

**Foundation level skills are as follows:****F1. Assemble Gear**

All fly fishers must be able to properly assemble gear. The minimum required is assemble the rod, attach the reel, line the rod and get about 1 rod length of fly line past the rod tip, and straighten the leader.

F2. Feeling the Line—Pancakes, Eggs, and Bacon

With the fly at 20-25 ft., the angler will move the near-vertical rod in a clockwise circle (rt. handed caster) forming "pancakes." After about 6-8 revolutions, move the rod in a clockwise oval (eggs) for another 6-8 revolutions. Finally, make this oval narrower back to front until the rod is moving nearly straight forward and back (bacon). *Pay special attention to safety!*

F3. Horizontal Loop Formation Drill

Starting with the fly at 25 ft. the angler moves the rod in a horizontal plane (rod is parallel to the ground) with smooth acceleration through the right size arc to an abrupt stop causing loop formation. At 25 ft., the right size arc may be marked by 2 cones about 12 ft. apart; the angler accelerates the rod tip from one to the other. Line and leader are allowed to fall to the ground and should be relatively straight. The goal is to create a narrow, casting loop with 4 ft. or less distance between fly and rod leg. The horizontal plane allows easy observation of the forward and back cast loops which should be nearly identical. It can be helpful to do this along a straight line such as stretched rope or measuring tape. This is also a great drill to do with longer bits of line.

F4. Horizontal False Casting Drill

Starting with the fly at 25 ft. the angler makes the same horizontal casting motion but does not allow the line/leader to fall. The angler must pause just long enough to allow the line to straighten, but not fall to the ground, before the next cast. Narrow loop formation (4 ft. or less fly to rod leg) is still the goal. When practiced with longer lengths of line, a bit longer pause is needed.

F5. Climb the Wall

Starting with the fly at 25 ft. the angler will start with horizontal false casting with narrow loops and raise the rod tip in 10-20 degree increments up toward a near-vertical casting position. Narrow loops are maintained throughout. Once an angle close to vertical is reached, the caster will work back down to horizontal in like fashion. Anglers should master one length of line at a time for F3-F5 but then may work out to 30 ft. in approximate 2 ft. increments (reel to the first guide above the reel).

F6. Cast to Targets

The targets are both 30 ft. from the angler but 20 ft apart. Starting with the fly at one target, the angler uses a series of near-vertical false casts to change direction to the other target. The fly should land within 2 ft. of the center of the targets. Once the fly is delivered the fly is cast to the starting target in like fashion. Try repeating the cycle 3 times and see if 6 targets in a row can be achieved. Try challenging yourself to get as close to the targets as possible!

F7. 35 ft. Lob or Water Tension Cast

Starting with the fly stretched to 30 ft. behind the angler, a lob or water tension cast is made with a crisp forward stop so the line/leader land relatively straight 180 degrees from where it started. Adding weight to the leader just above the fly is helpful on grass.

**Bronze level skills are as follows:****B1. 35 ft. Pick Up and Lay Down (PULD) Cast, Dominant Side**

Starting with the fly at 35 ft. the angler will do a PULD cast in a nearly vertical plane (no false casting or hauling) returning the fly to within 2 ft. of the center of the 35 ft. target.

B2. 35 ft. PULD Cast, Non-Dominant Side

Starting with the fly at 35 ft. the angler will do a PULD cast with the rod tip and line traveling over the non-dominant shoulder, (no false casting or hauling) returning the fly to within 2 ft. of the center of the 35 ft. target.

B3. 35 ft. Horizontal PULD Cast

Starting with the fly at 35 ft. the angler will perform a PULD in a nearly horizontal plane (no higher than 2 o'clock) with the fly landing within 4 ft. of either side of the tape. The leader must not pile but may be curved. (No false casting or hauling)

B4. Shooting Line to 40 ft.

Starting with the fly at 40 ft. the angler will strip the fly back to 35 ft. The angler will cast and shoot the line to 40 ft. No more than 3 false casts are allowed but slipping/shooting line is only allowed on delivery. The fly must land within 2 ft. of a 40 ft. target.

