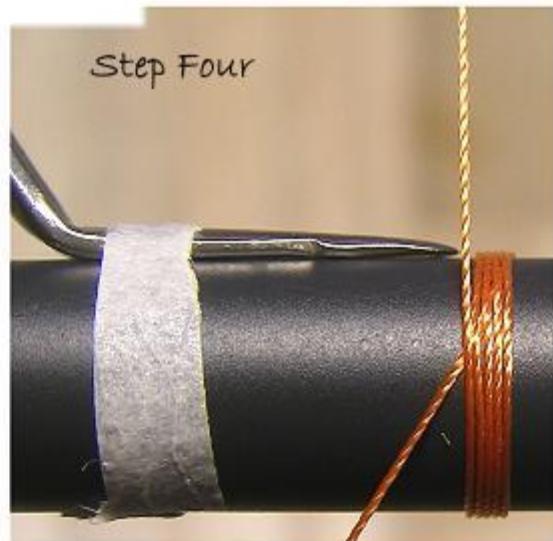
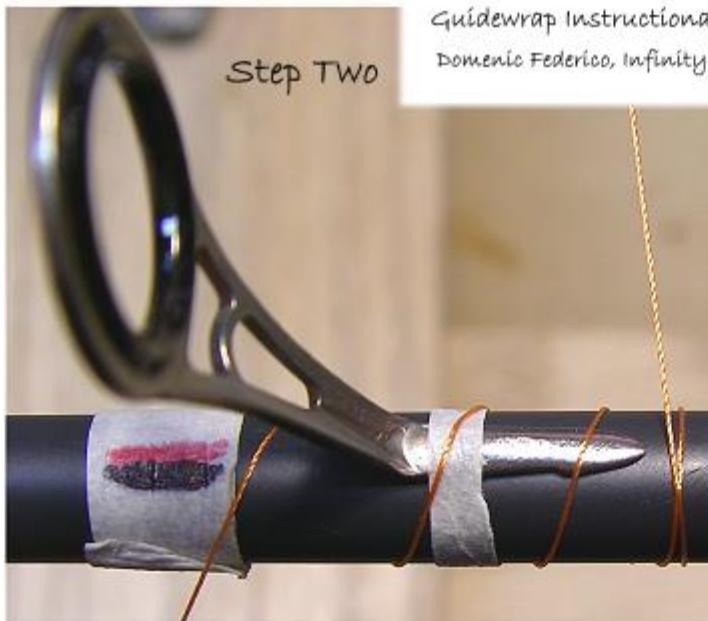


Some may wonder, as a rodbuilder, with a rodbuilding business, why I would want to put up a instructional on how to build rods for the public to see?!

There is a simple answer... I'd rather you knew how to properly build a rod than go about it wrong. In the end, you'll waste a ton of time and produce a product that you're not happy with in both form and function. Dare I say a product that is outclassed by a factory rod? (No, I don't dare! LOL!) And, maybe after seeing the steps that are taken by an experienced craftsman, you'll realize why professional, handcrafted, custom rod builders command the build investments that we do.

(note: these are the steps I use to wrap single color guides. You may wish to experiment to find those steps that accomplish the same, but are uniquely yours)

