

“Almost Free” Rod Wrapping Jig



When building your first rod there is no need to buy a commercially offered Rod Wrapping Jig. You can make a homemade jig from a medium sized corrugated cardboard box and other items found around the house and/or a “dollar discount” store. This keeps your investment at little or no cost.

If you find you would like to continue building your own rods, you can then invest in a more permanent setup, whether it is a purchased commercial jig or one you build yourself.

Materials List



Corrugated Cardboard Box
(not the single-layer “shoebox-type” cardboard)



3 Suction Hooks, about 1.5” diameter
(local dollar store has a 6-pack for \$1.25)



Elastic Hair Bands
(or something similar)

Tools List



Tape Measure & Ruler



Utility Knife and/or Multi-Use Scissors



Fine Point Marker and Pen



Hot Melt Glue Gun & Glue Sticks
(if you don’t have, they are at the dollar stores)

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Step 1



Cut one of the long side panels out completely.
Use the utility knife or the scissors for this action.

⚠ If using the knife, use gloves and position yourself out of harm's way in the case of a slip!

Using the hot melt glue, fasten both remaining minor flaps to the bottom of the box. Apply the hot melt glue in a wavy pattern to the underside of the minor flaps and press them in place.

Step 2



Mark the remaining 3 sides at 6" from the bottom up. Cut all three sides at this mark, leaving a three-sided box that is 6" in height.

Step 3



Measure and mark 4" along the top of each short side from the open front of the box. Measure and mark 0.5" on each side of these 4" marks. Measure and mark 1" straight down from each 4" mark. Draw a diagonal from each 0.5" mark to the 1" mark, forming inverted triangles on each side.
Use the utility knife or the scissors to cut out the triangle on each side.

Step 4



Take a fishing rod section and stick it through two of the elastic hair bands. Place the rod section across the length of the box into the two "V's".
Move one of the hair bands to one side of the box and hook one of the suction hooks on it. Pull the suction hook down with *very slight* tension and trace the circumference of it with the pen. Repeat the process on the other side. Set the rod section aside.

Find the centre of the back panel and measure down 3.5" from the top at that point and mark it. Centre a suction hook on that mark and trace its circumference.

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Step 5



Remove the hook from one of the suction hooks and reinstall it backwards, so the hook faces inward (see top image left).

Fill the suction cup with hot melt glue and quickly position it on the 3.5” target on the back panel with the hook oriented sideways.



The two remaining suction hooks, with the hooks left in the “normal” orientation can be fastened with the hot melt glue to each of the side panel targets, positioned so the hooks are upside down.

Step 7

You will need a small bowl, teacup or similar vessel (thread holder) and a medium sized book (tension device) to complete the project.



Congratulations, your “Almost Free” Rod Wrapping Jig is completed!

Note:

You should make another one using a smaller box and only the hooks on the side panels below the “V”s”.

Otherwise, use all the same measurements.

This will be used as an “extension” to the main jig to steady the rod blank when wrapping closer to the tip or butt.