

End Trim

A nice finish look can be created by using a contrasting color for end trim. The color usually looks best if the trim contrasts with both the main wrap thread and the blank color. Again, fat trim bands usually don't look as professional as thin crisp ones but this is the personal preference theme again. The matte gray blank used in this example usually looks best with white, yellow, silver, gold etc., depending on wrap color.

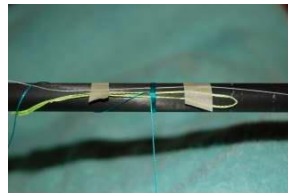
There are lots of ways to create end trim. I'll cover 2.

End trim using a fixed tie-off loop.

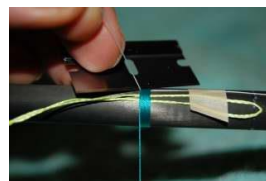
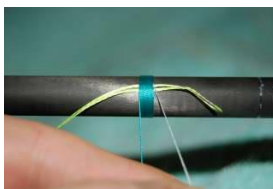
This method allows you to create very thin, even 1-turn trim bands but requires some set-up before starting the main wrap so you have to think ahead a bit.

Wrapping right to left in this example.

Tape a tie-off loop and the trim thread side-by-side on the blank. And start the main wrap as shown.



Begin wrapping the trim band and put on the number of turns you want for the trim. Untape the tie-off loop and pull through the tag end under the main wrap. Trim the ends and continue the main wrap.



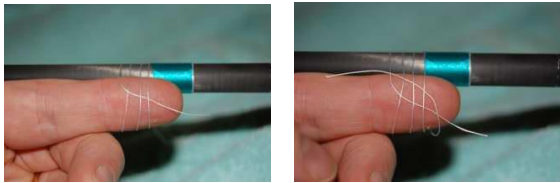
Nail Knot End Trim

This is a good method to use if you decide to put on end trim after the main wraps have been done. It's a little trickier but with a little practice you can create nice looking trim bands with this method and it's quick. One downfall is that you need 3 turns (sometimes you can get away with 2 turns) with regular thread and at least 3-4 turns with metallic threads to hold the knot. If you fly fish, the nail knot will be familiar already. Your finger acts as the "nail".

Use a loose length of thread about 18-24 inches to do this wrap.

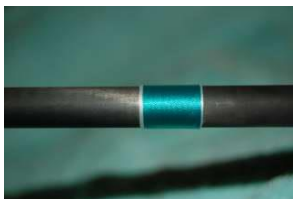
Lay the tag end over your left index finger and take 3-4 turns around the blank and your finger as shown. On the last turn, insert the other end under the wrap in the opposite direction from the other end of the trim thread. Don't wrap too tightly or you will have trouble pulling out your finger.

Don't worry about starting the trim too close to the main wrap. We'll slide it toward the main wrap to snug it before it is trimmed.



Hold the wrap against the blank with your right index finger. Grab the tag end to the right with your thumb and second finger. Pull out your left index finger from the wrap and grab the left tag end. Tighten both tag ends at the same time. The wraps will want to cross over each other and usually this isn't a huge deal if you burnish after. But if you get good at this, you can tighten the knot without crossovers.

Pull both tag ends tightly and trim with the razor blade. Once the tag ends are cut leave it alone. If you need to pack the trim or slide it closer to the main wrap, do this before you cut the ends. These come loose easily since there is little thread capture to hold the knot.



If you have trouble with the band slipping after it's done, then you can carefully apply a drop of color preserver to the crossover knot so it holds. This is the most helpful method when using metallics for trim.

Alternate nail knot method.

If you have trouble with using your finger for the nail, you can tape a small drink straw to the blank and then execute the wrap in the same steps above. I tie flies so I'm used to using both hands to wrap, but some people find this easier. It's also a little easier to prevent crossovers when tightening.