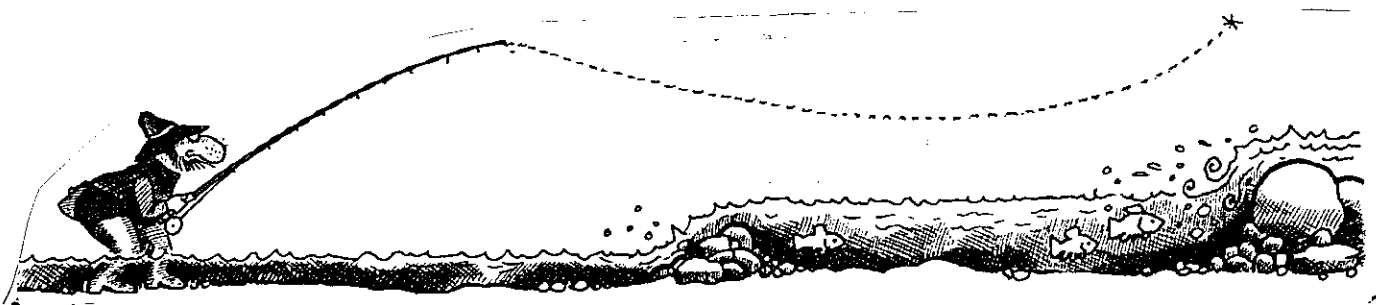


# **Fly Casting Problems**

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## Casting Problems and their Solution

HVAC

*A section where casters and their tutors can gain information.*

**Q1. When I cast, my fly line hits the ground behind me.**

**A** Start your back cast with your rod tip near the water/ground. Make your back cast go high. Try to make your rod stop at the vertical, on the back cast. Pause, then forward cast.

**Q2 Sometimes when I do a forward cast my line lands in a heap in front of the rod.**

**A** On the back cast make your cast go high, and make your thumb stop at the vertical. On your forward cast start slowly, accelerate to a stop at 10.00 o'clock, then let the rod go down to 9.00 o'clock.

A good forward cast is dependent on a good back cast. Be careful not to release any line held by the line-hand, before you stop the rod

Hint: that heap of line in front of your rod can be straightened with a Roll Cast. Then commence your back cast.

**Q3 My fly line is very wiggly when it lands on the water. How can I make it straight?**

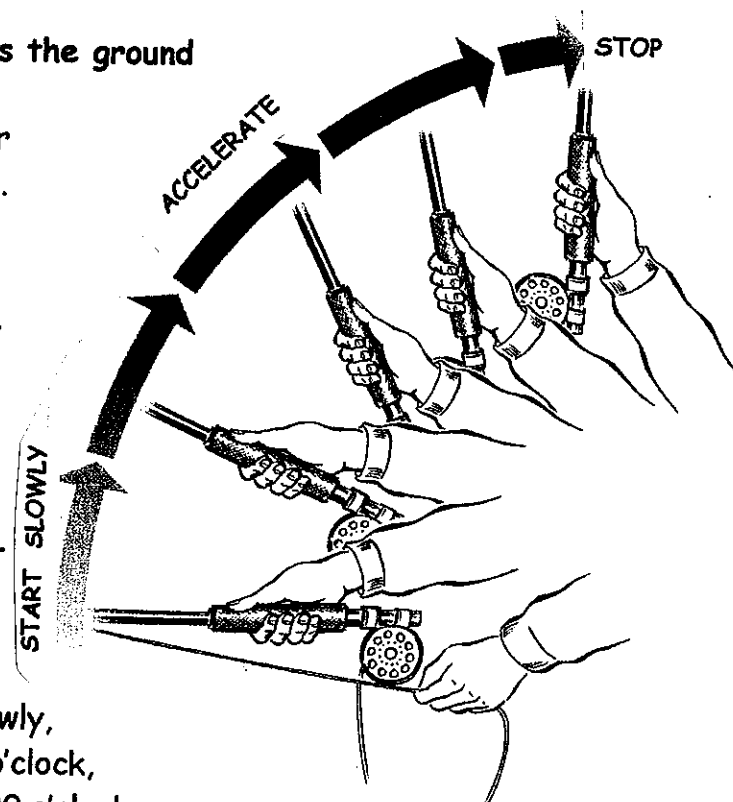
**A** On your forward cast start slowly, then accelerate to a sharp stop at 10.00 o'clock.

During your final forward cast shoot about 1m of line.

**Q4 During a back cast my rod goes back beyond the vertical.**

**A** Try to keep the butt of your rod against the lower part of your forearm. If this is difficult use a Velcro strap, or put the butt end of the rod up the sleeve of your jacket. (But only briefly).

When you stop your rod on the back cast, check to see if your thumb, which stops the rod, is vertical.



**Q5** When casting at a target the "fly" is often off-target.

**A** There are several things to try:

- (a) Practise casting with your rod in a vertical plane.
- (b) Stand with shoulders facing the target.
- (c) Keep your elbow near your side.
- (d) Line up the following during your forward cast: your casting eye, the thumb of your casting-hand, and the target.
- (e) Then practise, practise, practise!

