in 5 minutes. Why would you need a gold lettering pen? If you really need to write something on the blank, you can pick up what's basically a gold permanent marker with a fine tip at the local craft store.

Check some of the rod building boards for other suggestions.

Good Luck!