B5. Accuracy to 25 and 35 ft. Targets

Starting with the fly at 40 ft. the angler strips the fly to approximately 20 ft. The angler must now achieve targets at 25 ft. and 35 ft. on the tape. The line will be lengthened during false casting between targets. The fly must land within 2 feet of the center of the target. If a target is missed the angler picks up where the fly has landed and tries again but has only 3 tries for each target. Angler must achieve both targets. No hauling.

B6. Minimum 35 ft. Roll Cast, Dominant Side

Starting with the fly at 35 ft. or more, the angler will perform a roll cast with line/leader landing relatively straight and within 2 ft. of either side of the tape. The D loop (back loop) should be formed by slowly dragging the line into position such that the fly and leader do not leave the water surface or grass. A roll cast tool is suggested if performed on grass or indoors. No hauling.

B7. Distance to 50+ ft.

Starting with the fly at about 55 ft. the angler will strip the fly back to 35 ft. A cast is made to 50 ft. or more with the fly landing within 4 ft. of either side of the tape and leader relatively straight. False casting, hauling, and shooting are allowed.

**Silver level skills are as follows:****S1. Dominant Side 45 ft. PULD and Shoot**

Starting with the fly at 45 ft. the angler will strip the fly back to 40 ft. and perform a dominant side PULD with a shoot on delivery to within 2 ft. of the center of a 45 ft. target. No false casting or hauling.

S2. Non-Dominant Side 45 ft. PULD and Shoot

Starting with the fly at 45 ft. the angler will strip the fly back to 40 ft. and perform a non-dominant side PULD with a shoot on delivery to within 2 ft. of the center of a 45 ft. target. No false casting or hauling.

S3. Belgian Cast and Shoot

Starting with the fly at 45 ft. the angler will strip the fly back to 40 ft. and perform a Belgian cast and shoot line with the fly landing within 2 ft. of the center of a 45 ft. target. No hauling or false casting.

S4. Minimum 35 ft. Roll Cast, Non-Dominant Side

Starting with the fly at 35 ft. or more the angler will perform a non-dominant side roll cast with line/leader landing relatively straight and within 2 ft. of either side of the tape. The D loop (back loop) should be formed by slowly dragging the line into position such that the fly and leader do not leave the water surface or grass. A roll cast tool is suggested if performed on grass or indoors. No hauling.

S5. Accuracy to 20, 30, and 40 ft. Targets

Starting with the fly at 45 ft. the angler strips line in to get the fly to 20 ft. The angler must now achieve an offset target at 20 ft., 10 ft. to the left of the tape, at 30 ft., 10 ft. to the right of the tape, and 40 ft. on the tape. The line will be lengthened during false casting between targets. The fly must land within 2 feet of the center of the target. If a target is missed the angler picks up where the fly has landed and tries again but has only 3 tries for each target. Angler must achieve all three targets. No hauling.

S6. Right Reach Mend

Starting with the fly at 40 ft. the angler will perform a reach mend to the right without slipping line with the fly landing within 4 ft. of either side of the tape and without dragging the line/leader after landing. The final rod position should be at 45-90 degrees to the direction of the cast. The line/leader may be curved, but the position should be adequate to account for a faster current nearer the angler than the target.

S7. Left Reach Mend

Starting with the fly at 40 ft. the angler will perform a reach mend to the left without slipping line with the fly landing within 4 ft. of either side of the tape and without dragging the line/leader after landing. The final rod position should be at 45-90 degrees to the direction of the cast. The line/leader may be curved, but the position should be adequate to account for a faster current nearer the angler than the target.

S8. Distance to 60+ ft.

Starting with the fly at about 65 ft. the angler will strip the fly to 40 ft. A cast is made to 60 ft. or more with the fly landing within 4 ft. of either side of the tape and leader relatively straight. False casting, hauling, and shooting are all allowed.

**Gold level skills are as follows:****G1. Loop Control Demonstration**

Starting with the fly at 40 ft. the angler will demonstrate 4 false casts with 4 ft. loops on the back and forward casts. No tailing loops.

