

SPECIAL
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The Loop

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Special Issue:
2024 FFI FLY CASTING DEFINITIONS



Cover photo: Tomonori (Bill) Higashi MCI, THMCI; Photo by Masa Katsumata

Editorial

I am very excited about this special issue of The Loop. For the first time, a comprehensive set of definitions is provided for both single hand and two hand casting. In fact, there is no distinction between casting with single hand or two hand rods because casts are casts and not dependent on the number of hands on the rod. Given the importance of the new definitions, they are the sole content of this issue. I am especially appreciative of the work of the Definitions Team that made the new set of definitions possible.

Jim Wigington - Editor-in-Chief

Foreword

Loop Definitions Edition Spring 2024

The Casting Board of Governors appointed a Definitions Team in 2023 to review FFI's existing fly casting definition sets. The Team was asked to develop an updated and comprehensive document which provides a single set of fly casting definitions as a common language for use by casting instructors and others seriously interested in fly casting. Following the formation of the new Fly Casting Education Program (FCEP), the FCEP Leadership Team endorsed the objectives of the Definitions Team.

The Definitions Team consisted of a group with significant experience in casting and teaching with both single and two hand rods, conducting FFI examinations, and in mentoring candidates preparing for exams. The definitions development process took place over approximately one year and included the involvement and review by members of the Leadership Team. An external review by notable FFI members was then conducted, which further added valuable input. A final review by the the Leadership Team approved the final set of definitions.

The approved definitions replaced three separate definition documents, one set for single hand casting and two sets for two hand casting. A thorough review of these three documents highlighted a number of issues, including contradictions, errors, omissions, and ambiguities, which were addressed in the revision process. The new set of definitions makes no distinction between casting with single hand or two hand rods. Casts are casts and are not dependent on the number of hands on the rod.

Exams, study guides and other FFI documentation will be updated to reflect the revised definition set. The implementation process is underway and consists of a FFI documentation review to identify and then modify all affected documents. Planned completion and publication of these updates is early fall 2024, with a January 1, 2025 effective date for revised versions of all four exams. Preparation and mentoring for exams to be conducted after that date should use these new definitions.

In summary, we believe the new set of FFI definitions will prove to be helpful to FFI instructors and members alike, and we highly recommend their adoption. Nevertheless, there is no requirement for instructors to use these definitions in their teaching or discussions.

Definitions Team

FFI FLY CASTING DEFINITIONS

Introduction

These casting definitions are designed to help instructors and others with a serious interest in Fly Casting communicate more clearly with each other. They are not necessarily intended to be teaching terms, and we of course respect our colleagues' right to use terminology they consider suitable for their students. This single set of definitions covers both overhead and anchored casts with all fly rods.

The document is laid out in the following sections and is followed by an alphabetical index of terms linked to their definitions.

- Fly Casting
- Loops
- Fly Leg Shapes
- Fly Casting Movements
- Rod Movements During the Pause
- Casting Terms
- Casts and Techniques

We hope you find it helpful.

Fly Casting

- Using a flexible lever to move and unroll a weighted line to propel an artificial lure.

Loops

Loop

- The shape a fly line assumes as it overtakes the rod tip during a Fly Cast.

Fly Leg

- The moving section of fly line in a Loop from the fly to the start of the Loop Nose.

Rod Leg

- The moving or stationary section of fly line in a Loop from the rod tip to the end of the Loop Nose.

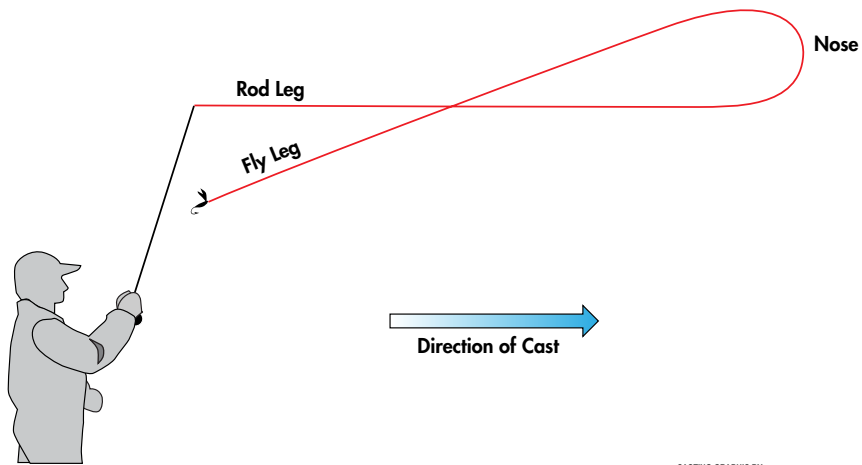
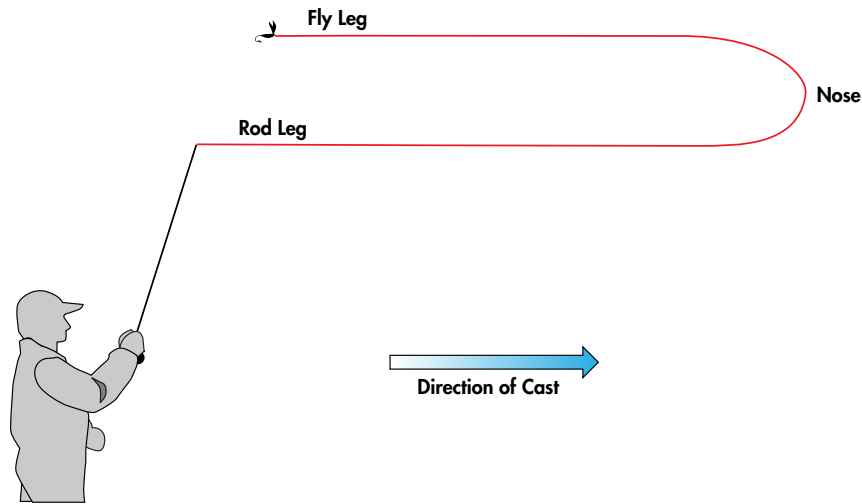
Loop Nose

