

Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : Rod Building

Re: Rod Building

Author: : Fishidiot

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URL:

Jake,  
Welcome to the Paff forums and our online community.

By all means build a fly rod this winter. I've built every one of my fly rods for at least the last decade. For what it's worth, my personal advice would be to start with price point blanks/components and build a rod that is functional - don't sweat the artsy details like fancy wrappings and high end reel seats. Go into your first rod building project as a learning experience to get a functional rod. Although I'm capable of doing fancy wrappings and such.....I still don't bother as I don't care what my guides look like - merely that they're functional and solid. On occasion, I'll build a rod as a gift and will take a bit more time but, for my rods, I don't sweat wrappings. Modestly priced blanks are available from Cabelas as well as complete kits that include glue, cork, fitted reel seats etc. One of these kits would be a good way to start because you'll know that the components will fit together and you shouldn't have to do much drilling or reaming to get the handle together (this is one of the biggest headaches in rod building). To get the guides correctly spaced, you can lay your blank on the ground next to a finished rod and simply put tape marks on the blank to mark the spots for your guides. Much is made of finding the blank's "spine".....however, I haven't worried this much. In fact, some of my better casting rods were ones in which I forget to locate the spline and the four sections work fine together. Perhaps I should point out a disclaimer that I'm not picky about the performance/castability of fly rods. Other rod builders, I'm sure, will advise you take much more care over details.