

A close-up photograph of a bamboo grove. The image shows several vertical bamboo stalks of varying shades of green and yellowish-brown. The stalks are densely packed and have distinct nodes. Numerous long, narrow, lanceolate leaves are attached to the stalks, creating a lush, textured appearance. The lighting is soft and natural, highlighting the vibrant green of the foliage.

Putting the horse back before the cart

This is how we start...

Cut and split

Set the forms

Plane, swear, glue, bind, swear

Finish

Catch the fish







After many hours of
(mostly enjoyable)
work the glue is
setting... and I ask
myself:

What did I want this
Rod to do again?

Step one

Selection, splitting and staggering.

Step two

Straightening

Step three

Basic Beveling

Step four

Heat treating

Step five

Hand planing 1
Hand planing 2

Step six

Gluing

Step seven

Final dimensions

Step eight

Attaching hardware

Step nine

Wrapping



fly rods



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Selecting, Splitting and staggering

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The bamboo used in rod making is known as *Tonkin* or *Tea Stick* bamboo and is imported from a province in South Eastern China. I get mine from the Charles Demerest Company. This is the same company that imported Bamboo for almost every maker in the united states before the embargo placed on Chinese goods by Pres Harry Truman.



When an order is received, I inspect my inventory for a suitable stalk. Density of power fibers is more important than depth of power fibers. The outside of the node dams is removed with a sander and 80grit sandpaper. the backing on the sander is made of 3/8" plywood. I Make sure I only take off the edgeds of the dams, don't dig into the outer power fibers. I split the bamboo in two and remove the **node dams**. The two halves are split into strips approximatly 1/4" wide. Problem strips that contain imperfections, or leaf nodes are trashed.



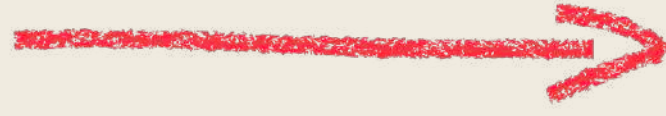


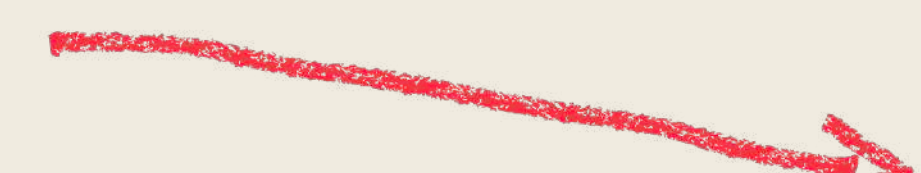
Next , the strips are **staggered**, so that the nodes are spaced evenly.

There are several ways to do this. two of the most common are the 3x3 stager and the 2x2x2 stager.



The rod making process could be described:

- Step one: Brief
- Step two: Design
- Step three: Making
- Step four: Test

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- Step one: The Brief  • Describe its purpose
 - Step two: The Design  • Design the taper
 - Step three: Making  • Make it!
 - Step four: Test  • Try it out and learn if it's going to meet the brief or if something needs to change
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Step one

- What should this rod be good at doing?
 - Where will I fish it?
 - How long should it be?
 - How many pieces?
 - What lines?
 - What flies?
 - What species?
 - How big they?
 - What else?
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Design brief

Description of purpose

Length and number of pieces

Line weight and type

Description of action

Finish and fittings

A close-up photograph of a bamboo grove. The image shows several vertical bamboo stalks with distinct nodes, surrounded by a dense canopy of bright green, lanceolate leaves. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the bamboo and the vibrant color of the foliage.

How do we turn step one into a taper?