- The curved section of fly line at the front of the Loop which is the transition between the Fly Leg and the Rod Leg.

Fly Leg Shapes

Straight Fly Leg

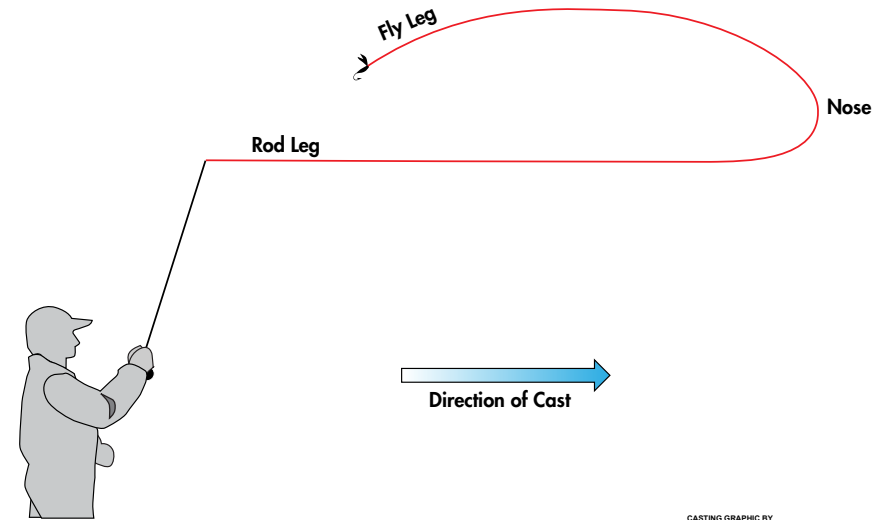
- A Fly Leg where the line and leader are relatively free from curvature from the Loop Nose to the fly.



CASTING GRAPHIC BY BINTORO CI & THIMCI

Convex Fly Leg

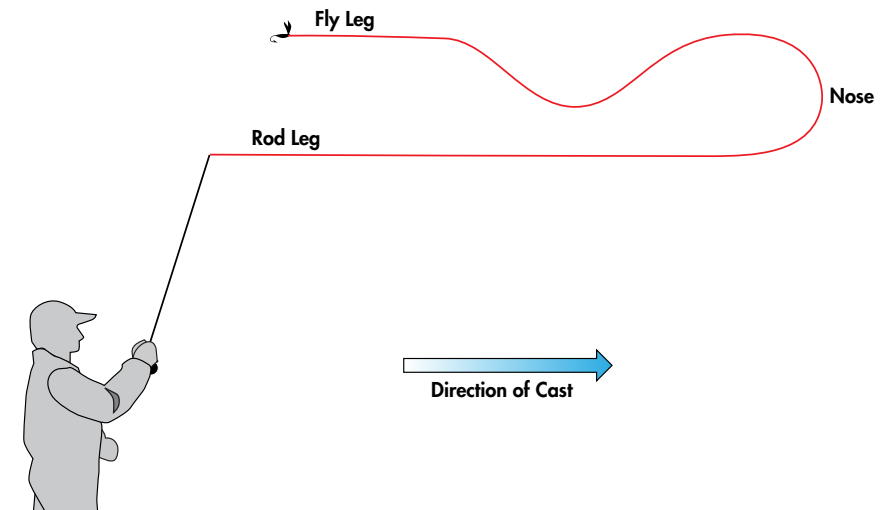
- A Fly Leg with a dome shaped configuration curving away from the Rod Leg.



CASTING GRAPHIC BY BINTORO CI & THIMCI

Concave Fly Leg

- A Fly Leg which is not Straight and dips toward the Rod Leg.

