

Tackle Cue Cards

SECRET IDENTITY:
Spoon



K. Tackling Tackle

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Spoon



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SECRET IDENTITY:
Popper



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Hook



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Plug



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Spinner



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SECRET IDENTITY:
Bobber



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I am made of either wood or plastic. Some versions of me float, while others have a lip that helps me to dive to a certain depth. I am designed to imitate the motions and appearance of animals like minnows or frogs. Bass, walleye, and crappie are all attracted to me.

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I am usually made of hollow plastic or Styrofoam and am used to keep hooks or lures at a specific depth, often out of the weeds. I float on the surface and fishing line hangs down from me. I can be used to assist in catching any type of fish. I am not a lure or bait and am not attractive to fish.

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Tackle Craft Instructions

1

Designing and creating tackle is a great way to get students excited about fishing—even if they don't plan on becoming lifelong anglers. Some of the lures described below can even be used as jewelry! Encourage students to put their knowledge of fish and fishing together with their artistic abilities to create a lure that will attract their next big catch. Each of the following pages describes how to make a different type of lure.

Spinner

A spinner is a type of fishing lure that features a revolving blade. Both the flash and the vibration from the revolving blade attract fish and cause them to strike. Spinners can be made in a wide variety of styles, sizes, body types, weights, and colors to catch just about any kind of freshwater fish. Returning World War II soldiers brought spinners and open-face spinning reels home to the US from Europe.

Spinners are tops for aggressive fish and a great way to prospect for fish. They are better than spoons in dark or dirty water, due to the extra element of sound/vibration, which feeding fish can key on, even when they can't see well.

Materials

Wire (for shafts)

Spinner blades

Pliers

Clasps

Clevis pieces (for attaching blade)

Treble hooks

Paint

Paper cups

Embellishments (examples)

Plastic beads

Metal beads

Hollow metal pieces

Hair

Feathers

Nylon

Directions

1. Everything on a spinner is strung onto a central wire. The wire holds the parts together and provides the shaft around which the blade (spinner) actually spins. Bend one end of the wire into a loop, and pinch closed with a clasp and pliers.
2. Paint the spinner blade if you wish. Then attach it to the wire. Most blades are attached to the central wire via a crescent-shaped metal piece called the clevis. The shape of the blade will determine the noises that the spinner makes and how fast it moves.
3. String various combinations of plastic beads, metal beads, and hollow metal pieces necklace-style onto the central wire after the blade to make up the body of the spinner. This gives the spinner shape, color, and weight for sinking and casting.
4. Make another loop on the rear of the wire (the opposite end from your first loop). Your instructor will either attach the hook directly through the loop before it is completely closed, or after it is closed by using an intermediate split ring. "Dress" the treble hooks with hair, feathers, or soft plastic for extra appeal.
5. Place your lure in a paper cup to prevent the hook from hurting anyone.

Source: Frank Pratt, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Biologist.



Spoons

A spoon is a metal body lure, designed to wobble, flash, and look like a distressed bait minnow. Legend has it that the first spoon was actually made from the round part of a real spoon (eating utensil). That may be true in recent history, but spoon-like lures of shell and bone were used for fishing by prehistoric humans! The classic red and white striped Daredevil is probably the most famous spoon in fishing history. Spoons are particularly good in open water for aggressive, suspended predator fish like northern pike, salmon, and large trout.

There are two basic types of spoons: a lightweight thin “flutter” spoon meant primarily for high speed trolling and a heavier, thicker “casting” spoon designed to be repeatedly cast and retrieved. The most common spoon shape is some variation of round and oval, although some are cut in the actual shape of a fish.

Materials

Spoon bodies (pre-cut and drilled)

Split rings

Split ring pliers

Treble hooks

Paint

Paper cups

Embellishments (examples)

Feathers

Hair

Red plastic flapper

Directions

1. Use split ring pliers to add split rings to each spoon hole.
2. Have your instructor attach a treble hook to the rear split ring. (The rear is the fattest, heaviest part). Dress the hook with hair or plastic and a red plastic “flapper” can be added to the rear split ring if desired.
3. Paint and decorate the spoon. Place it in a paper cup to prevent the hook from hurting anyone.
4. When ready to fish, attach the fishing line to the front split ring. This saves wear and tear on the line and provides a wider range of wobble than a line tied directly to the front (top) hole.

Source: Frank Pratt, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Biologist.

Jigs

If an angler had to choose one type of lure for all situations, a jig might be the best choice. Essentially, a jig is an underwater version of a fly—a weighted hook with hair, feathers, rubber, plastic, or even live bait as the tail. There is a wide variety of jig styles (shape, weight, color) for all kinds of fish and fishing conditions.

