

Beginners Corner

Chamfering

A chamfer is a beveled edge connecting two surfaces. It is used for a myriad of purposes. Within the confines of custom rod building, a chamfer between two surfaces can be a great aid when assembling component parts. Let's take a look.

Trying to slide a reel seat over a snug fitting arbor can be difficult if the fit is close, as it should be. But cutting a simple chamfer on the inside edge of the seat can ease the installation, not to mention helping to capture adhesive between the two parts rather than just pushing it out of the mating surfaces contact area. Adhesive will fill the chamfer area and both lubricate and apply itself as the parts are slid together.

Cutting a chamfer on the inside edge of cork or EVA grips also traps epoxy and helps to lubricate the blank as the grip is slid into place (you will still want to apply epoxy both inside the grip and along the rod blank at a point *above* where the grip first makes snug contact with the rod blank).

Likewise, slightly chamfering the inside edge of tiptop tubes promotes adhesive being pushed into, rather than out of, the tube. Not to mention, it also relieves what could otherwise be a stress point where the sharp edge of the tiptop tube contacts the rod blank. Although, in this particular application this is of minor importance.

Overall, cutting a chamfer onto any mating edges facilitates the assembly of component parts during any phase of rod building.

There are specialty tools made for chamfering. One of the most common and effective is the "deburring" tool sold for removing the burr from the edge of items that have been cut or bored. With a bit more pressure, it not only removes the burr, but cuts a chamfer. These are not terribly expensive and will last a long time for rod building chores.

A common Xacto knife serves as an excellent chamfering tool in most instances. It works well on any component parts which are made from nylon, plastic, rubber, foam and even soft aluminum. On harder metals, however, stick with the purpose built deburring tool!

For chamfering cork and EVA grips, the neatest chamfer will be cut with a common counter bore drill bit. A quick spin against the square edge will result in a nice, smooth chamfer that traps epoxy and makes installation a breeze.

Give chamfering a try on your next rod building project. You're apt to find that it makes parts assembly and adhesive contact both better and easier. 🛠️

*Top - Commercial Deburring Tool.
Bottom - Xacto Knife*



An Xacto knife being used to cut a chamfer onto the edge of a nylon reel seat.



For cutting a chamfer onto cork or EVA grips, a counter-bore drill bit is the ticket.