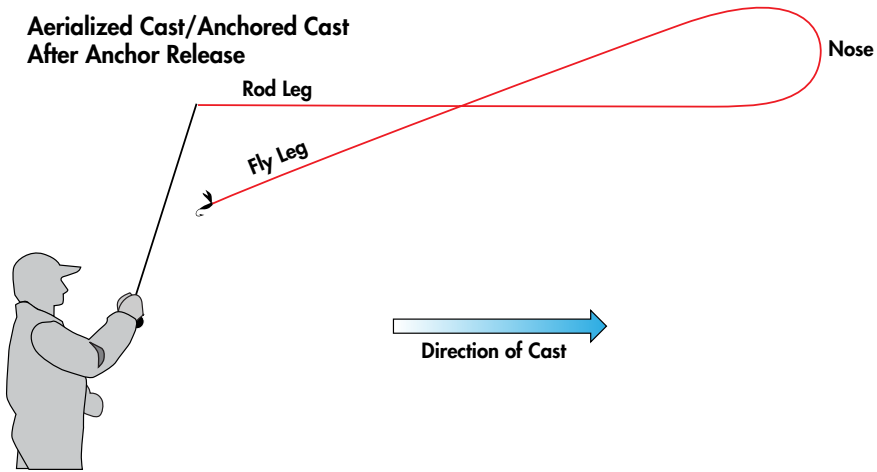


CASTING GRAPHIC BY BINTORO CI & THIMCI

Trailing Loop

- A Loop which has a Fly Leg which is not Concave, and crosses the Rod Leg.

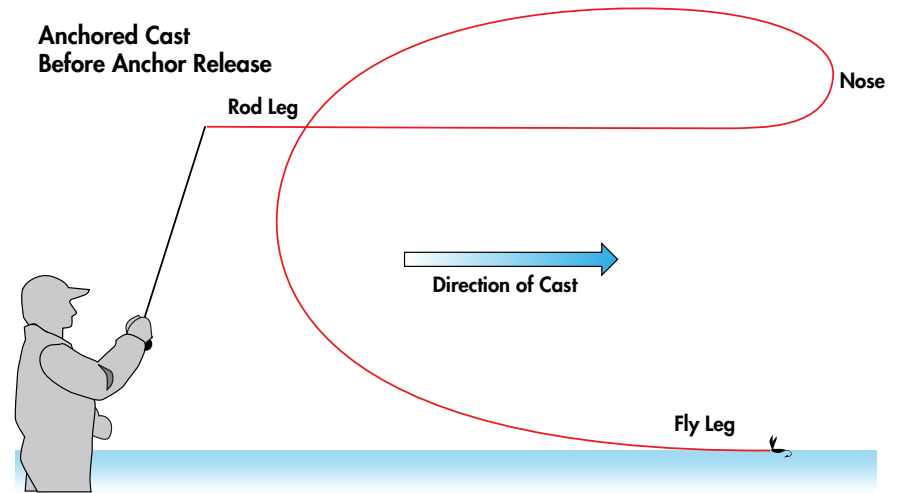
Aerialized Cast/Anchored Cast
After Anchor Release



Trailing Loop (continued)

- A Loop which has a Fly Leg which is not Concave, and crosses the Rod Leg.

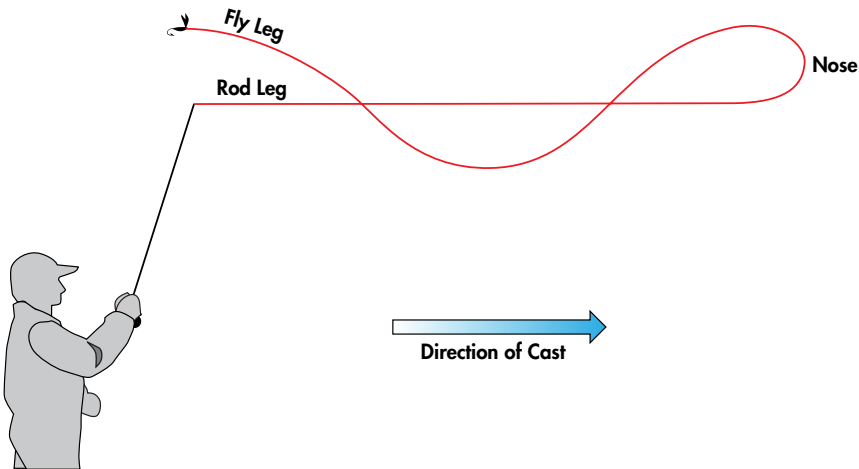
Anchored Cast
Before Anchor Release



CASTING GRAPHIC BY BINTORO CI & THMCI

Tailing Loop

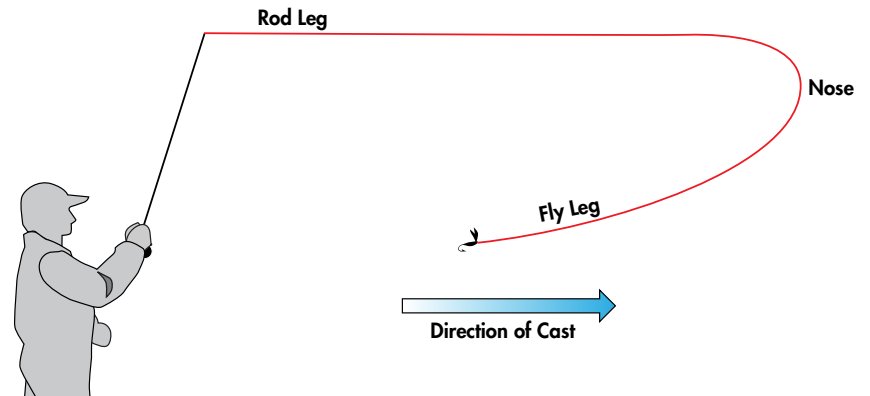
- A Loop with a Concave Fly Leg, which dips towards and crosses the Rod Leg.