Materials

Jig hooks

Fly vices

Thread

Thread bobbins

Scissors

Head cement

Paper cups

Embellishments (examples)

Hair

Feathers

Nylon

** Purchase pre-made jig hooks made of non-lead metals like tin, steel alloy, or titanium. **

Directions

1. Put the weighted hook in a fly vice with the head up. Use a thread bobbin to wind several layers of thread on the collar of the hook. Secure with several half-hitch knots.
2. Select materials for the tail (hair, feathers, nylon). You can mix materials by tying several in a clump at one time. “Spin” the materials to distribute them evenly, or tie in several equally distributed clumps to achieve the same result. It is important to remember not to overdress the jig. A jig that looks like a shaving brush is too thick, doesn’t fish well, and looks fake to a fish under most conditions. When in doubt, be sparse with your decorations.
3. Tie off your decorations by wrapping several bare wraps of thread. Secure the thread with several half-hitch knots. Cut the thread and treat with jig-head cement.
4. Place the lure in a paper cup to prevent the hook from hurting someone.

A Few Tips on Colors and Materials: Add flashy materials like Mylar® for an edge on very aggressive fish. Soft feathers like marabou have great “breathing” action. Stiffer materials like bucktail present a more solid profile and are good for fishing in weedy areas.

Source: Frank Pratt, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Biologist.

The Clouser Minnow

The Clouser is a weighted, hook-up type of streamer fly; some people call it a “micro-jig”. It has dumbbell weights of lead or lead-substitute tied into the head of the fly on the opposite side of the hook from the barb. These dumbbells provide weight and look like the eyes of a small minnow or large insect larvae. Clousers are great river streamers for smallmouth bass and even for trout and salmon in some cases. In very small sizes they work well for catching large panfish. The hook-up feature makes them relatively snag-proof, which can make them good for northern pike, muskies, and largemouth bass in weeds or other heavy cover.

Materials

Long streamer hooks (size 2-8)

Dumb-bell weights or bead chain

Thread

Thread bobbins

Fly vices

Head cement

Super glue,

Paint

Paper cups

Embellishments (examples)

Marabou

Feathers

Bucktail

Fox fur

Icelandic wool

Tinsel

Flashabou,

Ice wing

Small rubber legs

Directions

1. Secure the hook in a vice with the end opposite the barb placed up.
2. Paint eyes on the dumbbells, if desired.
3. Wrap thread around the hook several times. Use a figure-eight wrap to attach the dumbbells onto the hook. Place a dot of glue on the dumbbells to secure them.
4. Add a colorful variety of materials hanging away from the dumbbells and over the hook. Use bright colors and flash as attractors or strike inducers. Use dull colors and less flash for more lifelike imitators.
5. Tie off the thread, cement the head area, repaint the eyes, and let dry. Place in a paper cup to prevent the hook from hurting someone.

Source: Frank Pratt, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Biologist.



Streamer Flies

Streamer flies are feather or hair flies tied on a long hook. They are meant to look like minnows or small fish. Streamers will catch any predator species, including walleye, bass, northern pike, and especially brown trout. To make an effective fly, match the color and size of your materials to local forage. Bright colors work better in murky water, while more subdued and natural colors are best under clear water conditions. Rainbows, brook trout, and northern pike are often attracted to bright, attractive colors. Brown trout and bass seem to respond better to more natural and subdued colors. (It probably looks like a blacknose dace or a small common shiner.)

Materials

Long hooks

Fly vices

Thread

Thread bobbins

Head cement

Wire

Paper cups

Embellishments (examples)

Hair

Feathers

Marabou

Tinsel

Mylar®

Directions

1. Place the hook with the barb end in the vice.
2. Tie a bright feather or small tuft of hair near the bend in the hook. This decoration is meant to imitate the tail of a minnow or small fish. The tail is often red. This is both traditional and a good attractor.
3. Wind material around the hook from the tail upwards. This material is meant to imitate the body of the fish. Bodies are usually flashy materials that have the reflective qualities of fish scales such as tinsel, wire, or Mylar®. Bulkier or more subdued patterns may have bodies of yarn, wool, chenille, or dubbed fur.
4. The “wing” portion of long hair or feather fibers is tied on the top front of the hook so that the free end trails out just past the bend of the hook in the rear. Wing colors act as attractants or mimic the darker coloration on the top side of most fish. Some common wing materials include squirrel tails, dyed kip (calf) tails, long saddle hackle feathers, rabbit fur strips (as on Zonkers), soft hen hackles (like Matuka lures), even space age materials like Krystal Flash and various types of Mylar®. A silver tinsel body with a squirrel tail wing is a great fly, despite being so simple.
5. The head of your streamer is made of thread wound around the hook and tied off at the front of the hook, just in front of the wing and just behind the eye of the hook. The head can be bulked up with flared deer body hair or painted as an attractor feature. Fancy streamers have painted eyes or glued-on doll eyes. This makes them look even more lifelike, and attractive to both fish and anglers.

Weight deep running streamers with brass bead heads, or use clouser type lead dumbbells for eyes.

6. Place the lure in a paper cup to prevent the hook from hurting someone.

Source: Frank Pratt, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Biologist.