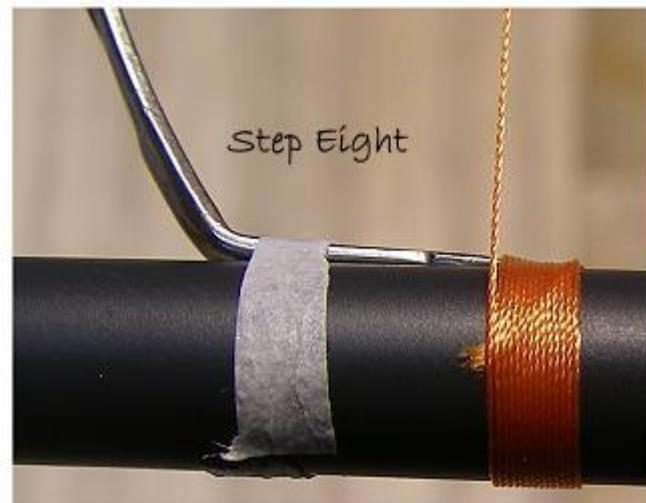
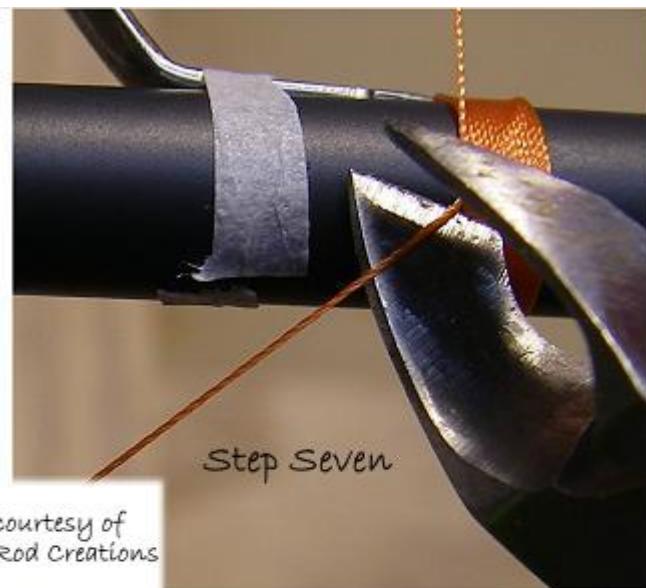


(step one) With the blank wiped clean off all contaminants, secure the properly prepped and shaped guide foot to the blank. Spiral the thread from the back to the front of the guide foot. These thread windings will be under the wraps we apply when we reverse the direction in the next step.

(step two) Now the crossover to lock the threads in. The position of the crossover point is between about 5-8 thread wraps out from the tip of the ramp on the head of the foot and is in line with the foot so as to not distract from the aesthetics of what you eventually see on the top side when fishing.

(step three) Here I continue the locking overwraps to secure the thread.

(step four) I have five wraps ontop and I am ready to do a little packing and tightening of the wrap I've created thus far.



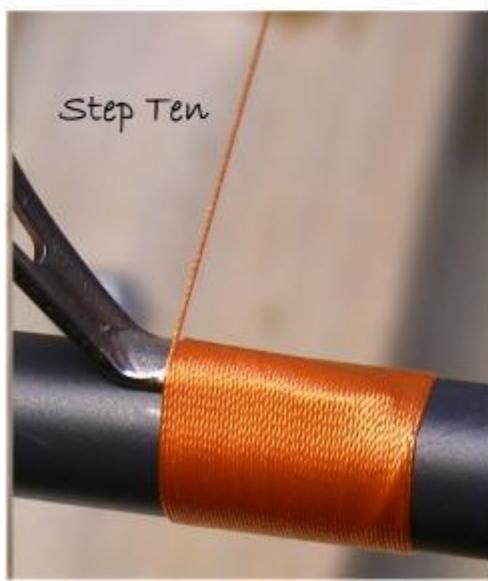
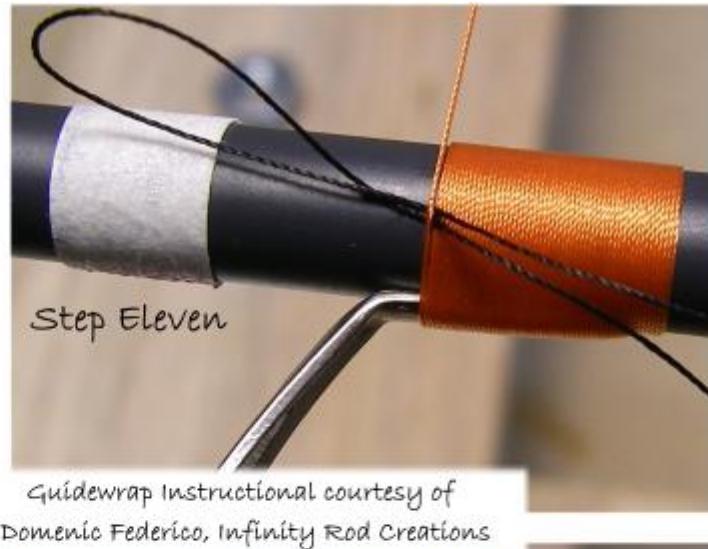
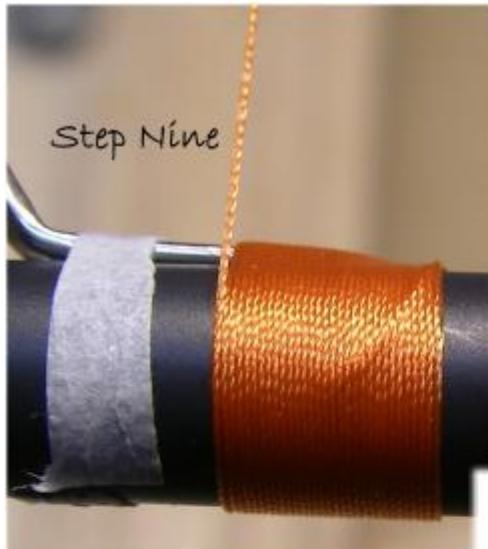
Guidewrap instructional courtesy of
Domenic Federico, Infinity Rod Creations