CASTING GRAPHIC BY BINTORO CI & THMCI

Underslung Loop

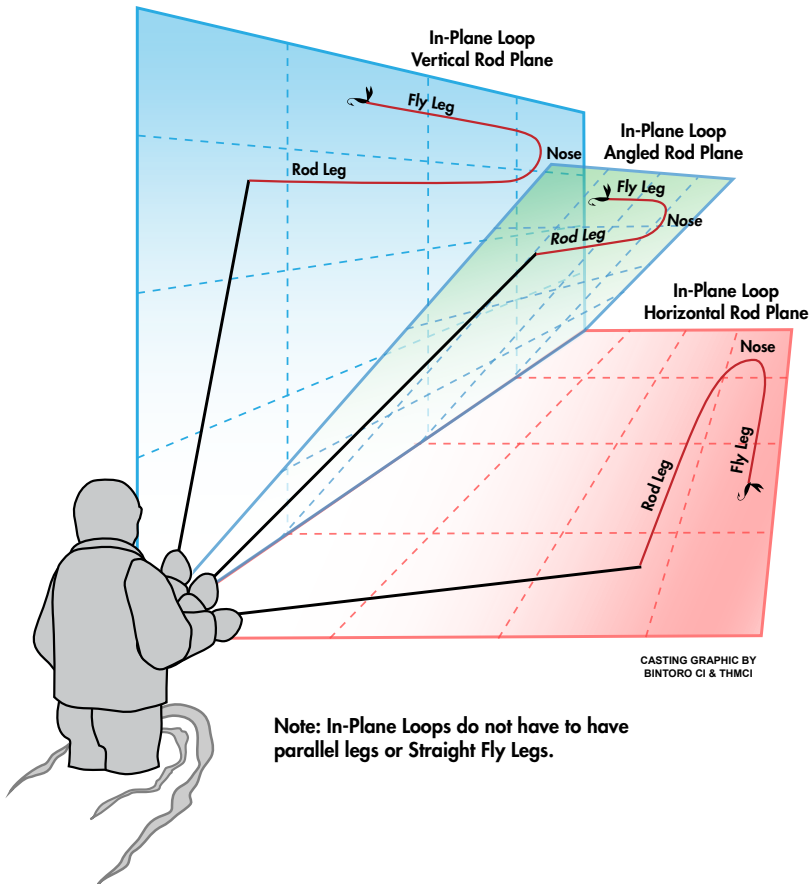
- A Loop whose Fly Leg unrolls below its Rod Leg.



CASTING GRAPHIC BY BINTORO CI & THMCI

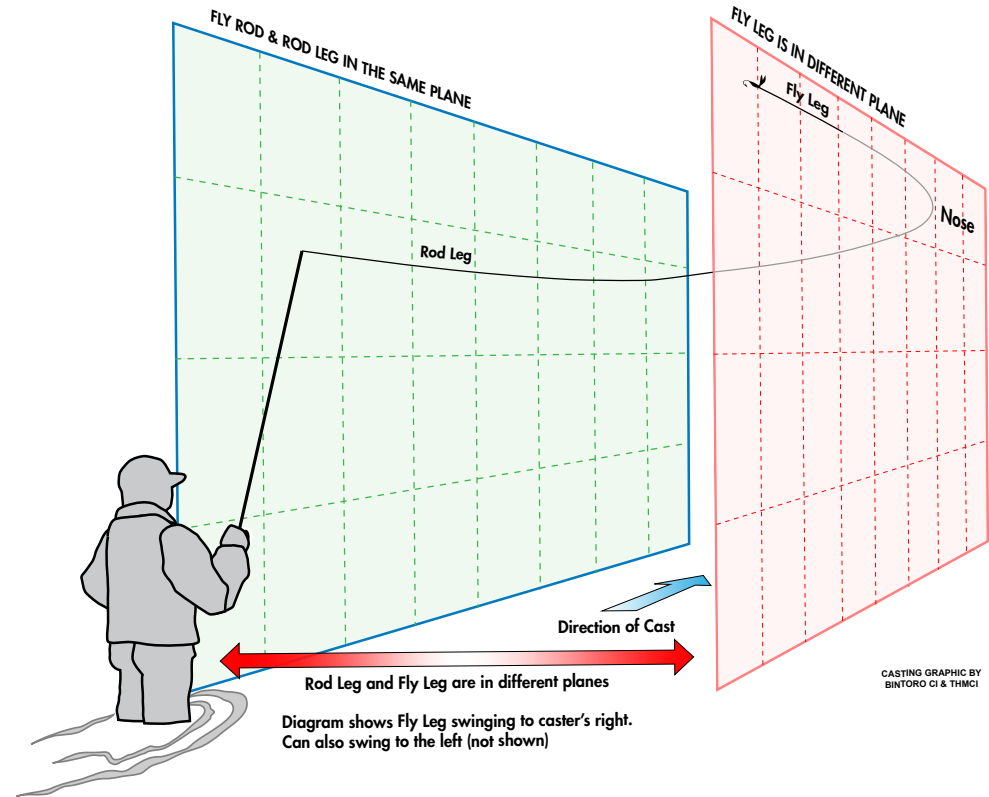
In-Plane Loop

- A Loop whose Fly Leg and Rod Leg are in the same plane.