G2. Seated/Kneeling Cast & Shoot

Starting with the fly at 40 ft. the angler will strip back to 35 ft. and pick up and shoot to 40 ft. with the fly landing within 2 ft. of a 40 ft. target. False casting and hauling are allowed.

G3. Curve Cast

Starting with the fly at 40 ft. the angler will perform a curve cast to the side of their choice with the line/leader curving around an obstacle at approximately 25 ft. The fly should land about 45 degrees from the line layout between the caster and the obstacle. A pull-back mend to assist the curve is acceptable.

G4. Slack Line Presentation

Starting with the fly at 40 ft. the angler will perform a slackline presentation of their choosing. The fly must land beyond the line tip and within 4 ft. of either side of the tape. The slack should take up 3 or more feet such that the fly is no more than 37 ft. away from the angler.

G5. Roll Cast Pick Up and Shoot

Starting with the fly at 50 ft., the angler will strip line back to 35 ft. and make a roll cast pick up with extension of line to a minimum of 45 ft. within 3 false casts. The fly must land within 4 ft. of either side of the tape. Hauling allowed.

G6. Back Cast Delivery

Starting with the fly at 50 ft. the angler will strip to 40 ft. and then make a back cast delivery to a minimum of 45 ft. with the fly landing within 4 ft. of either side of the tape. False casting and hauling are allowed. The Galway cast is not allowed.

G7. Non-Dominant Side Accuracy to 20, 30, and 40 ft. Targets

Starting with the fly at 45 ft. the angler strips the fly to 20 ft. While casting off the non-dominant side the angler will achieve target at 20 ft., 10 ft. to the left of the tape, at 30 ft., 10 ft. to the right of the tape, and 40 ft. on the tape. The line will be lengthened during false casting between targets. The fly must land within 2 feet of the center of the target. If a target is missed the angler picks up where the fly has landed and tries again but has only 3 tries for each target. Angler must achieve all three targets. No hauling.

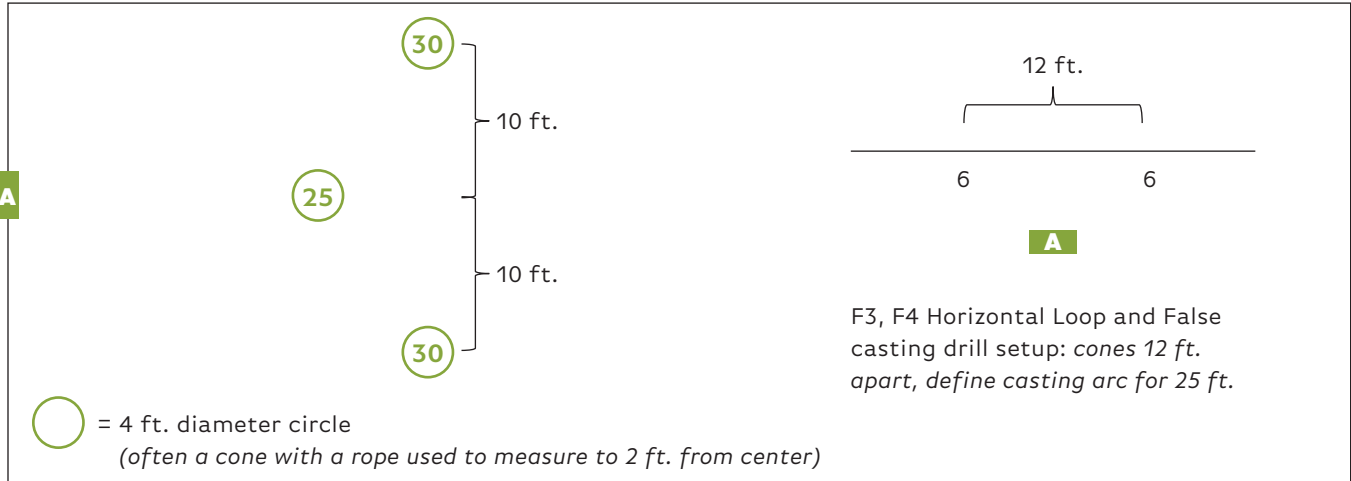
G8. Distance to 70+ ft.

