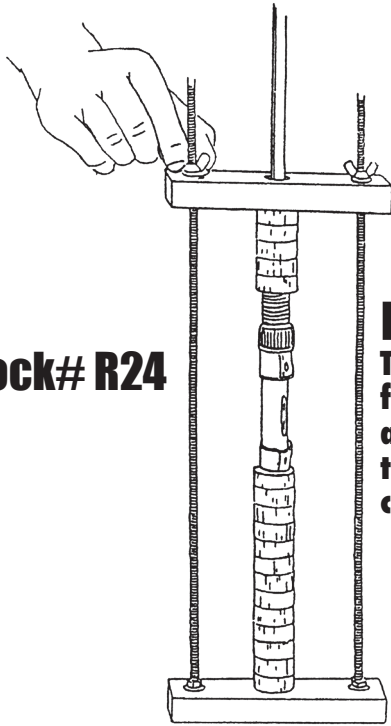


# FLEX COAT®

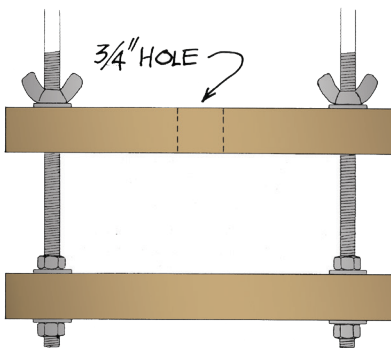
Professional Rod Building Supplies



Stock# R24

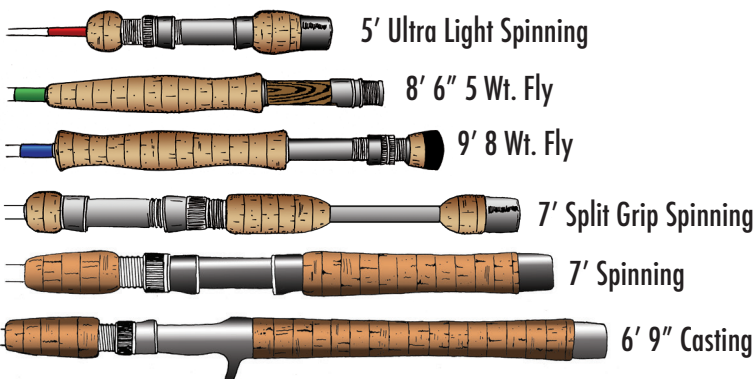
**Note:**  
Two 1/4 in. by 2 ft. threaded rods are included with this kit to make a complete clamp.

## Cork Ring Clamp

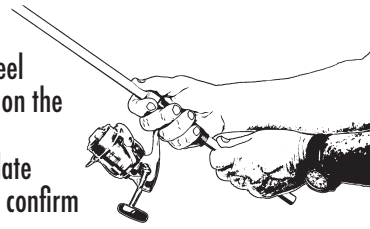


Proper assembly of Cork Clamp

**1.** Handles vary widely on fishing rods. First decide on the type of rod that you plan to build. Below are rods of various shape, length and style of handle. One easy proven method is to study and copy an existing rod handle of a tried and proven rod.

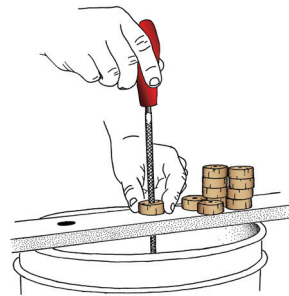
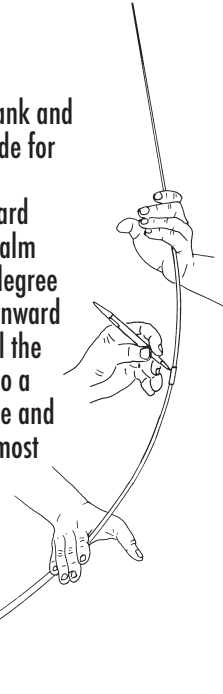


**2.** Another method is to install the reel on the reel seat and try the reel and seat combo in different locations on the blank to find the best spot. Hold the rod with both hands to simulate casting, retrieving and fighting fish to confirm the reel seat location.