(step five) Using a knitting needle I pack the threads while pulling slight tension on the tag end dangling out from underneath the overwraps.

(step six) I apply a few more wraps to really secure the tag end before cutting.

(step seven) Using cuticle nippers, I trim the tag end off and discard the thread.

(step eight) Tag end gone and the thread is beginning to ramp up the guide foot.



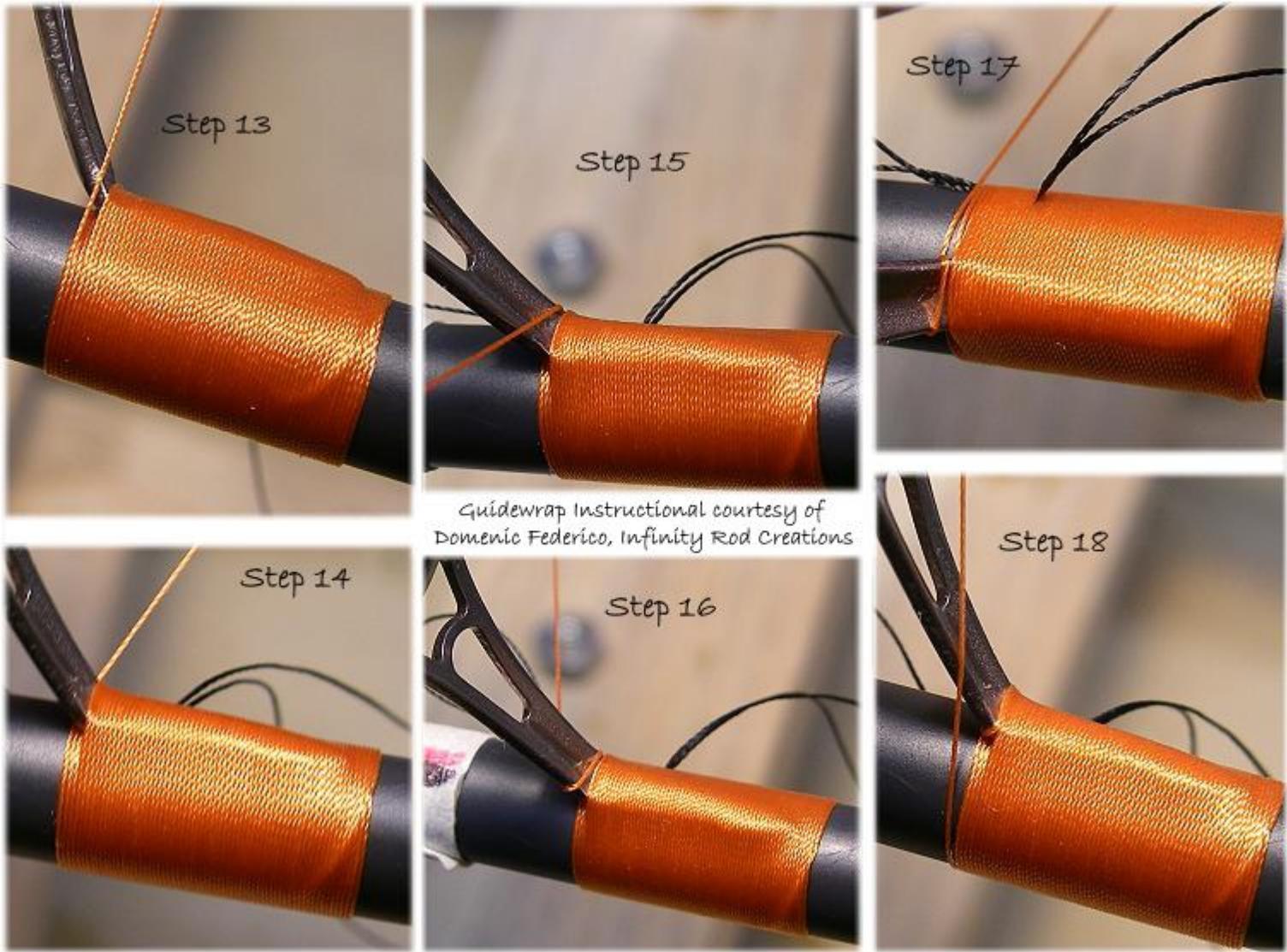
(step nine) I'm continuing the wraps, packing with the knitting needle as needed, up the guide foot.