Starting with the fly at about 75 ft. the angler will strip the fly to 40 ft. A cast is made to 70 ft. or more with the fly landing within 4 ft. of either side of the tape and leader relatively straight. False casting, hauling, and shooting are allowed.



Foundation level layout:

One marker at 25 ft. (7.6 meters) and two at 30 ft. (9.1 meters) separated by 20 ft. (6.1 meters).

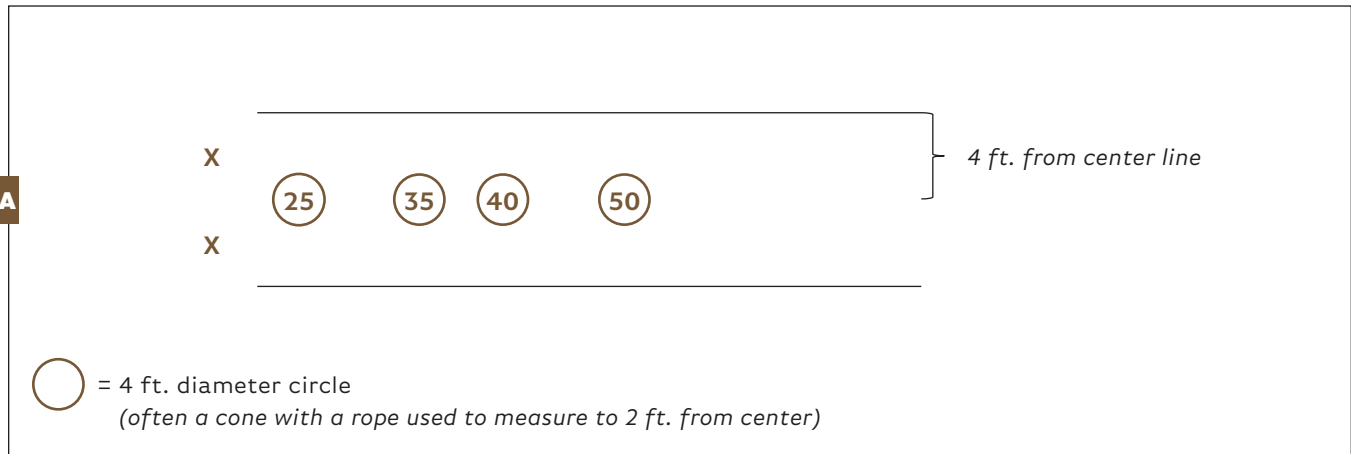


A = Angler, circled distances from angler's foot to fly

When setting up multiple courses, make sure they are at least 20 feet away from each other (measured from the 4-ft. marker ropes). Do not forget to leave plenty of room (at least 60 feet) for the back cast.

Bronze level layout:

Markers at 25, 35, 40, and 50 ft. on a measuring tape (7.6, 10.7, 12.2, and 15.2 meters).



A = Angler, circled distances from angler's foot to fly

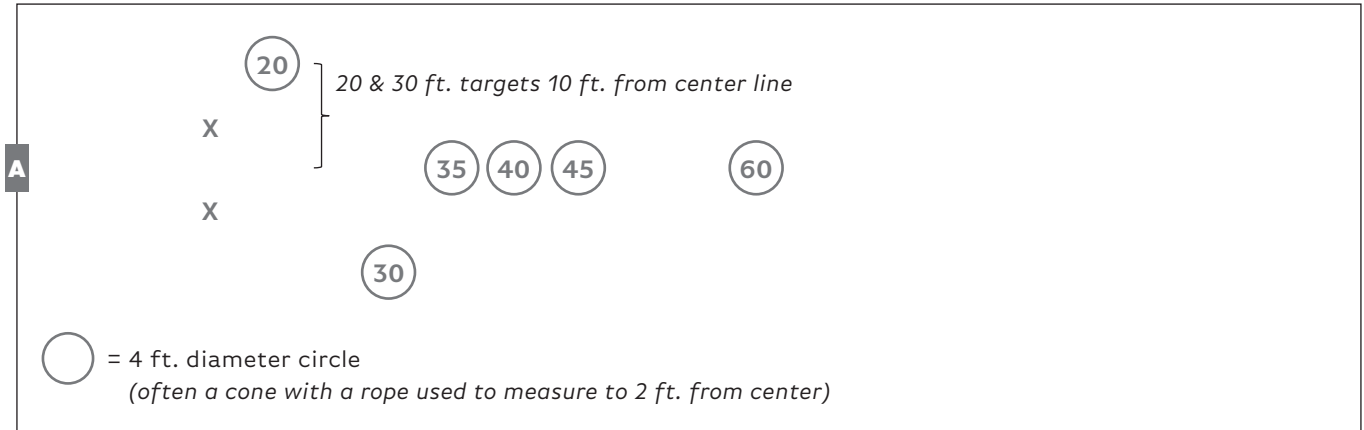
X = Approximate location of roll cast tool for 35 ft. roll cast (approx. 12-15 feet)

