



**Mud Hole**  
ROD BUILDING & TACKLE CRAFTING

# EDUCATION PROGRAM

FOR FUTURE ROD & TACKLE BUILDERS

[www.mudhole.com/education](http://www.mudhole.com/education)



## CLASS SYLLABUS

The Official Mud Hole Custom Rod Building Education Course Guideline for a 10 day, 10 Hour Program

### DAY ONE:

#### 1) Introductions

- introduce instructors and have each student introduce themselves.

#### 2) Brief description of why you would want to build your own rod.

#### 3) Identify each component to be used and explain what its purpose is.

- Blank, material type and brief explanation of how they are manufactured (or show Mud Hole blank building video).
- Grips explain various uses of cork, foam or other handle materials.
- Reel seat explain difference between spin and cast.
- Guides.
- Tip top.
- Hook keeper.
- Winding check.
- Butt cap.

#### 4) Explain purpose of spining the blank.

- Demonstrate proper procedures for locating the spine on a blank.
- Explain proper handle and guide orientation to spine depending upon whether building conventional or spinning.
- Mark spine on blank to use for handle setup.

### DAY TWO:

#### 1) Explain handle assembly

- Mark blank for handle fitting (where rear grip, reel seat and fore grip will need to fit to). Use china marker to do this.
- Ream rear grip & fore grip to fit to point on blank where it will be glued.
- Mix up epoxy for handle assembly and glue rear grip into place.
- 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:

#### 1) Resume handle assembly.

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

### DAY FOUR:

#### 1) Guide preparation.

- Explain purposes for proper guide dressing.
- Use file and sand paper to dress all guide feet for wrapping.
- Use sharpie to color tips of guides if black frame guides are used.
- Demonstrate starting and ending tie offs in wrapping.
- 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.

### DAY FIVE:

#### 1) Guide Spacing.

#### 2) Explain guide spacing, and purposes for different size guides and distances from reel seats.

#### 3) Affix tip top to blank using hot melt glue stick.

#### 4) Give guide spacing for the rod you are building and have each student mark the spacing on his blank with a china marker.

#### 5) Wrapping.

- Begin wrapping guides, it is easiest to begin with the largest guide closest to the reel seat and work toward the tip.

### DAY SIX & SEVEN

#### 1) Continue Wrapping.

### DAY EIGHT:

#### 1) Check each rod for guide alignment, straighten guides as necessary.

#### 2) Affix decal to blank if you are using one, either from the blank manufacturer or a custom decal from Mud Hole.

#### 3) 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:

#### 1) Check each wrap for nubs or thread ends sticking up and cut them off with a razor blade or exacto knife.

#### 2) 2nd or final coat.

- Apply the 2nd thicker application of rod finish to rod.
- Put rod in finishing or drying motor to allow to level and harden.

### DAY TEN:

#### 1) 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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