

Longer Roll Casting Made Easy

There are times when you want to use a roll cast, but you need to cast 40-60 feet. You will need to adjust your basic roll cast to accomplish this. To make a longer roll cast, you have two main options. You can use a larger D loop, or you can use a dynamic loop roll cast. The situation will dictate your choice. If you have sufficient clearance behind you, the larger bellied D loop is perfect. During the set up phase, while you are sliding the line back towards you, give the line a little kick. Use a soft, underpowered stop. This creates a little energy in the line and more line is placed behind you, which forms a larger D loop. With more line behind the rod, you have more weight to load the rod as you make the forward cast. You also have less the line stuck on the water in front of you. This means there is less surface tension to overcome, and the cast requires less effort!

Use the second option when you do not have that clearance behind you, or when you are wading deep. In this case, if you made a larger D loop, and placed more line behind you, the extra line would still be stuck on the water, simply behind rather than in front of you. You would still need extra force to break that surface tension. Unlike the traditional roll cast, the live line roll cast is a dynamic cast. The line is not static when you make the cast, there is less line stuck to the water, so the cast requires less effort.

For this dynamic cast, lift to the line leader connection and make an underpowered back cast. Use less acceleration on the lift and a softer power snap/stop. This soft back cast causes the tip of the fly line and leader to break the surface tension and lift slightly off the water. Gravity then causes the line and leader will fall back to the water. If you are too aggressive on the lift, or too strong on the stop, the line will go sailing behind you and you will lose your anchor and be unable to make the cast.

The perfect acceleration and power on the back cast, causes a gentle rising of the line and leader. It raises just inches above the water so gravity affects it soon after it is airborne. The line then falls to the water is re-anchored. The ideal placement is for the fly to land approximately one to one and a half rod length's away from you (in front of your shoulder, on your casting side). You need to find the correct amount of speed and power that will place the line and fly in this position.

Once the line has landed on the water, it will have surface tension to overcome. Now timing is critical. If you wait too long, more line will fall to the water and you will have a greater amount of surface tension to overcome. As soon as the line and leader touch the water, they are anchored and you can start the forward cast. To help you develop the sense of timing, watch and listen for the splash as the leader and line re-anchor. When you hear or see the splash, you can start the forward cast. This keeps the larger belly of line, which is behind the rod, aerialized, and minimal line stick in

front of you. There is less surface tension to overcome and the longer roll cast requires with less effort. This live line roll cast is the foundation for Spey casting. The main difference when Spey casting, is that you generally add a change of direction so the forward cast is presented in a new location

Select the option which fits your fishing situation and your longer roll casts will be effortless and fun!