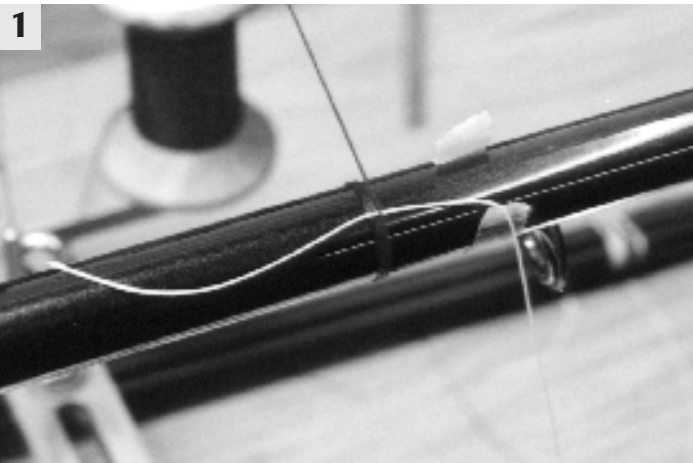


Narrow Trim Bands and Thread Inlays

Two simple methods that will provide you with quick and easy results!



Perhaps the most requested information on guide wraps pertains to thread inlays and narrow trim bands. And why not? Either one adds a touch of color and class to any guide wrap and neither is difficult to make, provided you know how. For those that don't, here's a quick tutorial on the "how-to" behind both techniques.

*In the interest of making things easy to see and understand, the wraps depicted here have been made with size E thread. Use of the more common sizes such as A or D will result in smoother, neater looking wraps.

You can make a thread inlay nearly anywhere in a guide wrap. In this instance, we are going to create one near the edge of our wrap. The wrap is begun in normal fashion and after it is locked in with 3 or 4 winds we insert our inlay thread (1). The inlay thread is just slipped under the oncoming guide wrap thread. (An alternate method for getting our inlay thread in place is to cut it squarely on one end and stick it underneath the last wind of our oncoming guide wrap thread without any protruding past that thread. This method is a bit trickier, however, and may require some practice.)

The inlay thread needs to be secured. Here we wind over it a few turns and then cut the tag end of the inlay thread (2). It need not be cut exactly at the edge as we will



be gently pulling it under our guide wrap wrap in just a moment.

Very carefully, the inlay thread is gently pulled until the tag end is completely under the guide wrap threads and the end is no longer exposed (3). Don't be surprised if you pull a few all the way out! This can require a deft touch and some practice will be in order. You only want to move it a tiny bit, just enough for it to disappear under the wrap.

Now the free end of the inlay thread is brought up alongside our guide wrap thread and the two are wound together as if they were one thread (4, 5 & 6)). If you wish to have a single thread inlay, make 2 complete revolutions. For a double inlay, make 3 complete revolutions. Always make one more revolution, with both threads, than the total number of inlays you wish to show. In this instance, we want a single inlay thread so we are making two complete revolutions with both threads.

Pinch the threads to the rod with a thumbnail just below the beginning or junction point (7).

