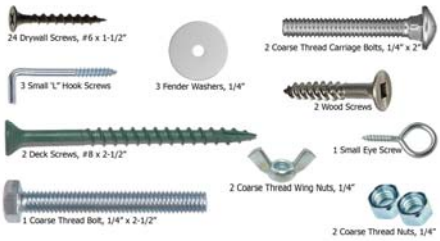
“Cheap DIY” Rod Wrapping Jig

If you plan to adventure further into the world of rod building, you may want something more practical on which to wrap your rods. This is a solid but still inexpensive rod wrapping jig that will last you for years. It does, however, require rudimentary carpentry skills and some basic tools.

Materials List

Clear pine, poplar or similar lumber. One 1” x 2”, two 1” x 3” and one 1” x 4”. All are 36” long.



Hardware for the jig itself.

Hardware for the thread tensioning assembly.
The collar and spring are from a Moen #M3811 Faucet Repair Kit

Wood glue, 5-minute epoxy and masking tape

Tools List

Measuring Tape, Combo Square & Pencil

Vice and various Clamps

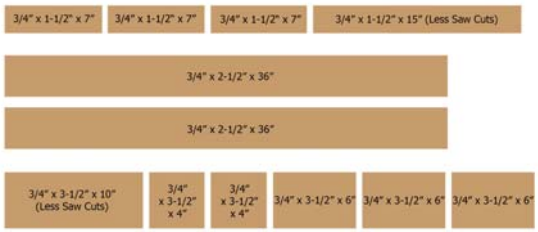
Half round & Rat Tail Files and Sandpaper

“Cheap DIY” Rod Wrapping Jig

Wood and Metal Cutting Tools

Drill & Bits, incl. Phillips & #2 Robertson and corresponding Screwdrivers

Step 1

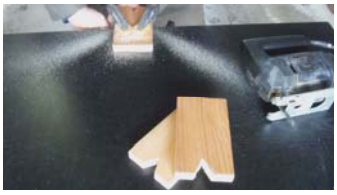


Pre-cut the lumber into the pieces as shown.

Note that the lumber you buy is finished so a 1” x 2” is actually 3/4” x 1-1/2”. The actual dimensions are shown here.

Step 2

Mark the centre of the top of the 6” 1x4 pieces and then 1/2" to each side of the centre mark. Mark 1” down from the centre mark and join this with the two 1/2" marks, forming a V.



Cut out the V’s you’ve marked with a jig saw or hand saw.

Step 3

Place a pen in the V and pull down a hair band with another pen and make a mark while under slight tension.

Measure this mark and install the L-Hooks the same distance on all the 6” 1x4’s.

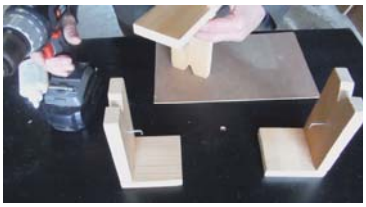
“Cheap DIY” Rod Wrapping Jig

Step 4

On both 4” 1x4 pieces, measure in 3/8" on the short side (remember that 1x4’s are finished out at 3/4 x 3-1/2) and draw a line.
Make a mark on this line 1” in from each side. Do the same on a line drawn in the centre of the 10” 1x4.

Drill each of these marks with a 1/8” drill bit and countersink each of these so the screw heads will be slightly below flush.

Step 5



Using wood glue and drywall screws, mount the three 6” support pieces (with the V’s) to the two 4” and the one 10” bases you prepared in Step 4.

Step 7

Draw a centre line down the length of two of the 7” 1x2’s. Make marks on this line 1-1/2” and 2-3/4” from each end.
Drill each mark with the 1/8” bit and countersink each hole. These will be the feet for your jig.

Step 8

Fasten the jig feet flush to one end of 36” 1x3 with a 3/4" relief from one side. Use wood glue and drywall screws. Repeat at the other end of the 36” 1x3.

Using the square part of the two carriage bolts as spacers, place the other 36” 1x3 parallel to the first and fasten in place to the jig feet at each end.

“Cheap DIY” Rod Wrapping Jig

Step 9

Cut two 4” long pieces from the 15” 1x2 and fasten them together with wood glue and the two deck screws.

Draw a line 3/8” from one of the long sides of your new block. Mark on this line 1/2" and 1” in from the edge and drill.

Using drywall screws and wood glue, fasten the remaining 7” 1x2 as shown to the block.

Step 10

Drill a 5/16” hole, 1” down from the top of the upright.

Drill a 1/4" hole in the base 2-1/2” from the end and 3/4" In from the edge and countersink large enough to snuggly fit a 1/4” nut.

Cut the head off the 1/4" x 2-1/2” bolt.

Step 11

Drill two 1/8” holes in the base of the upright on a line 1/2" from the edge opposite the upright.

Mark 18” from the end of a 36” 1x3 and intersect it with a line 1” from the outside edge.

