

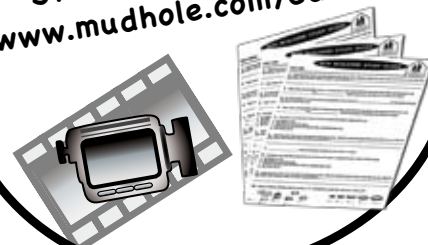


# Mud Hole Rod Building Class Syllabus for a 10 day, 10 Hour Course

## DAY ONE:

- Introductions
  - o introduce instructors and have each student introduce themselves.
- Brief description of why you would want to build your own rod.
- Identify each component to be used and explain what its purpose is.
  - o Blank, material type and brief explanation of how they are manufactured (or show Mud Hole blank building video).
  - o Grips explain various uses of cork, foam or other handle materials.
  - o Reel seat explain difference between spin and cast.
  - o Guides.
  - o Tip top.
  - o Hook keeper.
  - o Winding check.
  - o Butt cap.
- Explain purpose of spining the blank.
  - o Demonstrate proper procedures for locating the spine on a blank.
  - o Explain proper handle and guide orientation to spine depending upon whether building conventional or spinning.
  - o Mark spine on blank to use for handle setup.

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## DAY TWO:

- Explain handle assembly
  - o Mark blank for handle fitting (where rear grip, reel seat and fore grip will need to fit to). Use china marker to do this.
  - o Ream rear grip & fore grip to fit to point on blank where it will be glued.
  - o Mix up epoxy for handle assembly and glue rear grip into place.
  - o Use 1/2" masking tape to create arbors for reel seat (3) 1 ea. Approximately 1/4" inside ends of seat and then the third in the center. (unless you are using preformed arbors or another method of arboring the reel seat).

## DAY THREE:

- Resume handle assembly.
  - o Glue reel seat into place, align with spine.
  - o Glue fore grip into place.
  - o Tape handle together to ensure that it doesn't move during epoxy curing. Check alignment with spine again.

## DAY FOUR:

- Guide preparation.
  - o Explain purposes for proper guide dressing.
  - o Use file and sand paper to dress all guide feet for wrapping.
  - o Use sharpie to color tips of guides if black frame guides are used.
- Demonstrate starting and ending tie offs in wrapping.
  - o Give each student a piece of blank and a spool of thread and have them practice starting a wrap and finishing a wrap with a pull through.



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## DAY FIVE:

- Guide Spacing.
- Explain guide spacing, and purposes for different size guides and distances from reel seats.
- Affix tip top to blank using hot melt glue stick.
- Give guide spacing for the rod you are building and have each student mark the spacing on his blank with a china marker.
- Wrapping.
  - Begin wrapping guides, it is easiest to begin with the largest guide closest to the reel seat and work toward the tip.

## DAY'S SIX & SEVEN

Continue Wrapping.

## DAY EIGHT:

- Check each rod for guide alignment, straighten guides as necessary.
- Affix decal to blank if you are using one, either from the blank manufacturer or a custom decal from Mud Hole.
- First Coat.
  - Apply a thin first coat of rod finish to the threads and decal area. The goal here is to seal the threads and create a level base for the final coat.
  - Leave rods on finishing motors to dry.

## DAY NINE:

- Check each wrap for nubs or thread ends sticking up and cut them off with a razor blade or exacto knife.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> or final coat.
  - Apply the 2<sup>nd</sup> thicker application of rod finish to rod.
  - Put rod in finishing or drying motor to allow to level and harden.

## DAY TEN:

- Inspection and cleanup.
  - Inspect the entire rod for excess glue or finish and remove with razor knife or exacto knife.
  - Clean the blank and wrapped areas with a polishing wax. Most types of furniture polish work well for this. It will not only give the rod a nice luster but will create a barrier to keep baits and fish scales from sticking quite so easily.
  - You are done. Go Fishing!

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