Out-of-Plane Loop

- A Loop whose Fly Leg and Rod Leg are in different planes.



Fly Casting Movements

Translation

- A linear change in position of the rod butt.

Rotation

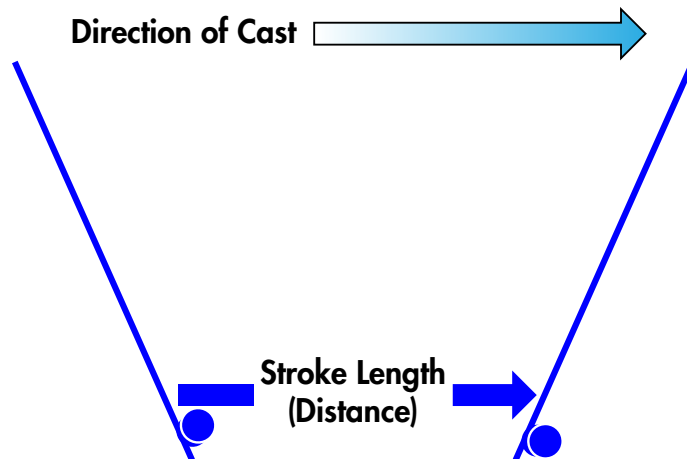
- An angular change in position of the rod butt.

Casting Stroke

- Rotation and/or Translation of the rod butt sufficient to cause Loop formation.

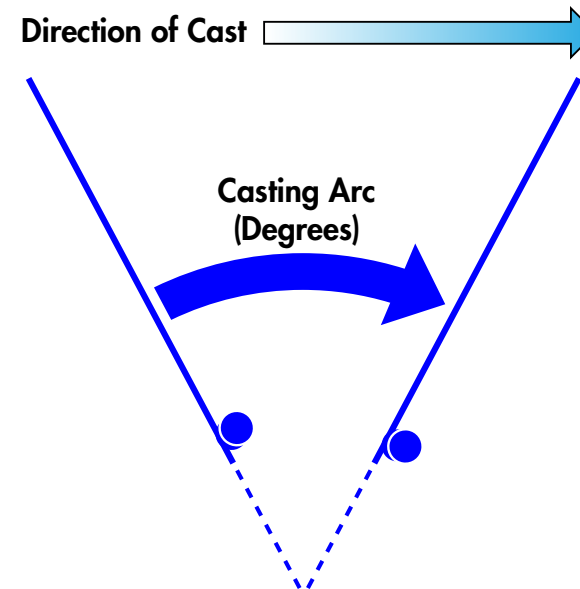
Stroke Length

- The distance moved by the rod butt during the Casting Stroke.



Casting Arc

- The angle change of the rod butt during the Casting Stroke.



Stop

- Deceleration of the rod resulting in Loop formation.

Rod Plane

- The surface traced by the rod during a Fly Cast.

Rod Tip Path

- The straight or curved path travelled by the rod tip during a Fly Cast.

Tracking

- The lateral path of the rod tip during the Casting Stroke.

Trajectory

- The direction travelled by the Loop relative to the horizon.

Lift

- Moving the rod up to reposition the fly line for the next movement in the Fly Cast.

Follow-Through

- Moving the rod forward and down after the Delivery Cast.

Timing

- The moments in time when each casting action transitions into the next.

Tempo

- The rates of movement within a cast.

Pause

- The time period between Casting Strokes.

180 Degree Principle (Aerialized Casts)

- The intended Rod Tip Path and fly line are closely aligned both laterally and vertically with the target at the start of each Casting Stroke.

