

Introduction to Cross Wrap Designs Cross Wrap 3

Do you need a rod lathe to do cross wraps? The answer is no! After doing cross wraps by hand holding the rod for 25 years, a rod lathe was finally added to my tools. If you hold the rod by hand then you need to provide tension on the thread while spiraling the thread up and down the rod. For regular thread you may use a tension device that the thread is pulled through. Or you may use a large book to give the tension you desire. Need more tension? Move the thread down more pages in the book. Both of these methods require something to hold the spool of thread while wrapping. A cup, bowl or the center of a spool of masking tape can corral the spool while turning. A small dowel mounted vertically that fits into the center hole of the spool will hold the spool adequately. If you are using metallic thread the tension needs to be applied to the spool instead of the thread so the metallic thread does not come apart. A threaded bolt with spring and wing nut will hold the spool with variable tension available.

If you wrap holding the rod by hand you will also need room for the tip section especially on 7 foot, one piece rods. When spirally the thread up the rod the tip of the rod is pointed forward (in front of you) and when spirally the thread back down the rod, the tip of the rod is pointed rear-ward (behind you). You need enough space for this type of wrapping. Here is an example of hand held wrapping –



Take home lesson: cross wraps can be done without expensive tools.