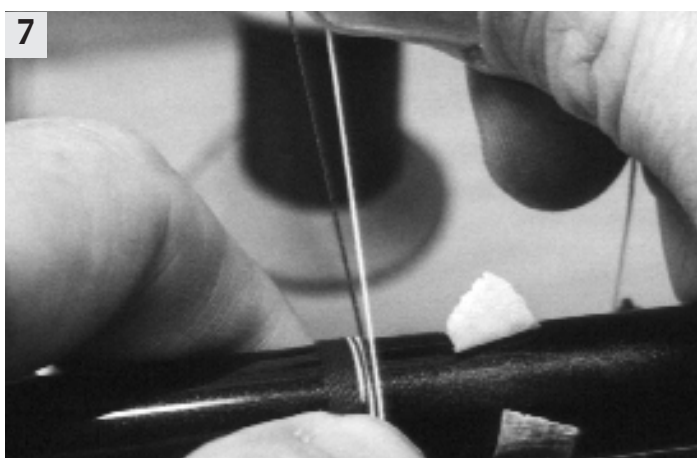
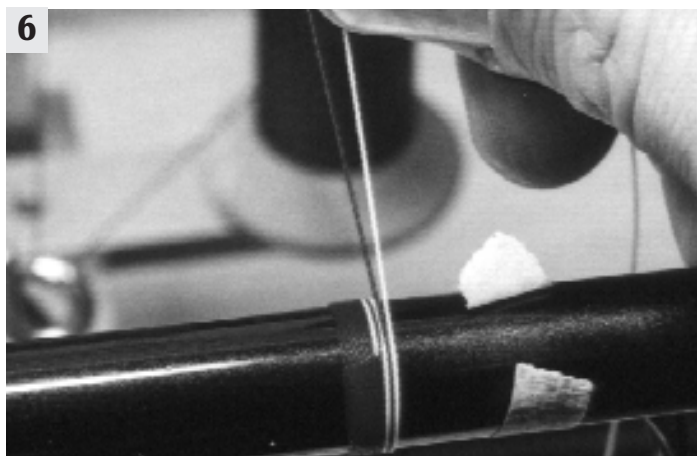
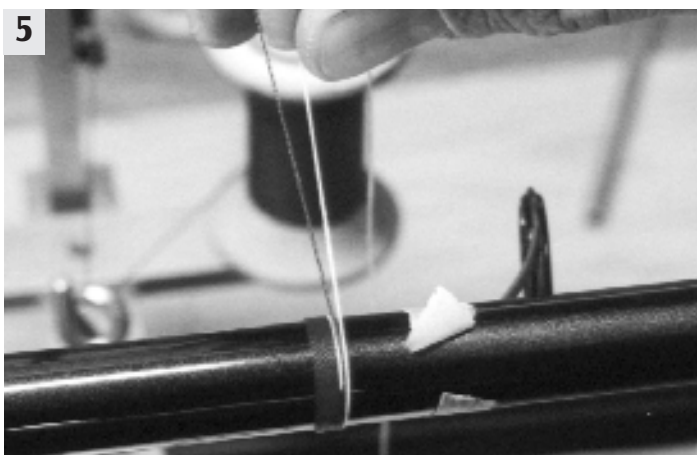
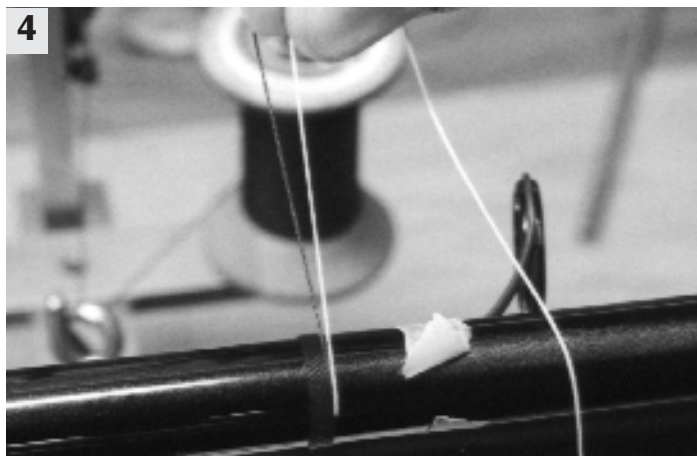
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Patience!

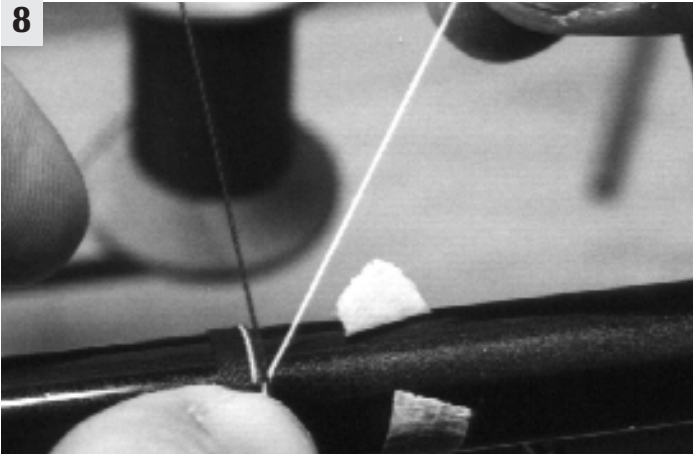
While neither of these thread techniques is particularly hard to do, both will require some amount of practice and repetition before you can expect to perform them quickly and cleanly.

The method shown for making thread inlays will exhibit a stopping and starting point if you are not careful to begin and end your inlay at precisely the same point on the blank. The thread should also be firmly packed against itself. Properly done, the "break" cannot be easily discerned by the naked eye.

