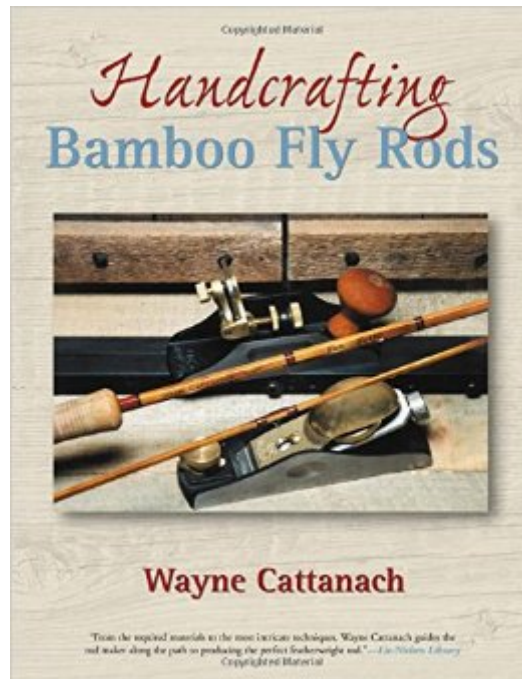


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# Handcrafting Bamboo Fly Rods



## Synopsis

The bamboo fly rod still represents the pinnacle of the fly-fishing art; its apparent simplicity and delicacy belie the craftsmanship and strength that are the hallmarks of all great rods. A growing number of people have tried to learn the art of making bamboo rods from a shrinking number of secretive craftsmen. The revised and expanded *Handcrafting Bamboo Fly Rods* is the definitive reference for beginners and experts alike. Wayne Cattanach begins by explaining the qualities that distinguish bamboo from all other materials: It has a tensile strength akin to steel, yet it is very light. He describes the process that will take anyone from lengths of hard, raw bamboo to a beautiful finished rod with clear, step-by-step instructions and illustrations, including how to find the best supplies; select tools and materials; make heat treaters and binders; cut culms; straighten bamboo strips; plane and stagger strips; bind strips; apply finishes; mount the reel seat, ferrules, and tip-top; and much more. This is surely the most thorough book available for those who wish to make and fish their own bamboo fly rods.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a good reference book, but should not be your sole source of information. Too much is left out that is critical to building a first rod. For example, a lot of details are missing with regards to what you need to do with the blank once it comes out of the glue binder. What about scraping, filing, sanding and keeping those sharp edges? The book could also do with better organization.

When I built my first bamboo rod and the associated tools to build the rod I had purchased several books, but this is the book I ended up using the most. It's a good straight forward book that gives you the information you need to do the basics to build a rod.

I definitely recommend this to anyone who wants to build a bamboo fly rod. Together with the book by Maurer and Elser, all needed information is provided. It may seem that difference and opposing methods are recommended, but remember there are many ways to approach any construction project and just settle on the method that you are most comfortable using.

This is a good book to get you started on the basics like sharpening, selecting bamboo, preparing and making equipment. What he says in the book is very much enhanced by his 3 DVD set, which I purchased off of ebay. If you can get the DVDs it will really help you the book should come with the DVDs in my opinion. It isn't a very glamorous book in terms of photos, but there are enough pictures to give you a good basic idea of what you need to do. There are many tapers for rods in the appendix, which is nice to have.

The info you need to build your first bamboo rod is in this book. However, the combination of poor organization, poor explanations, and a number of marginal quality photos will leave you scratching your head much of the time. As an example, the author provides a photo of a jig used for sharpening a plane blade but provides no explanation or illustrations of how it's used. The instructions on how to build a binder is a cruel joke. Perhaps a mechanical engineer could pull it off, but not so much a handy lay-person. And forget about the photos that depict the binding process. This sort of thing is a common occurrence throughout the book. Maybe it comes second nature to the author because of his experience but he seems largely insensitive to the needs of the person just starting out, who I assume, is the target audience. Reading the directions for building planing forms is pure torture because of the lack of clear explanations and poor organization of the steps of the process. Contrast this with Penrose's clear and concise instructions on his website. There's also a lot of irrelevant chatter. Do we really need to know the author often works in his shop late at night because of a family obligations? If I only had this book to rely on for building my first rod I'd probably give up in frustration. If you've never made a bamboo rod and are solely relying on this book to get you through the process, you will definitely need a mentor to clarify the process and answer the many questions you will have after reading this book.

This is one of the handful of must-have books for rodmakers, or those considering getting into the addiction. It does have tips and approaches not found in every book, and for me was slightly more clear than a couple of the others.

I have always loved the look of a fine bamboo rod and always wanted to make a rod from a blank. I recently met a guy who orders bamboo blanks and then finishes them himself. I have no experience in rod building and he recommended I buy this book just to get an idea on how to finish a bamboo rod. This book is well written and covers the WHOLE process, from splitting the bamboo to finishing it. It is very detailed. Needless to say, now I'm not just interested in finishing a blank, but now I want to actually make one from start to finish. The author states that there are two kinds of people, rod makers and rod builders, I started out wanting to be a rod builder now I want to be a maker.

For a split cane rodmaker this book is: Full of how to do it. Lots of why to do it. For a novice this is great! I do not have bamboo or tools yet, but this book has set me on the right path. And mentally I can visualize almost every step. This book should be part of one's library.

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