

Introduction to Cross Wrap Designs

By BD Ehler
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Decorating fishing rods with thread designs has been around for many years. To the new rod builder and some of the experienced rod builders the process of placing a cross wrap design on the butt section of a rod can be intimidating. The goal of this series of articles is to help remove the confusion from doing cross wraps by explaining how these designs are created. Our hope is to stimulate builders to try this form of decoration.

This series of articles will include definitions of thread art terms (with pictures as examples), the types of processes that can be used in wrapping, the layout methods of starting the cross wrap, and eventually the process of creating cross wrap designs using charting tape.

These articles will be posted on the main forum for all builders to copy/print for future use. Any questions about an article are invited to be posted on the main forum in hopes that various rod builders can give their answers, which will provide a variety of methods from which the builder can choose. Due to my phone modem connection and limits on our forum page, these articles will be short (one page). There will be many articles, so print them, save them and you should have a good resource for your attempts at rod thread art.



This is an example of a chevron cross wrap shaded from right to left by using three shades of green regular A thread and three shades of green metallic A thread finished with 2 threads of metallic silver. Notice on the right side of this photo two vertical cracks in the finish. This was caused by breaking the rod blank by high sticking the rod on a crappie, which is embarrassing with Don Morton in the boat with you. Fortunately, the rod was repaired (stronger) and the cross wrap