Hint: when practising on grass, use a target (use a peg or stick in the ground)

**Q6** Sometimes on the back cast my line makes a "crack" sound.

**A** On your back cast you must pause until your line is "almost straight" before you start the forward cast. To assist you to do this, turn your body so that you can easily watch your line going back, and when it's almost straight then do your forward cast.  
(Video: "letsflyfish.com" >Fly casting>Overhead cast video)

**Q7** When I am casting a longer line, say 13m or more, my line sometimes collides with the rod tip. How can I avoid this?

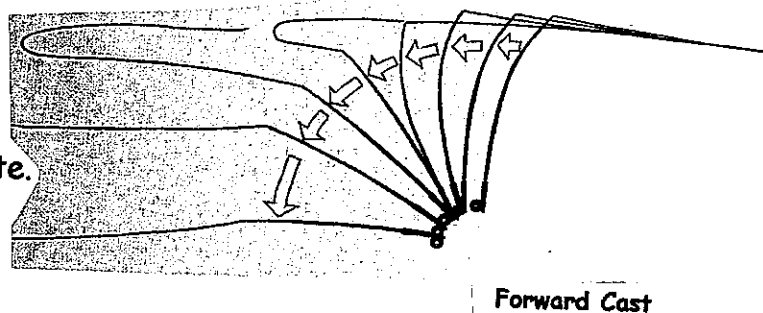
- A**
- (a) You can further accelerate your line by using a haul on the back cast.
  - (b) You can use a plane other than the vertical plane, but be careful to keep both the back cast and the forward in that plane.

**Q8** Why do I need to use a tight casting loop?

**A** Casting a tight loop will:

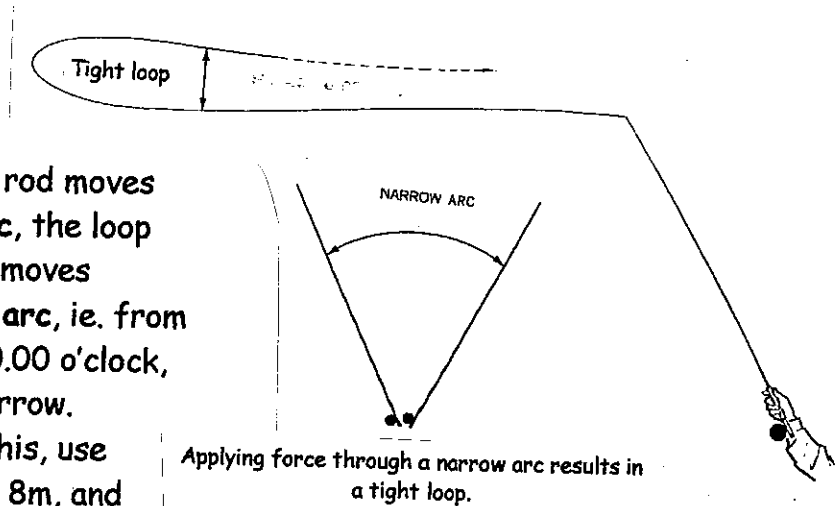
- (a) Help you to cast further.
- (b) Help you to be more accurate.

The depth of a tight loop is less than 60cm.



**Q9** When I am false casting I can see the loop in the line as the line is going forward, but it appears to be a deep loop. What can I do to form a narrow loop?

**A** The depth of the loop is controlled by the rod



movement. If the rod moves through a **wide arc**, the loop will be deep. If it moves through a **narrow arc**, ie. from 12.00 o'clock to 10.00 o'clock, the loop will be narrow. When practising this, use a short line, about 8m, and try speeding up your line-speed.

Applying force through a narrow arc results in a tight loop.

**Q10** When I try casting into the wind my line and leader collapse just in front of the rod. What should I do?

- A** Try the following, one at a time:
- (a) Cast a high back cast, but stop it at 11.00 o'clock, and a low forward cast to stop at 9.00 o'clock.
  - (b) Try to cast a tight loop.
  - (c) The forward cast should be short and sharp.
  - (d) Aim for more line speed.
  - (e) Change to a heavier line.
  - (f) Use a shorter leader than usual.

**Q11** When I extend the line out front of me, which looks good, the line will either hit the ground/water behind me, or collapse in a mess in front.

- A** You have too much line in the air. Strip in line until the black mark on your line is near the rod tip. Then **false cast** a few times and then **shoot line** to a comfortable distance. [Your black(or other suitable colour) mark should be made with a permanent marker felt pen, and placed 8m back from the tip of the line. The mark needs to be 15-20cm in length.]

**Q12** When I try to "shoot line", the line does not travel far.

**A** Start your forward cast slowly, then accelerate increasingly to maximum power at the 10.00 o'clock position, then STOP. As you STOP, release the line from the line-hand. Then lower the rod to the horizontal.  
Keep your line well cleaned with "line dressing" as this helps the line to shoot through the line rings.

**Q13** When I do a Roll Cast my line does not go far, and sometimes it lands in a heap on the water. What should I do?

- A** Concentrate on your "forward cast":
- 1 Start slowly, then apply power with a snap, forward and upward, toward 10.00 o'clock.
  - 2 Stop sharply. Then lower your rod to the horizontal.
  - 3 Always give yourself a target to aim at.
  - 4 Practise often.

Visit the web site: [www.joanwulff.rollcasting](http://www.joanwulff.rollcasting)

