Subject: : Tips and Tricks
Topic: : Aerializing lots of line..
Re: Aerializing lots of line..
Author: : GreenWeenie
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URL:

It sounds like several things are happening all at once.

First, your timing is most likely the major cause. When a cast falls apart like you've described it means you are not letting the line straighten out on the forward/back cast (i.e., you are starting the reverse direction stroke too soon before the line is fully tight). The loop forming also means you are letting your rod tip drift and never really coming to a complete stop.

Also, when you start getting into heavier lines you've really got to make sure you get a good, strong pickup. I'll be willing to bet that your trying a delicate "trout" pickup and what is happening is your starting your cast with not enough initial line speed and it gets progressively worse from there. With heavier line the initial pickup is extremely critical. Picking up too little line and you'll never get the line out there and trying to pick up too much line and you can't get the line speed up. Try your pickup with about 25 feet of line and don't worry about making a little commotion in the water.

If you don't know how, learn to double haul – you need it.

Once you've got about 25 feet of line, get the line snug and drop your rod tip pointing it directly towards the fly. With your left hand (assuming right hand casting) pinch the snug line just below the first guide and in one smooth but powerful motion, snap your arm up to about 12 o'clock and simultaneously pull the line with your left hand. You are not pulling the line away from the rod but rather puling it straight down the rod. Also, this is an arm snap and not a wrist snap. Try holding the rod a bit higher on the grip and concentrate on having the butt end touch your arm just below your wrist. On the snap up you don't want a large angle forming between the butt and your forearm – you really want to keep your wrist as quiet as possible. If a large angle forms, it means your breaking your wrist and your rod tip is drifting. Try and keep the butt as close to and parallel to your forearm as you can.

Quickly stop the rod tip at 12 o'clock. Your arm, wrist and rod should all be almost straight up with no angles or hinges between them and concentrate on not drifting the rod tip backwards. You may initially stop at 12 o'clock but yet you are actually letting the rod tip slowly drift closer to 2 or 3 o'clock or moving it outside the casting place (this is what causes the line to open up) in preparation for the forward cast. If you drift the tip this will prevent the rod from properly loading.

Once you've snapped the line up and stopped a 12 o'clock let the line straighten and you should feel the line pull backwards on the rod. At this point let line out. Pinch the line with your left hand and slide your hand just below the first guide and start the forward stroke against simultaneously pulling the line down the rod. Quickly stop and let the line fly.

Repeat.

Heavier lines take practice. I would say put 20 feet out there and forget about even trying to cast it - just work on false casting for 30 seconds and keeping everything together. Then let 5 feet out and do the same. Slowly work your way to longer distances and then start working on shooting line.

A really good exercise is to forget about the rod totally. Just take your fly line, a leader and fly and cast using nothing but your arm. Lay out 15 feet of line, pinch the line with your right fingers and snap the line up and start false casting using just your arm. Don't even bother letting line out just false cast the 15 feet of line back and forth for about 30 seconds concentrating on maintaining the loop and keeping things from drifting all over the place. If you can't do this you will never accomplish it with a 9 foot rod will because the tip of the 9 foot rod will amplify the positional mistakes you are making with your arm. This really works on timing because if you start the forward cast before the line has straightened in back of you, the cast falls apart immediately. With a rod it kind of compensates for bad time to a degree.

After you can do 15 feet of line, extend it to 20 and then start letting line out and see how much line you can actually get out. If you can aerialize 30 feet of fly line w/out a rod, you will be shooting 80 feet no problem