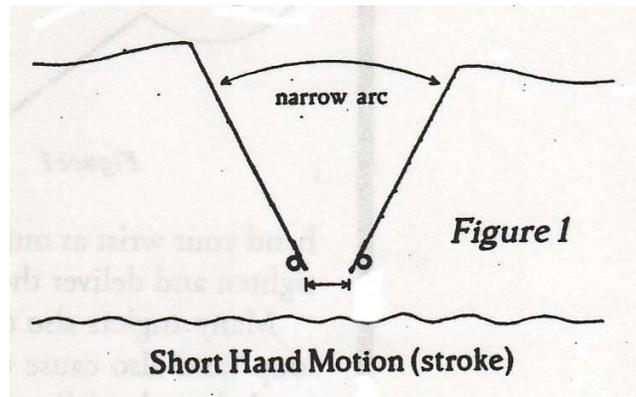


How to Cast Farther by Bruce Richards

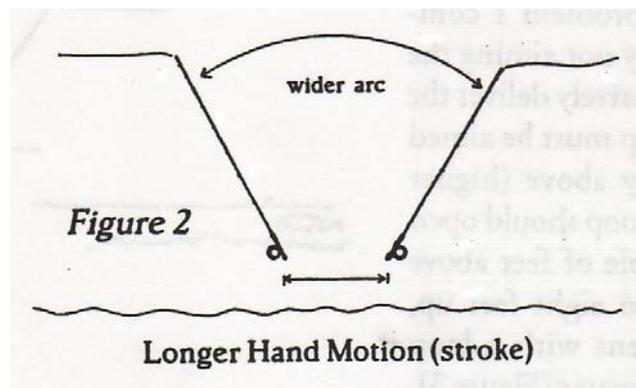
While most fly fishers cast far enough to get the job done, many secretly wish they could cast farther. Whenever I hear, “Where I fish I only have to cast 30 feet”, I know I’m talking to an angler who would like to be able to cast farther, but doesn’t know how to do it. It’s actually quite easy.

The easiest way to cast farther is to carry a little more line in the air, and shoot more line on the final cast. This requires a couple of minor changes in the way you cast.

To carry more line requires that the caster throw the line a little harder. To make a short cast, a short casting stroke can be effectively used. If more power is applied to the rod through the same short stroke, closed or tailing loops are often the result, especially if the power is not applied very smoothly. To prevent tailing loops, a longer casting stroke is required for longer casts.



When casting short, the casting hand normally doesn’t move very far and the rod stays at a fairly high angle as seen in Figure 1. For longer casts it is necessary to apply more power by moving the rod through a longer arc, as seen in Figure 2. This longer stroke allows a caster to smoothly apply more power to the rod over a longer distance without overloading the rod causing a tailing loop.



For more advanced casters who double haul, the benefits of a longer stroke and hand motion are even greater. The double haul is a technique in which the line hand pulls on the fly line just as the power is being applied to the rod with the other hand. Done correctly, this pull makes the line go faster, which will result in more distance. How far to pull or haul the line is directly related to the amount of line being carried and the distance you wish to cast.

Most accomplished casters haul to some degree on most casts, often without even knowing it. For short casts the haul may be as short as three to six inches. As the length of line being carried increases, the length of the haul should increase too, just as the length of hand motion and rod stroke do. We have all seen pictures of a caster taken just as he or she has released the 'long one'. The rod hand will be stretched out in front, and the line hand will be almost straight back, indicating the longest possible haul.

The relationships are direct. Short cast; short line carry, short rod stroke, short hand motion, short haul. Long cast; long line carry, long rod stroke, long hand motion, long haul.

Casters who cannot cast farther than 30 to 40 feet are doing something – or several things – wrong. While effective anglers when conditions are good, they often have trouble when the wind comes up, or extreme accuracy is required. Learning to cast farther hones your casting technique so that short range casts become even easier and more accurate, and the wind is much less troublesome.