180 Degree Principle (Anchored Casts)

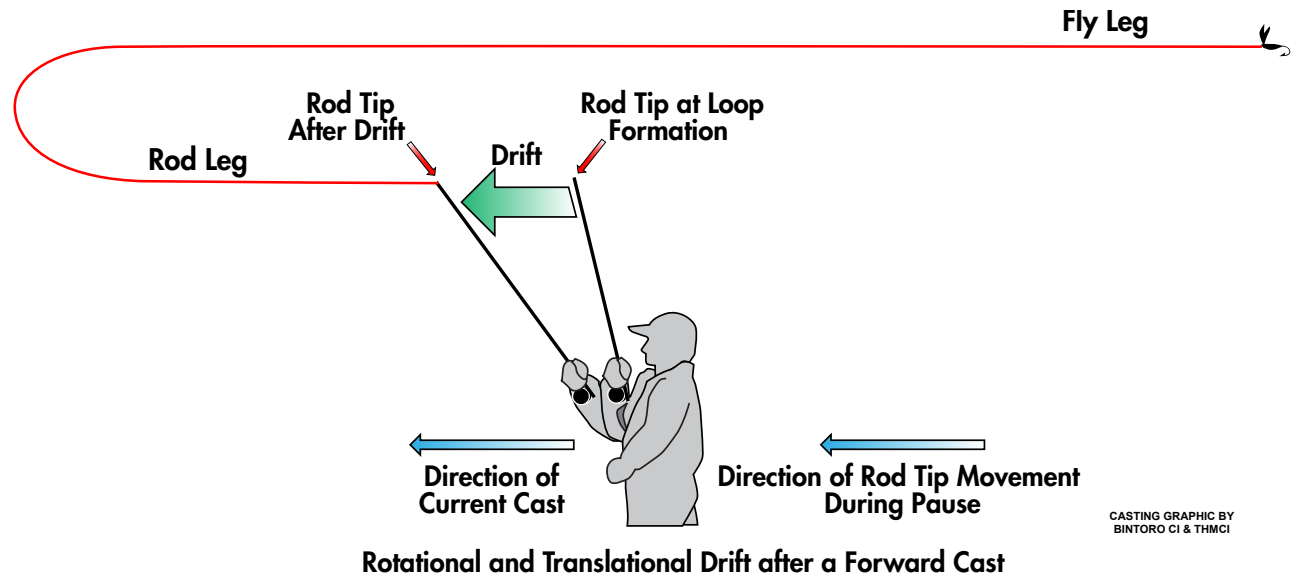
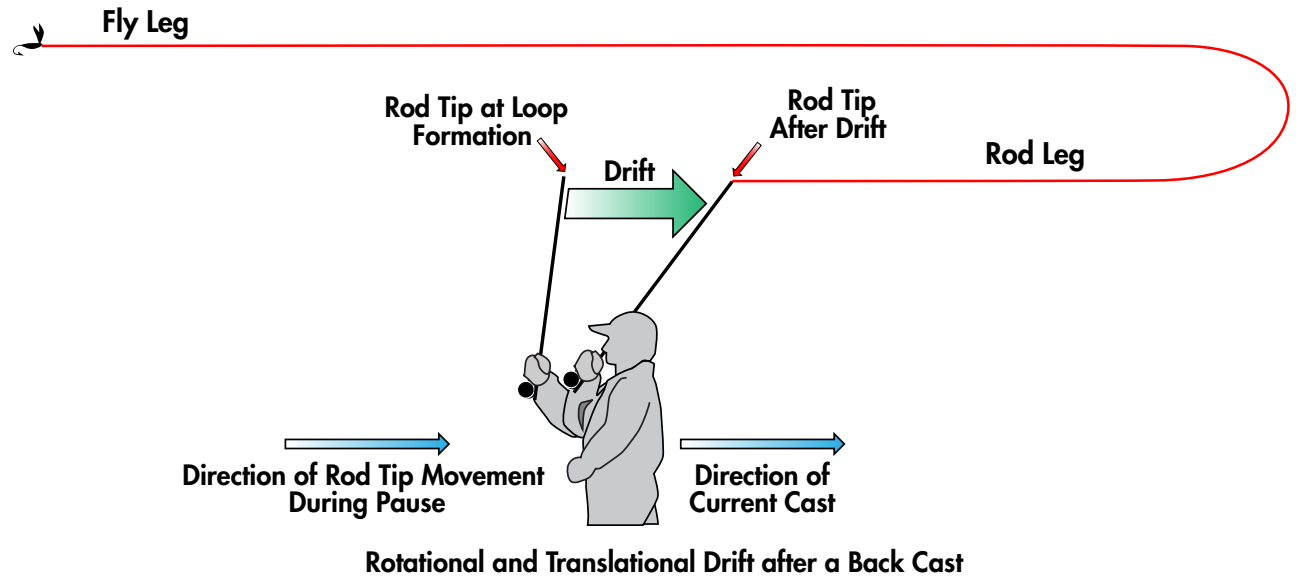
- The Delivery Cast, D Loop and the Anchor are closely aligned laterally with the target.

Rod Movements During the Pause

Rod movements during the Pause can be made through a combination of Rotation and/or Translation.

