

# Spey Caster's Glossary

A Glossary of terms used in Spey Casting

## Term                      Meaning

180 Degree Principle	The third basic principle. This states that the most efficient cast has all the factors controlling the cast in alignment. The belly, the line stick and the anchor point are all lined up for an easy efficient cast to the target.
Aerialized Spey Cast	A form of spey casting that is accomplished without the line touching the water. Also called the Grant Switch and the Devon Switch.
Alexander Grant	For many, the pre-eminent genius in the world of Spey casting. Patented the Grant splice for greenheart rods and other wooden implements. Invented the legendary Grant Vibration rods, and the concept of a continuous forward taper spey casting line. Famous traditional Scottish highland fiddler. Reputedly, cast the longest Spey cast on record without shooting line in 1895. A cast of 65 yards.
Airborne Anchor	An anchor that travels through the air, before touching the water during the D-loop stroke.
Anchor	The fly line touching the water at the end of the back stroke, creating enough tension for the D loop to form and not jump out of the water. Also known as "Grip".
Anchor Point	Where the anchor touches the water. As a general rule, this location is slightly forward and a rod's length to the side the cast is being formed.

Aussie Style	A common error in spey casting usually associated with the single spey. Instead of lifting and immediately starting the slight dip needed, the rod travels horizontally and then dips. This results in either a Bloody L, or in the inability to position the anchor point correctly.
Belly	The first basic principle. This applies to the amount of line hanging behind the rod that the rod loads against for the forward cast. The bigger the belly the better the cast will be. Also known as "D-loop".
Bloody L	A common error in spey casting. The Bloody L is where the anchor lies on the water in a crooked or slack heap. The anchor should be taut and in line with direction of the forward cast.
Bottom Hand	The hand that holds the lower grip on two handed rods.
Bottom Hand Dominant	In two-handed casting, where the majority of the energy for the cast is provided by the bottom hand.
Casting Arc	The angle of the rod butt in relationship to start and finish of the stroke.
Casting Stroke	The length the rod butt travels from the start of the straight-line path to the stop.
Chip Cast	A two-directional and single-plane cast that requires no area behind the caster to form a D-loop.
Classic Spey	The traditional style of spey casting with more rounded rod movements and lifts and dips with the softer-action salmon rods.
Collision Loop	A mistake that occurs when the forward cast is not in a 180-degree plane to the D-loop. The forward loop's natural momentum conflicts with the direction that the caster aimed for. This results in the line colliding with itself as it unrolls. It has the appearance of a tailing loop.

Constant Tension	A curved path movement that loads the rod through continuous motion during the movements of the cast all the way through to the stop.
Creep/Creeping	A casting fault that usually takes place between the back and forward casts, where the fly rod incorrectly "creeps" forward instead of remaining still.
Crescent Lift	A lifting move that uses a curving rise of the rod.
Crude Spey	The origin of Spey casts. Still useful today with zero back casting space.
Crumpled Anchor	An anchor that lies on the water in slack coils.
D-loop	The first basic principle. This applies to the amount of line hanging behind the rod, that the rod loads against for the forward cast. The bigger the D-loop the better the cast will be. Also known as "Belly".
D-loop stroke	The rod stroke that creates the D-loop.
Dangle	When the fly line has swung round in the current as far as it will go and lies taut and motionless directly downstream of the caster. Also known as "Hang Down".
Deadline Roll cast	This is the basic Roll cast where the D-loop hangs still at the start of the forward stroke.
Devon Switch	See Aerialized Spey cast.
Double Handed Rod	A fly rod with an upper and lower cork grip, used with two hands. Also known as a Two Handed Rod.
Double Spey	A classic spey cast that changes direction with no back cast. This cast is performed with the downstream arm and used when there is either no wind, or a downstream wind.
Double Taper	A fly line that has a thick level section and an identical taper at each end.
Downstream Wind	A wind that blows downstream, with the current.

Dreaded Dip	A common error in spey casting, particular to the waterborne anchor casts. To keep tension in the line on most back strokes the rod should travel in a straight line, slightly rising. If a dip is put into the cast in this place the line momentum is lost and usually a Bloody L results.
Drift	An advanced technique where the rod tip drifts back with the momentum of the D-loop to lengthen the forward stroke.
Drift Lift	A common error in spey casting usually associated with the single spey. The rod drifts sideways as the initial lift starts instead of lifting vertically.
Dry Fly Spey	A spey cast used with the single handed rod when fishing with a dry fly and trying to avoid getting the fly wet.
Energy Ratio	The relationship between the size and energy of the belly and the amount of power the forward cast needs. The bigger the belly the less forward power is needed.
Excessive Lift	A casting fault. A lift motion that is too great resulting in an anchor placement too far from the caster's position.
Forward Spey	Another term for the Switch Cast.
Forward Stroke	The final rod stroke that fires the line out into the river.
Grass Leader	A leader designed to spey cast on grass. Made like barbed wire with stiff mono and long tags to grip the grass.
Hooking	An error when the caster swings the rod too far around behind their head on the back stroke of the cast and pulls the belly and rod tip away from the 180 degree plane. Usually associated with the waterborne anchor casts.

