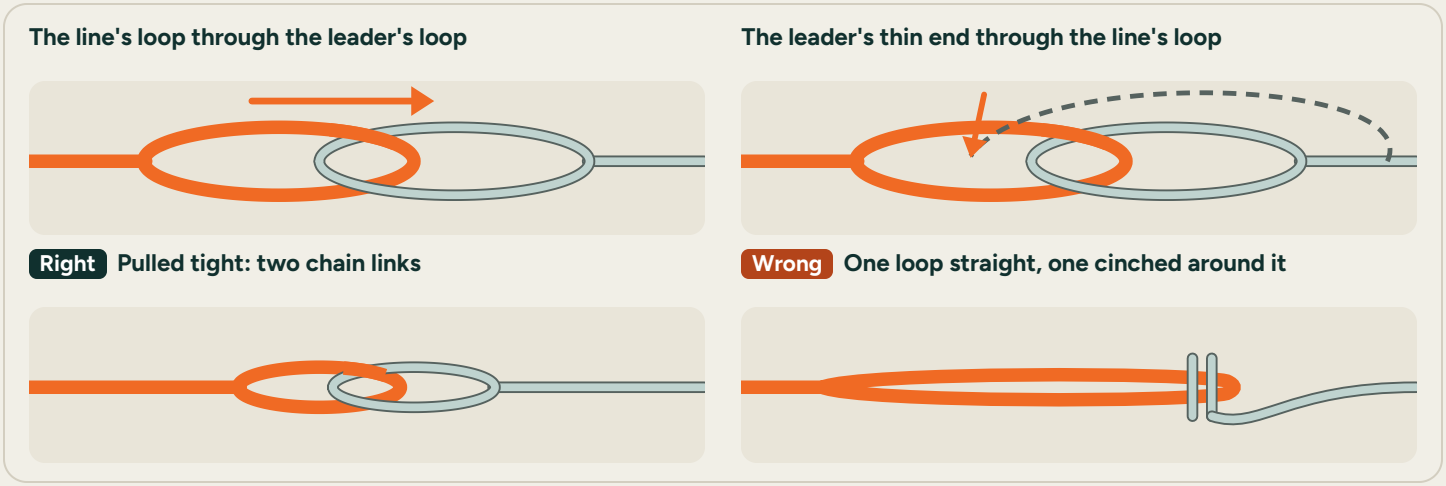
SET UP A FLY ROD

Join the rod's sections with the rings in one row and fix the reel in the reel seat. Thread the fly line through every ring with its end folded double. Then loop the leader to the fly line, tie on tippet and tie on the fly.



Step 4, loop the leader to the fly line. Orange: fly line. Pale: leader. Drawn far thicker than real line.

SIX STEPS

1	**Join the sections**	Line up the rings, then push the pieces straight together until snug. Sight along the rod: every ring in one row.
2	**Mount the reel**	Reel foot into the reel seat; tighten the locking ring by hand until the reel does not wiggle. Which hand winds the reel is your choice: decide before the line goes on.
3	**String the line**	Pull off a little more than the rod's length of line, plus the leader if it is on. Fold it double near the end and push the fold through the stripping guide and every ring up to the tip.
4	**Loop on the leader**	Line's loop through the leader's loop, then the leader's thin end through the line's loop. Pull tight: two chain links.
5	**Tie on tippet and fly**	About an arm's length of 5X tippet on a 4X leader with a surgeon's knot, then the fly with an improved clinch knot: 5 to 7 wraps, wet it, pull tight, trim.
6	**Pull out some line**	Have some fly line, not just the leader, out past the tip before you cast: the rod casts the weight of the line.

CHECK BEFORE YOU CAST

- [ ] Every ring in one row, joints snug
- [ ] Reel tight in the seat
- [ ] Line through every ring, not wrapped around the rod
- [ ] Loops sit like chain links, not a noose
- [ ] Barb flattened if your water requires barbless hooks

Method, not findings. These steps are how anglers rig a rod. No study in Fly Findr's research tested how to join a rod, which hand to reel with, or how to thread the line.