Drift

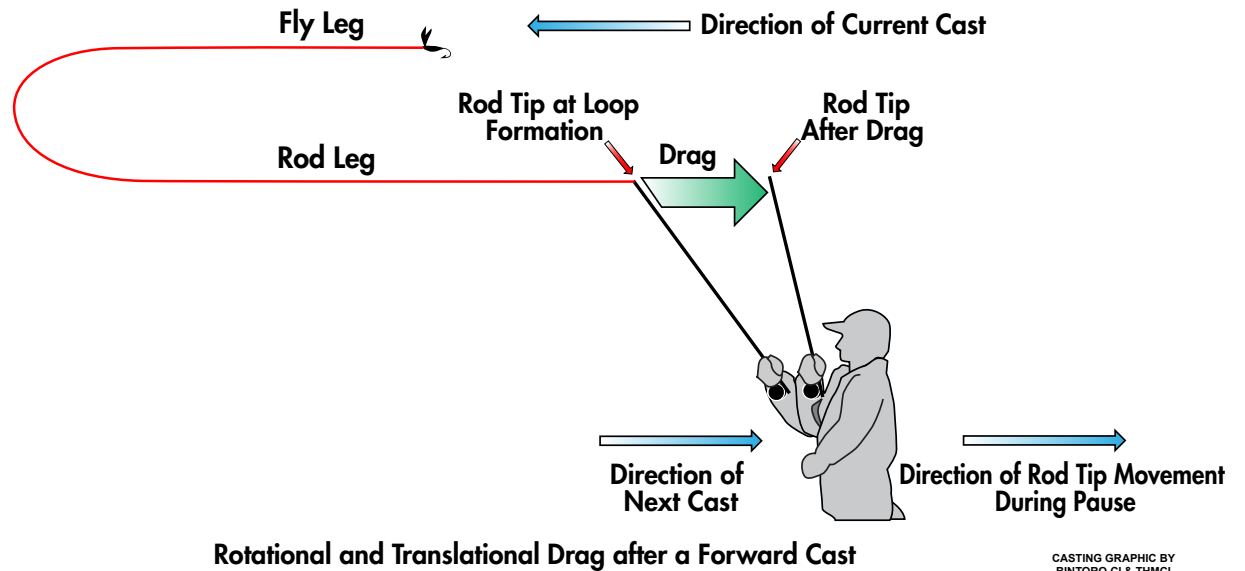
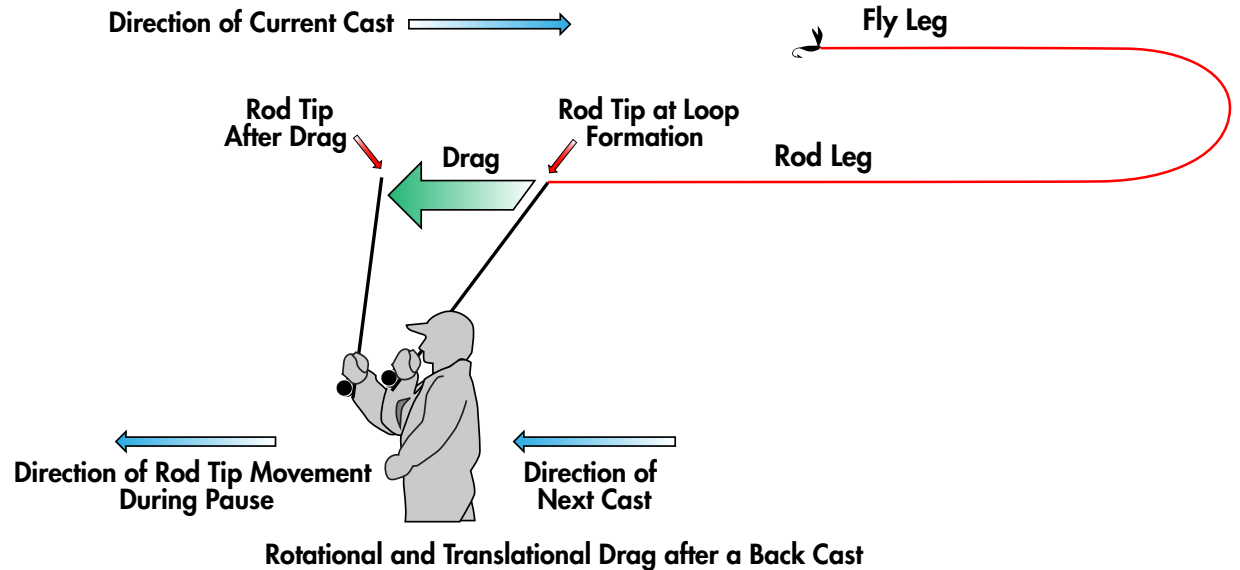
- Moving the rod tip in the direction of the current cast during the Pause.



CASTING GRAPHIC BY BINTORO CI & THMCI

Drag

- Moving the rod tip in the direction of the next cast during the Pause.



CASTING GRAPHIC BY
BINTORO CI & THMCI

Creep

- Drag which contributes to a casting fault.

Up/Down

- Moving the rod tip up or down during the Pause.

In/Out

- Moving the rod tip in (closer to the caster laterally) or out (further away) during the Pause.

Casting Terms**Aerial/Overhead Cast**

- After the initial Lift, aerialized forward and back casts are made until the Delivery Cast.

False Cast

- A forward cast followed by a back cast, both of which remain aerialized.

Overhang

- The amount of running/shooting line outside the rod tip during Casting Strokes.

Point P

- The point where the fly line suspended from the rod tip first touches the water.

Anchor

- The fly and leader/fly line in contact with the water at the bottom of the D Loop.

Anchored Cast

- A cast whose back cast Loop passes underneath the rod tip and forms an Anchor and a D Loop.

Anchor Position

- The location and layout of the Anchor relative to the caster.