Inclined Drop	When the back cast of an airborne anchor spey cast is formed, the fly line leaves the water and then drops towards the surface to form an anchor. The inclined drop is the correct drop when the line falls to the surface at an angle and makes it possible to time the forward stroke correctly.
In-leg	The second part of the V-kick of the Advanced Double Spey or Snap T. The in-leg kicks the D-loop behind the caster.
Jump Roll	Another term for the Switch Cast.
Jelly Roll	A modern spey cast that is performed off the upstream shoulder when there is an upstream, or no wind. Also known as the "Upstream Snake Roll".
Key Position	The upper hand and rod position at the start of the forward stroke.
Left Bank	The side of the river on the left side as you look downstream. Also known as River Left.
Level Drop	When the back cast of an airborne anchor spey cast is formed, the fly line leaves the water and then drops towards the surface to form an anchor. The level drop is a common error in spey casting where the line drops horizontally. This results in either no anchor or too much stick, as it will all land at once.
Line Belly	The section of the fly line which is used to load the rod for casting, typically comprising of the thicker section of the fly line.
Line Stick	The second basic principle. Line stick (or stick) refers to the mount of line lying on the water surface as the forward cast starts. The more line on the water, the more energy is lost in the forward cast and the worse the result.
Lines of Energy	A term for the forward cast and back cast being in complete alignment with no change of plane as the forward cast drives out.

Live Line Roll	Another term for the Switch Cast. Not only is the belly large, but it also has energy, making the rod load easily.
Loading Move	The bending of the rod under power.
Long Belly Line	A fly line with a belly section longer than 75 ft.
Mid Belly Line	A fly line with a belly section between 65 ft and 75 ft.
Modern Spey	The modern style of spey casting using flatter rod movements and faster-action rods.
Ness-style	A style of aerialized spey casting where the backcast is brought relatively low to the water to generate an extremely tight backcast loop, essentially opposite the direction of the forward cast, and where the rod drifts upwards immediately prior to the forward cast in a nearly horizontal position.
Oozlum Spey	A useless spey cast (for fishing) that is nonetheless fun to learn and a great way to practice line control.
Orange Line	An imaginary line that the caster pictures directly between their front foot and their final target.
Out-leg	The first part of the V-kick of the Advanced Double Spey or Snap T. The out-leg kicks a loop in front of the caster, just prior to the in-leg, or D-loop stroke.
Overhead Cast	A straight-line cast that has an areialized back loop and front loop. It is a basic, simple and efficient cast.
Perry Poke	A type of spey cast that can really help load the rod. Usually used with an upstream wind. Popularized by Ed Ward.
Piled Anchor	An anchor that lies on the water in slack coils.
Pirouette	A term relevant to the Double Spey and Snap T. If stage two is made at the correct speed and height the white mouse should run all the way to the fly line tip and the fly line should pirouette right on the nail knot. The entire fly line should change position and align with the target.

Point P	The term used for the exact spot where the D loop touches the water surface.
Power Application	The use of the hands, arms and body to bend the rod against the resistance of the line.
Pushing over the top	A casting fault. An excessive use of the top hand that disrupts the shared work between the upper and lower hands. A rotation of the top wrist will often appear. This is a circular push of the top hand that kicks the rod tip downward at the end of the stroke, resulting in a loss of power and round forward loops and a slight tail at the end of the cast.
Rhythm	The pace and speed of a single movement or line-positioning move during the cast.
Right Bank	The side of the river on the right side as you look downstream.
River Left	The left side of the river, when looking downstream. The current would flow from right to left. Also known as the Left Bank.
River Right	The right side of the river, when looking downstream. The current would flow from left to right. Also known as the Right bank.
River Spey	A river in Scotland, famous for Atlantic Salmon and Single Malt whisky.
Roll Cast	The basic spey cast. A cast with no back cast, no change of direction and limited distance. Used to straighten slack line, or bring a sink tip to the surface.
Rolling the shoulder	A casting fault. A circular rotation of the shoulder during the casting stroke that results in a loss of power and inefficient round forward loops.
Run back	A term used to describe what happens as the rod tip lifts at the start of the cast. Point P initially runs away from the angler. If the rod pauses at the top of the lift, point P "runs back."