(step ten) At this point, I've got enough wraps securing the guidefoot to the blank that I don't need the masking tape anymore. It has been removed.

(step eleven) Time to insert the pull loop that will secure the final leg of the wraps upon completion. I tend to do this about 8-10 wraps of the thread out so as to make sure the tag end gets locked down well.

(step twelve) Ok, at this point I've run out of winding room on the guide foot. You could stop here, but I don't. Many

of us use Rich Forhan's Locking Wrap to be extra sure that the guides stay put for many years to come. It takes a little more learning, a little more time, and a little more finesse....but you should expect nothing less. Learn this technique and your one step further away from "amateur" status. LOL! Ok, there are a ton more steps to becoming professional, but I need to coach your ego, right?!



(step 13) This wrap involves two windings (like a normal lock wrap would require) behind the guide foot.

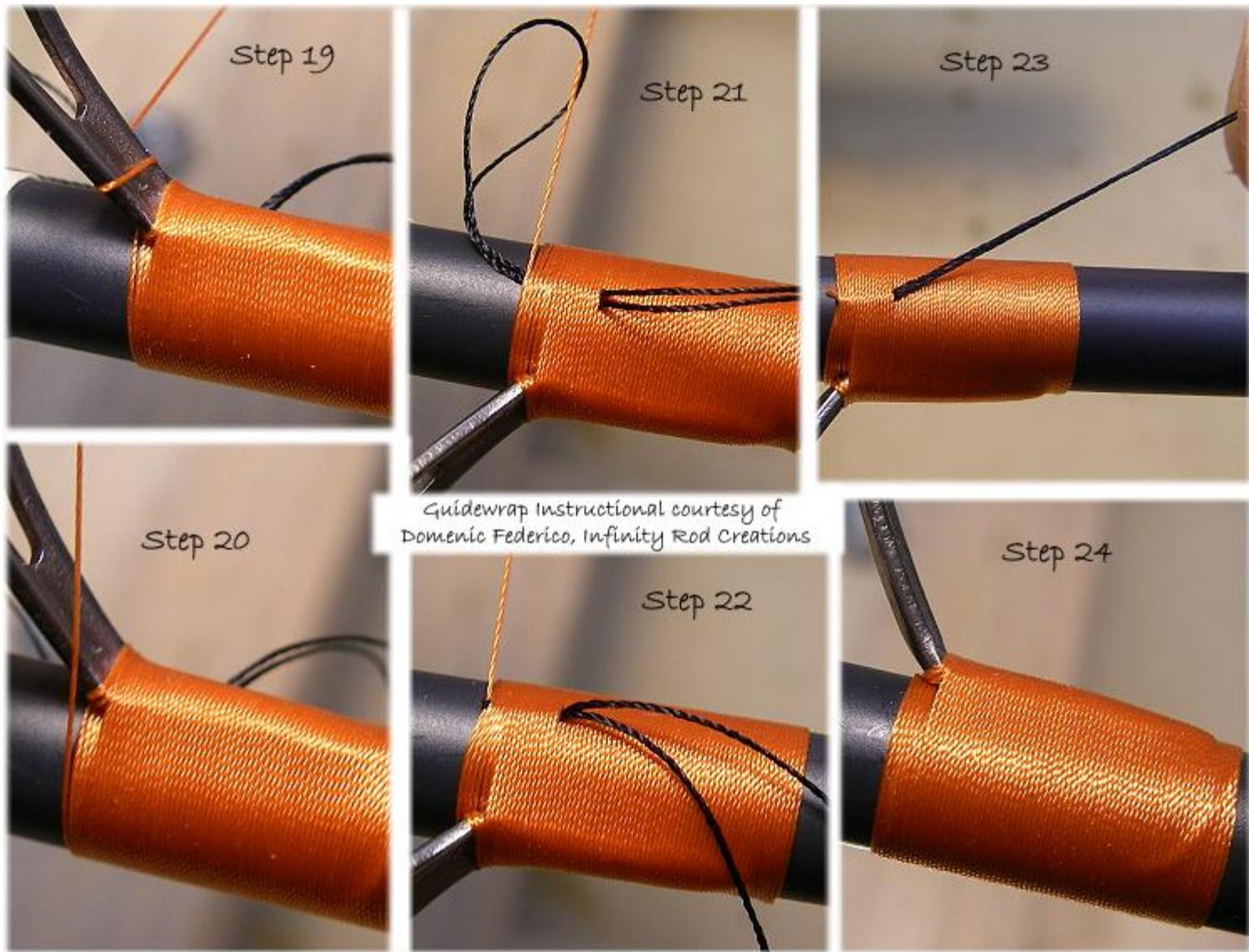
(step 14) Then the fun begins! The third time around, the thread goes underneath and behind the guide foot and then wraps on top...

(step 15) Notice the thread is wrapping around the guidefoot at this step and will transition back underneath...

(step 16) Now underneath and around the guidefoot it will travel around the blank as you normally would wrap. Cross sectioned the wrap looks like a figure eight around the blank and around the guide foot.

(step 17) You can now see the thread is headed in the same direction of our usual wraps and will come back around...

(step 18) We've travel 360 at this point.



