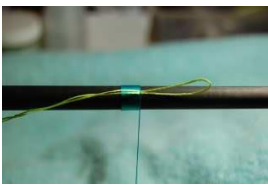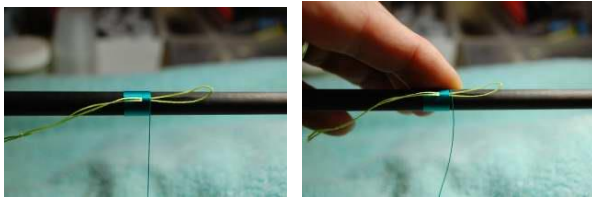Finishing a wrap.

A clean finish is as important as a clean start. Always plan your wrap finish at least 5 turns before the end of the wrap.

Insert the tie-off loop under the main wrap thread as shown. I'm wrapping left to right in this example. Make sure the loop is pointing in the direction you are wrapping. Don't laugh, you'll do this at some point and have a hard time pulling the knot through your wrap, or just undoing it and restarting the finish part of the wrap because you put the loop in backwards.

Continue at least 5 turns. Hold the back of the blank with your left index finger, snip the main wrap and insert the tag end through the tie-off loop.

Pull the tag end through the wrap quickly, in one fast motion. Don't leave the tag end too long for the finish, just long enough to grab and hold well.
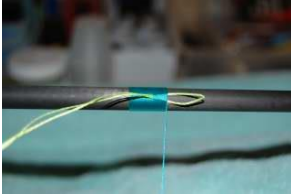
Pull up and angle the thread toward the end of the wrap. Hold the razor blade at 90 degrees to the tag end and bring the tag end to the blade. Do not saw the tag end with the razor. Please use both hands for this. I only used one in the picture below to show the correct blade and thread angle.
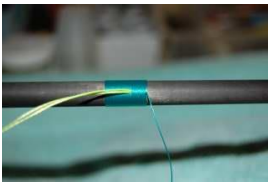

If done well, the tag end will sort of suck back under the main wrap and you just need to pack and burnish a bit to finish. If a small bit of the tag end shows outside the wrap, use the sharp end of the burnishing tool, or a dull bodkin. Rub over the wrap in the direction of the wrap and the end will get smoothed under the main wrap.

Another method that ensures you don't have any tag end exposure is a "hidden tie". This requires planning the end a little sooner than 5 turns, maybe 10 turns but it works well.

Proceed as above, except put about 10 turns over the tie-off loop as shown.

Hold and snip the main wrap thread and insert through the tie off loop. Pull the loop to the edge of the wrap **but do not pull it through.**

The tag end will be captured as shown above. Cut the tag end close to the loop as shown in the finish example above. Pull the loop through the wrap quickly as above. The tag end will be captured under the main wrap but isn't long enough to stick out where the loop exits. This creates a very clean finish.