Running Line	The thinner part of the fly line behind the belly. Too thin to cast with, it aids shooting line for distance.
Scandinavian Head	A shooting head designed for spey casting. Usually between 35 ft and 44 ft.
Shooting Line	A thin, level line that attaches to shooting heads for distance. Can be either a hard nylon, or a thin, coated fly line.
Shotgun Lift	A vertical lift move that provides a smooth lineal lift.
Single Spey	A classic change of direction cast that is performed with the upstream arm and used when there is no wind, or an upstream wind.
Shock Dimple	A downward angle imparted to the shape of the static (bottom) leg of the forward casting loop, caused by downward deflection of the rod tip after the rod is stopped at the conclusion of the application of power in for the forward cast.
Short Belly Line	A fly line with a belly section between 55 ft and 65 ft.
Skagit Casting	A style of spey casting that originated on the Pacific North West rivers. This style utilizes short, heavy spey lines and is particularly useful with heavy flies and sink tips, or in tight restricted back cast situations.
Skagit Line	A fly line with a very short, heavy head that is usually around 27 ft.
Snake Poke	A combination of the Snake roll, finished with a Perry Poke.
Snake Roll	A change of direction cast with no back cast. This cast is performed with the downstream arm and used when there is no wind, or a downstream wind. It is a faster change of direction cast than the Double Spey. Developed and popularized by Simon Gawesworth.

Snap C	A change of direction cast with no back cast. This cast is performed with the upstream arm and used when there is no wind, or an upstream wind. This cast uses a soft curved rod movement to start the cast. Also known as "C-Spey", "Circle Spey" and "Circle C".
Snap T	A change of direction cast with no back cast. This cast is performed with the upstream arm and used when there is no wind, or an upstream wind. This cast uses an aggressive, vertical straight line path snap at the start of the cast.
Snap Z	A change of direction cast with no back cast. This cast is performed with the upstream arm and used when there is no wind, or an upstream wind. This cast uses an aggressive, angled straight line path snap at the start of the cast.
Spey	A form of casting that has no back cast. A loop is formed underneath the rod on the back stroke that connects the rod tip to the water. Usually involving a change of direction.
Spey Fishing	A style of fishing with a two handed spey rod – utilizing the length of the rod to precisely control the fly's swing.
Spey Line	A fly line designed for spey casting with a two handed rod. Usually with a longer belly than a standard weight forward, a long front taper and more weight than the equivalent regular fly line.
Spey Rod	A fly rod used for spey casting – usually a two handed rod.

Spiral Spey	A variation of the single spey that is a little easier to get the anchor to land in the right place than the normal single spey, particularly useful with long belly lines. The cast starts with a small reverse snake roll to break the surface tension, then flows into a standard single spey. Popularized by Steve Choate.
Splash and Go	Terminology used to describe the correct timing of the airborne anchor Spey casts.
Stance	The position of the caster in relation to how the feet are positioned.
Stick	The second basic principle. Line stick (or stick) refers to the amount of line lying on the water surface as the forward cast starts. The more line on the water the more energy is lost in the forward cast and the worse the result.
“Stop”	The movement of the rod butt momentarily stops, forcing the rod tip to turnover, transferring the energy of the bent rod to the line, forming the forward loop.
Sustained Anchor	See Waterborne anchor.
Switch Cast	A more advanced form of the Roll cast. No back cast, no change of direction but great distances possible. This cast has an airborne anchor. Also known as the Forward Spey and Jump Roll.
Tailing Loop	A forward loop where the top part of the loop crosses path with the bottom part of the loop in the same plane. Caused by a concave rod tip path.
Taper	The tapering of the fly line from thick to thin, or thin to thick.
Tempo	The pace of the overall cast – from start to finish.
The Trunk	A common error in spey casting. The Trunk is where the bottom hand gripping the rod lifts on the back cast, making the rod tip drop and creating too much stick. Also known as the “Flying Butt”.

Timing	The length of time of each movement of the cast.
Top hand	The hand that holds the upper grip on two handed rods.
Top Hand Dominant	In two-handed casting, where the majority of the energy for the cast is provided by the top hand.
Traditional Style	The traditional style of spey casting, using long belly lines and very little stripping and shooting of line.
Tracking	The path of the rod tip as it travels through the entire cast, from start to finish.
Turbo Spey	A spey cast used with a single handed rod when putting in a single or double haul.
Two Handed Rod	A fly rod with an upper and lower cork grip, used with two hands. Also known as a Double Handed Rod.
Underhand Cast	A modern style of spey casting that utilizes shooting heads, long leaders and fast action rods. Most of the rod moves are made with the lower hand. Developed and popularized by Sweden's Goran Anderson.
Upstream wind	A wind that blows upstream, against the current.
V-loop	An advanced belly, not rounded, but more pointed and wedge shaped.
V-kick	A flat, horizontal "V" shape move that the rod makes on the advanced waterborne anchor casts.
Waterborne Anchor	A group of casts where the line and leader stay on the water during the entire D-loop stroke. For example: Double Spey, Snap T, Perry Poke.
Wedge-shaped Belly	A belly that is not rounded, but pointed like an arrow head. Also known as a V-loop.
White Mouse	A term relevant to the waterborne anchor cast. As the D-loop stroke is made the fly line will start to tear out of the water creating a steady spray - the white mouse. Also known as the "Rooster Tail".

Wombat Cast	A modern spey cast used when there is an upstream wind. This cast combines a Snap T or Snap C with a Perry Poke.
Working Line	The line that extends beyond the rod tip during the formation of the cast.

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