(step 19 & 20) We're going to do this figure eight wrap one more time.

(step 20.5) NOT SHOWN, do two more wraps directly on the blank to bookend the forhan wraps then proceed to step 21

(step 21) Now, carefully cut the thread from the spool and keep tension. Insert it through your pull through loop and prepare to secure the tag end.

(step 22) Keeping tension inline with your wraps, pull the tag loop until is tight and just about entering under the last thread wrap.

(step 23) Cut the tag end about a 1 -2 mm short of the pull through loop and last thread wrap. (note, in this picture, I would have favored a slightly longer tag end. I cut it closer than usual)

(step 24) The tag end has been pulled through. Using your packing tool make sure to move the thread windings around to cover the tag end and eliminate any exposed frazzled ends.



In the photos above, you can see how the threads should appear when you've properly packed and arranged them. Also, you get a sense of the how the Rich Forhan Locking Wrap looks when properly executed.

I apologize that I didn't take photos of the tag end when packed underneath. It looks identical to the tag end hidden

under the overwraps at the beginning of the guidewraps (pictured).

Hope you enjoyed this instructional! Next up will be trimbands and decorative guide wrapping. Since I'm merely photographing the step by step process of the Spring Fed Float Rod III - Dan Craft Edition's construction that I'm building for myself, I've got alot to share with you over the next week.

Dj

"My drifts are so distant, I dial a 1 + (area code) when setting the hook!"

Handcrafted Float, Fly, Switch and Spey Fishing Rods

<http://www.infinityrodcreations.com>