Skipped Anchor

- An Anchor which briefly forms and then prematurely leaves the water while moving away from the target before the Delivery Cast.

Blown Anchor

- An Anchor which prematurely releases from the water during the Delivery Cast.

Piled/Crashed Anchor

- An Anchor which lands on the water creating slack in the line/leader.

Bloody L Anchor

- An Anchor in which at least some of the leader/fly line points away from the caster at approximately a right angle to the D Loop.

Connection Point

- The line/leader or line/sink tip connection.

D Loop

- A round shaped back cast Loop between the rod tip and the Anchor of an Anchored Cast. Also used as a generic reference to back cast Loops of any shape in Anchored Casts.

V Loop

- A pointed back cast Loop between the rod tip and the Anchor of an Anchored Cast.

D Loop Sweep

- A Casting Stroke which initiates the formation of the back cast Loop of an Anchored Cast.

Line Placement Move

- A movement of the rod immediately after the Lift which results in the line being positioned appropriately on the water for the subsequent D Loop Sweep.

Touch and Go Anchor Cast

- An Anchored Cast in which the line/leader first re-contacts the water after the Lift and D Loop Sweep.

Sustained Anchor Cast

- An Anchored Cast with a Line Placement Move before its D Loop Sweep.

Downstream Anchor Cast

- An Anchored Cast which in moving water places the Anchor and D Loop downstream of the caster, or in still water leaves them on the same side of the caster as the line before the Lift.

Upstream Anchor Cast

- An Anchored Cast which in moving water places the Anchor and D Loop upstream of the caster, or in still water places them on the opposite side of the caster from the line before the Lift.

Circle Up

- A circular and upward movement connecting the D Loop Sweep and the Delivery Cast with which the caster moves into the Key Position.

Key Position

- The hand and arm positions from which the caster begins the Delivery Cast.

River Left/Left Bank

- The left bank of the river when facing downstream.

River Right/Right Bank

- The right bank of the river when facing downstream.

Casts and Techniques**Delivery Cast**

- The final Casting Stroke of a Fly Cast, which presents the fly.

Mends

- Manipulating the fly line layout by rod movement after the Stop on a Delivery Cast.
 - Aerial Mends - mending before the line/leader lands on the water.
 - Water Mends - mending after the line/leader lands on the water.

Shooting line

- Increasing the amount of fly line outside the rod tip by releasing the line after the Stop.

Slipping line

- Increasing the amount of fly line outside the rod tip by releasing the line and moving the rod either before or after a Casting Stroke.

Straight Line Presentations

- Casting Strokes and/or Mends which produce a straight line layout.

Slack Line Presentations

- Casting Strokes and/or Mends which produce slack line layouts.

Curved Presentations

- Casting Strokes and/or Mends which produce a curved line layout.

Hauling

- **Single Haul** - Pulling the fly line through the rod guides during either the forward or back Casting Stroke.
- **Double Haul** - Pulling the fly line through the rod guides during consecutive Casting Strokes, after returning the line hand towards the rod hand during the Pause.

Continuous Tension Cast

- A cast where continuous rod movement maintains tension in the fly line.

Oval/Gebetsroither/Belgian/Elliptical Cast

- A Continuous Tension Cast formed by a relatively horizontal back cast Rod Plane which then transitions without stopping into a more vertical Rod Plane on the forward cast.

Roll Cast

- An Anchored Cast without a substantial change of direction consisting of a Lift, D Loop Sweep, Circle Up, and Delivery Cast in which the fly does not leave the water until after the Delivery Cast.

Switch Cast

- A Touch and Go Anchor Cast without a substantial change of direction consisting of a Lift, D Loop Sweep, Circle Up, and Delivery Cast.

Spey Cast

- An Anchored Cast with a change of direction.

Single Spey

- An Upstream Touch and Go Anchor Cast with a change of direction, consisting of a Lift, a line repositioning movement, then a D Loop Sweep, Circle Up, and Delivery Cast.

Double Spey

- A Downstream Sustained Anchor Cast with a change of direction, consisting of a Lift and an Upstream Line Placement Move, followed by a downstream rod movement transitioning into a D Loop Sweep, Circle Up, and Delivery Cast.

Snap Cast

- An Upstream Sustained Anchor Cast with a change of direction, consisting of a Lift, a Line Placement Move in which the rod moves upstream and reverses direction downstream, followed by an upstream rod movement transitioning into a D Loop Sweep, Circle Up, and Delivery Cast.
 - o Snap C/Circle C/Circle Spey
 - A Snap Cast where the Line Placement Move consists of the rod moving upstream and reversing direction downstream in a rounded path.
 - o Snap T
 - A Snap Cast where Line Placement Move consists of the rod moving upstream and reversing direction downstream in a relatively straight path.

Snake Roll

- A Downstream Touch and Go Anchor Cast with a change of direction, consisting of a Lift with a circular movement towards the target, transitioning into a D Loop Sweep, Circle Up, and Delivery Cast.

Perry Poke

- A rod movement which directs slack line on the water in front of the caster approximately in line with the target direction, and is then followed by a D Loop Sweep, Circle Up and Delivery Cast.

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The Loop Editorial Team



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