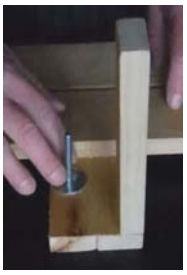
Locate the base of the upright where the lines intersect and fasten with wood glue and drywall screws.

“Cheap DIY” Rod Wrapping Jig

Step 12

Tape the underside of the countersunk hole with tape and fill with epoxy glue.

Tap the headless bolt and a nut into the countersunk hole and spin it a couple of turns.



Place a 1/4" fender washer over the bolt to complete the spindle assembly.

Step 13

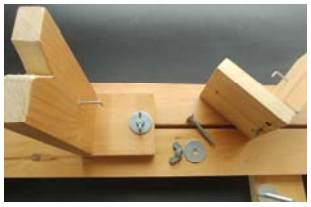
Drill a pilot hole and insert the wood screws at the halfway point of the line for the drywall screws so only the shanks show.

Cut the heads off both the wood screws. These are your support guides.

Drill a 5/16" hole in each support dead centre and 3/4" from the front edge of the base.

Step 14

Install the eye screw 3/4” in from the edge of the base and 1/2" away from the up-right. Orient it so it faces you.

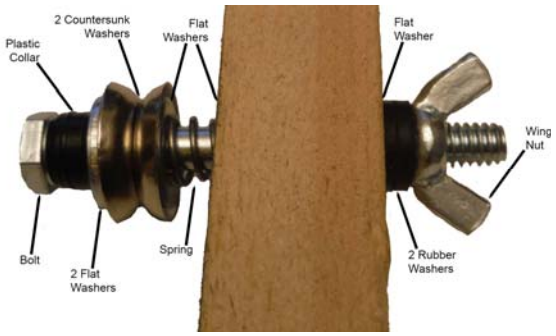


Push a carriage bolt up so the square shank seats into the slot of the jig. Slide a rod support onto the bolt while lining up the rear guide with the slot. Drop on a fender washer and wing nut.

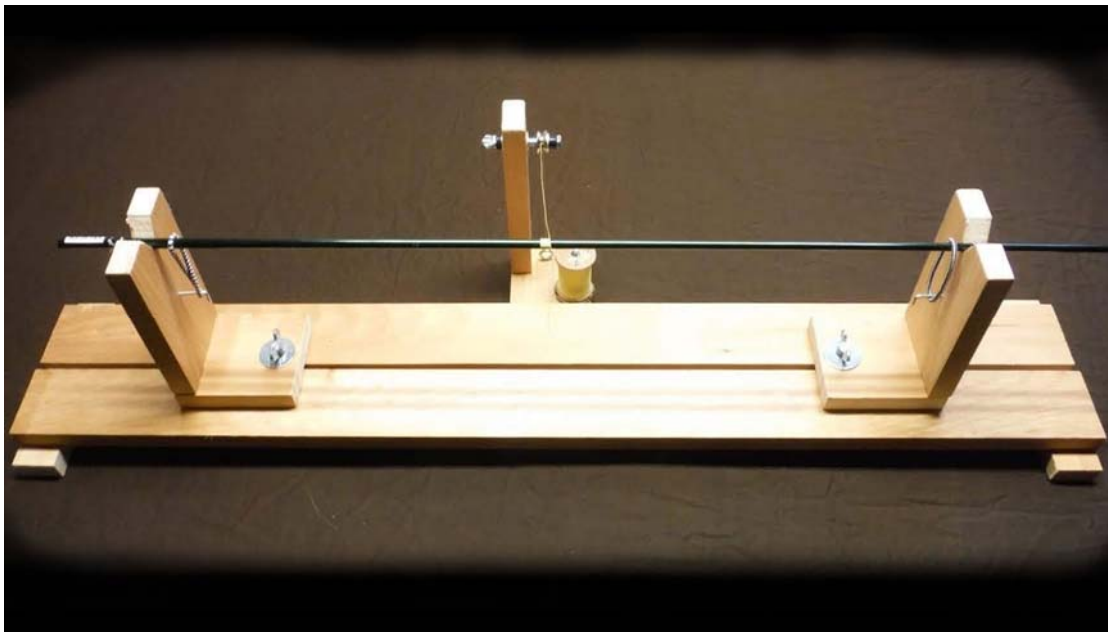
Use what scrap 3/4” thick lumber you have to raise the base of the of the extension support so it’s even with those of the main jig.

“Cheap DIY” Rod Wrapping Jig

Step 15



Assemble the Thread Tensioning Assembly through the 5/16” hole in the top of the upright as shown in this diagram.



Add a couple of elastic hair bands around the L-Hooks and you’re ready to wrap!
If you’d like, you can also line the V’s with felt as a finishing touch.

I would avoid any wood treatments for the jig, especially
oils or stains as they may contaminate your custom rod finishes.

Congratulations, your “Cheap DIY” Rod Wrapping Jig is completed!