**3.** It is important to locate the spine of a rod blank and position the reel seat and guides in relation to this side for optimal rod performance.

To locate the spine, place the rod butt on a smooth hard surface. Support the rod near the tip with the open palm of one hand so that the rod is resting at about a 45 degree angle to the surface. With the other hand, apply downward pressure to the rod blank to bend it slightly. Then roll the butt of the blank on the hard surface, it will jump into a pronounced curve. The inside of this curve is the spine and should be marked. There are many opinions, but in most cases, the rod should bend easiest toward the fish. This means that the spine will be down.



**4.** Using a rat tail file, a 1x4 board with a 1" hole and a 5 gallon bucket, ream the cork rings to a snug fit of the taper of the blank.

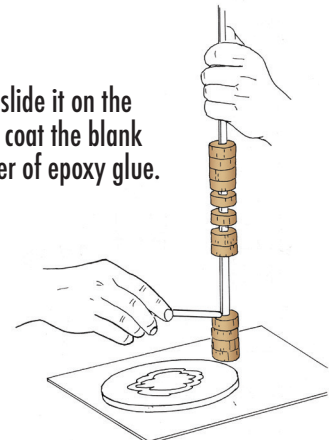
**5.** Measure equal portions of Resin A and Hardener B on cardboard and mix thoroughly.



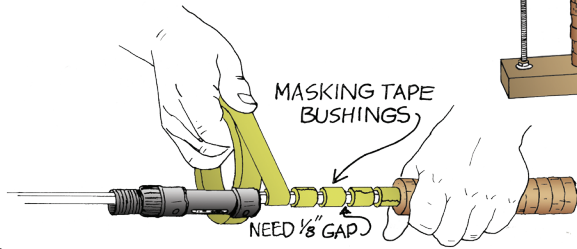
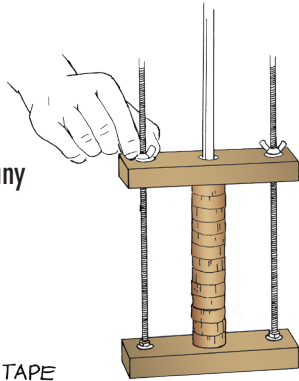
**Flex Coat Rod Builders Glue**  
Stock# G4, G8, G32 & G128



**6.** Take each cork ring in turn and slide it on the blank. Just before pushing it into place, coat the blank and facing cork surfaces with a thin layer of epoxy glue. Push the rings together.

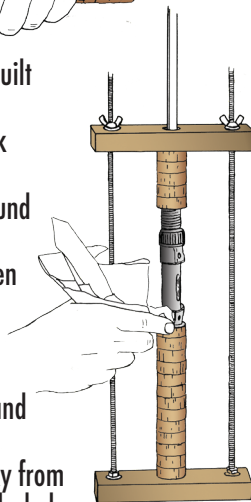


**7.** Clamp the rear grip and wipe off any excess epoxy while still liquid.



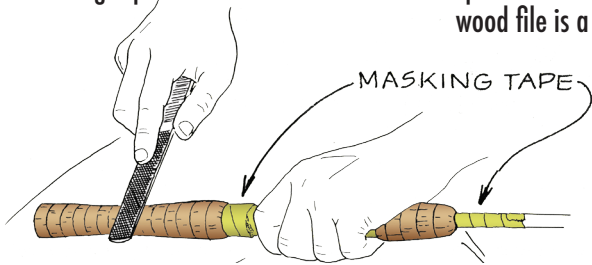
**8.** The blank above the rear grip must be built up or shimmed for installation of the reel seat. Shims or bushings can be made of cut down cork rings or masking tape.

To make tape bushings, wrap masking tape around the rod to the diameter of the inside of the reel seat, leaving small 1/8 to 1/4 inch gaps between the bushings for epoxy glue. Ream out the cork rings for the foregrip.