When setting up multiple courses, make sure they are at least 20 feet away from each other (measured from the 4-ft. marker ropes). Do not forget to leave plenty of room (at least 60 feet) for the back cast.



Silver level layout:

Markers at 20, 30, 35, 40, 45, & 60 ft. (6.1, 9.1, 10.7, 12.2, 13.7, & 18.3 meters). 20 and 30 ft. markers are 10 ft. (3.0 meters) off the tape to the left and right respectively.



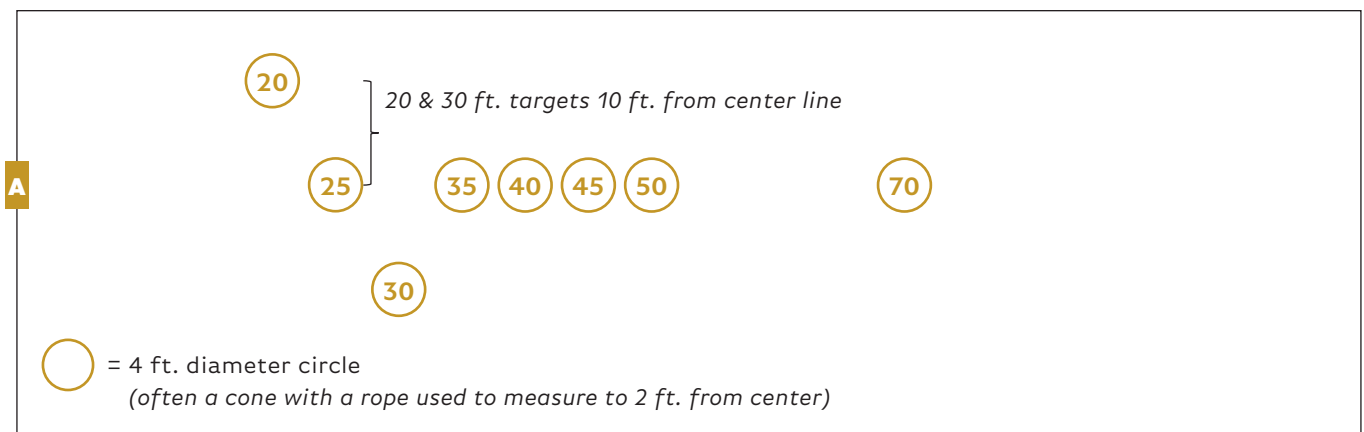
A = Angler, circled distances from angler's foot to fly

X = Approximate location of roll cast tool for 35 ft. roll cast (approx. 12-15 feet)

When setting up multiple courses, make sure they are at least 20 feet away from each other (measured from the 4-ft. marker ropes). Do not forget to leave plenty of room (at least 70 feet) for the back cast.

Gold level layout:

Markers at 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 & 70 ft. (6.1, 7.6, 9.1, 10.7, 12.2, 13.7, 15.2, & 21.3 meters). 20 and 30 ft. markers are 10 ft. (3.0 meters) off the tape to the left and right respectively.



A = Angler, circled distances from angler's foot to fly

When setting up multiple courses, make sure they are at least 20 feet away from each other (measured from the 4-ft. marker ropes). Do not forget to leave plenty of room (at least 80 feet) for the back cast.