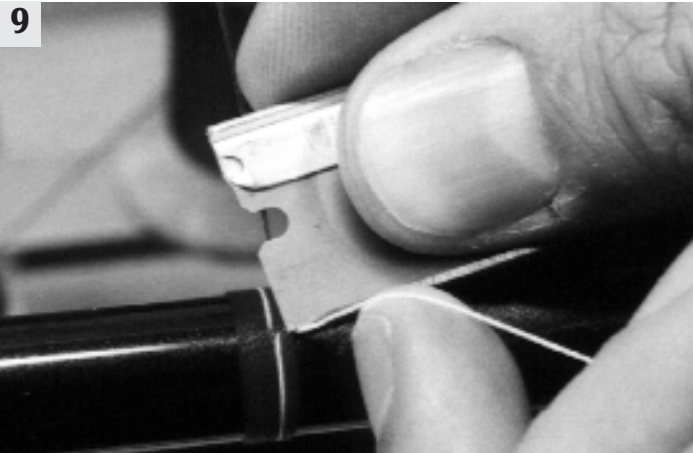
The method shown for making narrow trim bands is, in effect, nothing more than a common nail knot! While easy to make, it does require a certain amount of tension for the threads to stay put. Do not be discouraged if a few fly apart at the outset. Practice makes perfect!



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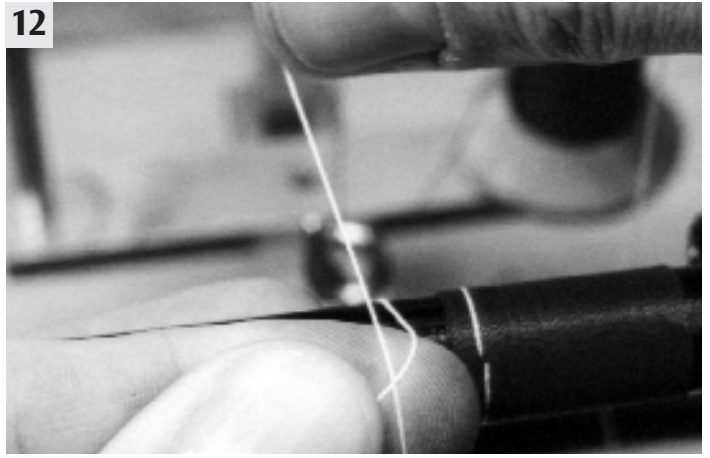
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Now unwind one inlay revolution, while leaving the guide wrapping thread where it is, and place the inlay thread underneath and to the right of the guide wrapping thread (8). Allow the oncoming wrapping thread to relax and pin the inlay thread to the blank. At this point the inlay thread should remain under the guide wrapping thread, which has secured it in place.

Now continue wrapping, making your guide wrap in the usual manner. The guide wrapping thread will continue to naturally wind over the free end of the inlay thread and ensure it will stay put. After about 3 turns or revolutions, cut the free end of the inlay thread (9) and continue with your wrap. You do not need to cut the inlay thread extremely close to the last guide wrapping thread as you will wrap over it as you continue with your guide wrap. Do not, however, make it abnormally long as a lump may appear under your wrap.

At this point our single thread inlay is complete within our guide wrap (10).