**9.** Glue, clamp and clean up the reel seat and foregrip. Make sure to fill the gaps between the bushings with epoxy. Remove excess liquid epoxy from the reel seat with paper towels and denatured alcohol.

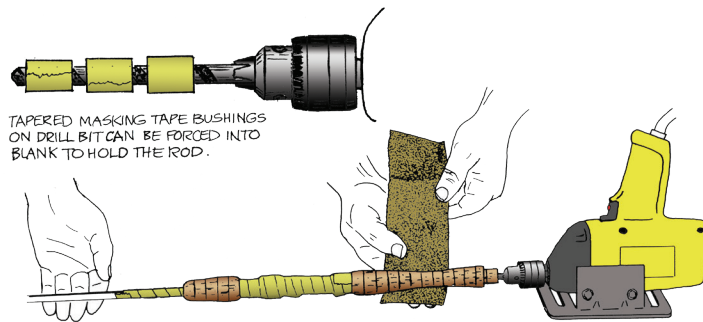
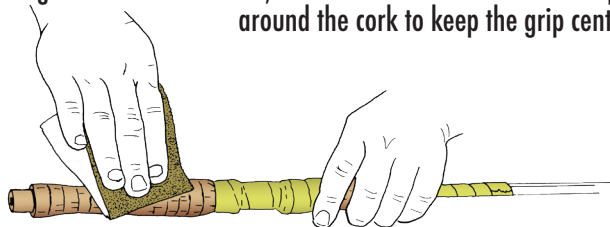
**10.** One method for shaping the cork is with hand tools. Apply masking tape to the blank and reel seat for protection. A half round wood file is a good start.



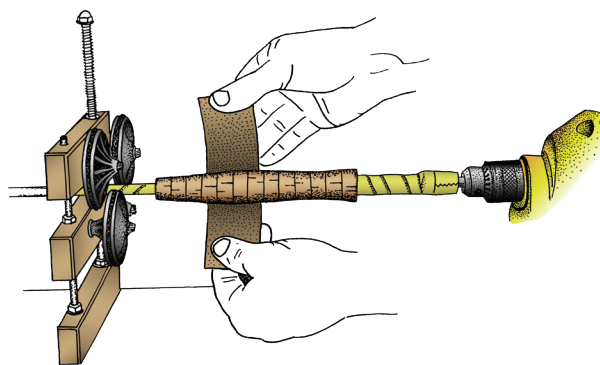
**11.** Cut down the rear cork to fit the butt cap.



**12.** Use sandpaper for final shaping and finishing. Start with 50 grit and work thru 100, 120 and 220. Be sure to sand equally around the cork to keep the grip centered.



**13.** Another method for shaping a cork handle is with a power drill. A bit can be built up with tapered masking tape bushings to match the taper of the inside diameter of the blank butt as shown above. With a buddy supporting the spinning rod end, work through rough to fine grit sandpaper to achieve a custom grip. As shown below using the Flex Coat Cork Lathe Setup that includes roller supports and a drill mount stand.



Set-up includes motor stand with motor clamps and 2 sets of roller supports. Adapts to almost any hand drill. Sturdy, commercial duty. This lathe is fantastic for shaping and reaming cork or foam grips. NOTE: We recommend a variable speed 0-2500RPM, 4.0 AMP hand drill.



**FLEX COAT Small Business Start-Up Kit**

This kit has the tools, supplies, and instructional materials you need to start a small business building and repairing custom rods. Earn extra money, keep your equipment in tip-top shape, and get inside fishing information from your customers: the expert fishermen who purchase custom rods and have rods repaired in your shop. You can trade rod repair services or custom rods for fishing trips with local guides. This complete start up kit will save you \$\$\$.

**FLEX COAT is still Made in the USA**  
**Since 1977 - Still the Best!**

For more information about the Flex Coat Small Business Start-Up Kit or any other Flex Coat product, please go to:

**www.flexcoat.com**  
Or give us a call  
**512-858-7742**

