Assembling a Fly Fishing Rod

This document details the steps to assembling and using a fly fishing rod, from removing the rod from the case to fishing. Several things are assumed: the user has a fly rod, reel, and case, and the reel is complete with line and leader.

Fly fishing is a difficult sport. However, like most things, the more you practice the more efficient you will become. Certainly, some things are best experienced rather than explained and fly fishing is no exception. These instructions are intended for beginners who buy a kit (rod, reel, and case) and want guidance to ensure proper assembly of their new fly fishing rod.

1. Obtain case(s) containing fly fishing rod and reel.

![Figure 1. Fly fishing rod case (long tube) and reel case (black pouch). Some cases combine the two cases.](image)

2. Open case(s) and remove rod and reel.

![Figure 2. Rod segments being removed from case (left) and all four rod segments out of the case ready for assembly (right).](image)
3. To begin assembling rod, locate rod section with handle on one end. On this piece, notice the small metal hook holder located near the top of the cork handle.

4. Locate the next section of the rod. It will be the next thickest piece (to handle section) and the first eye-hole will be the largest on any of the rod sections. Insert the section of the rod with a handle into this next rod section. The first eye-hole should be perpendicular to the hook holder, or roughly 90 degrees from center. Press rod sections together and twist one direction until first eye-hole and hook holder are aligned.
5. Continue adding individual rod sections beginning with thickest piece and finishing with rod segment that has eye-hole on the very end (last piece). In order to attach last piece, rest handle of rod on foot and firmly press down from the top.

![Figure 6](image6.jpg)

**Figure 6.** Place cork handle of fly fishing rod on the top of your foot and press firmly on the top segment to finish assembling the rod.

6. Now that the rod is fully assembled, it is time to add the reel. To do this, you need to attach the reel seat to the grooves underneath the rod handle and the sliding stop. Place one end of reel seat under the cork handle and other end of the reel seat under sliding stop near grooves. Twist sliding stop clock-wise until reel is secured to the rod.

![Figure 7](image7.jpg)

**Figure 7.** Attachment of the reel requires locating the handle stop and sliding stop. Place the reel seat in these grooves and tighten the sliding stop to assure the reel is firmly attached.
7. Once the reel is firmly attached to the rod you must locate the end of the leader. The leader is the thick yellow line. To locate the end of the leader, pull on the fine line (tippet) until you reach the thick yellow leader. Begin pulling the leader from the reel. Continue this process until you not only reach the leader, but strip out about 9 feet (a guess is all that is required).

Figure 8. Begin step 7 by finding the tippet (top left) and begin pulling the tippet from the reel (top right). When you reach the point where the fine-line tippet is attached to the thick yellow leader, continue to pull out approximately 9 feet of the leader (bottom left).

8. Again locate where the leader is attached to the fly line. Several inches (6-8) above this point, make a half-loop in the line. This will make it easier to run the line and leader through the rod’s eye-holes. Beginning with the first (and largest) eyehole, run the half-loop towards the top of the rod until you reach the last eyehole. Be sure to NOT wrap the line around the pole during this process. When you reach the end of the rod, slide your finger through the half-loop and pull the line through. (This should pull all of the looped line and leader through the top of the rod. Be sure line goes through every eyehole. If not, repeat this step. Skipped eyeholes can put too much force on a section of rod and will cause it to break if line is pulled!)
9. Attach a fly to the end of your line and you are prepared to go fishing! There are hundreds of flies and hundreds of strategies to match these different patterns. Now that you have decided to explore fly fishing as a hobby, be sure to check out a few of these books/websites for general information, strategies, and places to fish!

Additional Resources

Websites:
http://www.paflyfish.com/
http://www.flyfisherman.com/
http://www.flyanglersonline.com/begin/101/

Books:
“The L.L. Bean Ultimate Book of Fly Fishing” by Dave Whitlock


Joan Wulff's Dynamics of Fly Casting: From Solid Basics to Advanced Techniques
by Joan Wulff