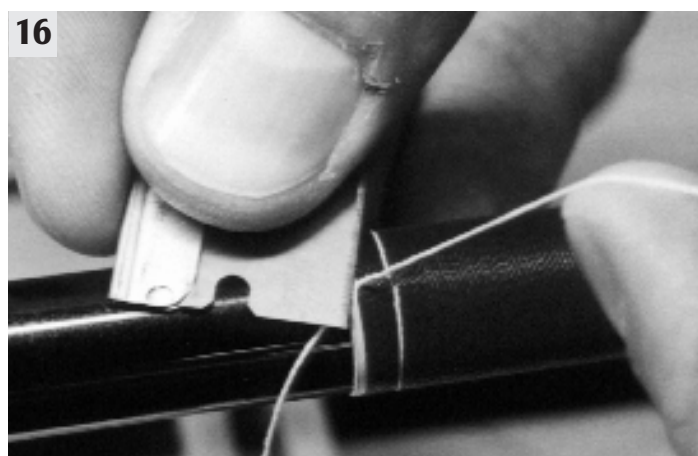
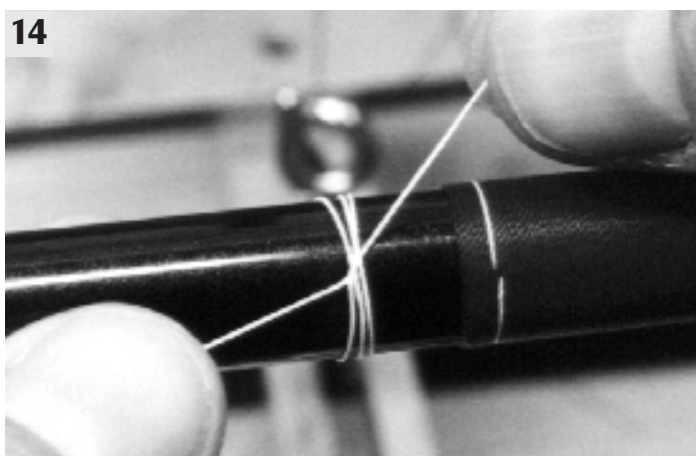
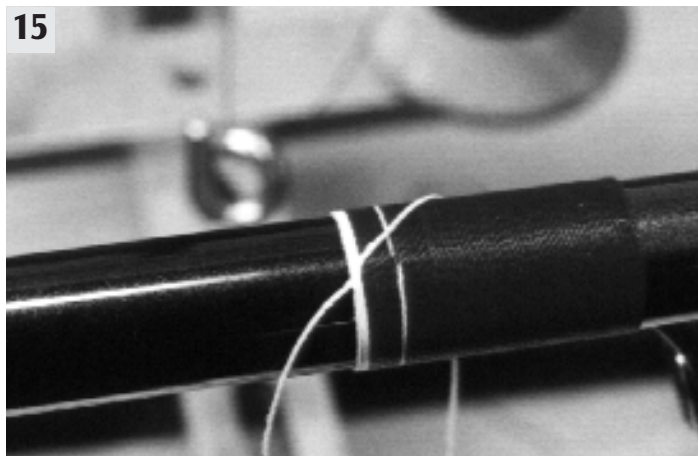
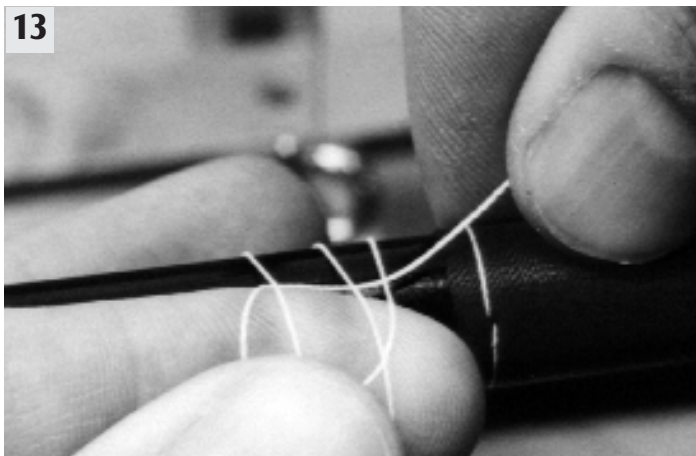
Adding A Narrow Trim

Trim bands or tags are normally more attractive when done in a narrow fashion. The ability to make such narrow bands will lend a much more elegant and expensive look to your rod than if you were to use overly wide bands.

*These instructions are made for a right handed person and will apply whether you are making trim bands to the right or left of your guide wrap. If you are left handed, you may wish to reverse the directions.

Now let's dress the wrap up even more by adding a narrow, 3-thread width trim wrap. Place an index finger along the rod blank, fingernail side against the blank. Pinch a short section of thread, just a few inches long, to your left index finger with your left thumb (11).

Wrap the section of thread around your left index finger 3 times and then run the free end back through the "tunnel" created by the 3 revolutions you just made (12-13). Very carefully slip your index finger out from under the thread revolutions while simultaneously grasping and gently tightening the wrap by pulling on both free ends



(14). Pay particular attention to how the thread draws up as you slip your index finger out of the wrap and apply pressure to each end. If you notice any of the strands overlapping anywhere other than in the very center, now is the time to straighten them.

Once the wrap has closed down on the blank, pull the ends snugly and let the thread stretch create enough tension to hold itself in place.

Use a thumbnail or square-edged tool to push the wrap up against the main guide wrap (15). Grasp the free ends once more and pull again, making sure you have created a bit of tension on the wrap.

Cut the free end next to the wrap first, cutting very close but being careful not to nick the main guide wrap (16). Then, cut straight down onto the other free end making sure to cut precisely next to the new trim wrap (17). If you are using a very sharp razor blade, the thread will cut cleanly without your having to press hard against the blank.

The finished narrow trim wrap (18). You can also do this nearly as easily with just 2, or up to about 4 revolutions. Be warned that it does require some practice, but once mastered, can be done in mere seconds. The result is a nice, neat, classy trim wrap and thread inlay. Compare it to any old standard, dull, basic guide wrap and surely you'll agree the few extra seconds required are more than worth the extra time! ✍️