Spinner Parts and Tools



Needle-nose Pliers



Bodies and Beads



Looped Wire

Blades

Clevis



Split Rings



Hook

Parts of a Spinner



Spinner Types and Brands



Rooster-tail



Shasta, Fluted



Panther Martin



Walleye, Bait



Hot Fire Tiger



Rainbow Trout



Gold



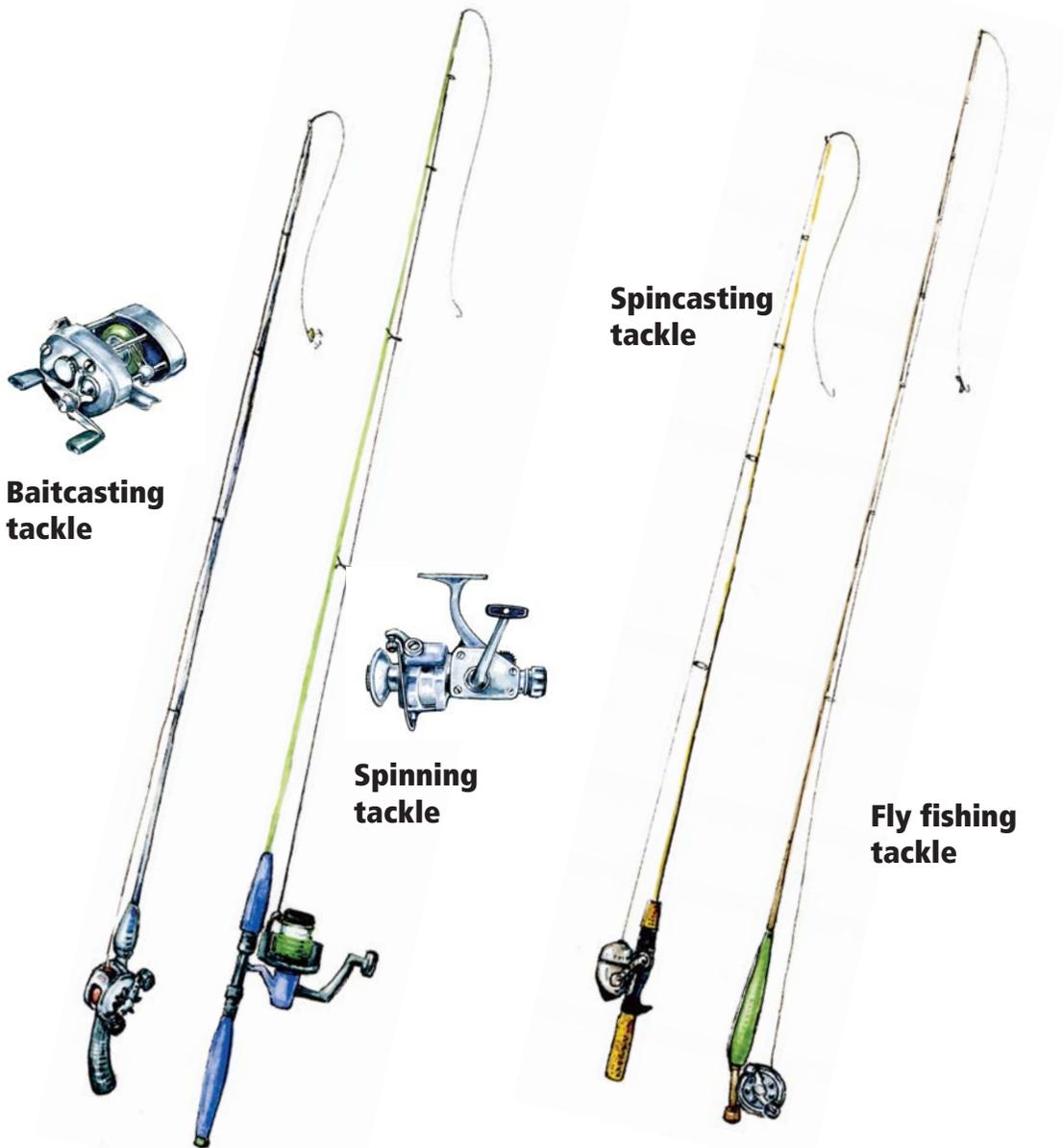
Silver

Mepps

Tackling Tackle



Most rods (poles) are made of graphite, fiberglass, composites, or bamboo



Hook, Line, and Sinker



Line



Hooks: the larger the number, the smaller the hook

Four basic types of fishing line

Braided



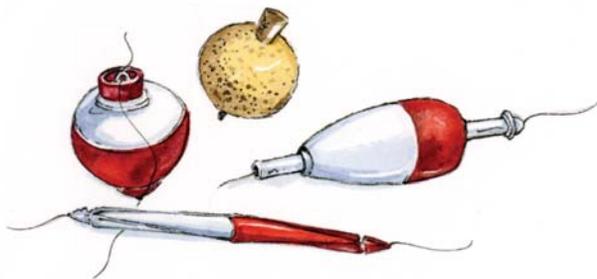
Monofilament



Fly line



High-performance polyethylene



Bobbers, or floats



Snaps and swivels

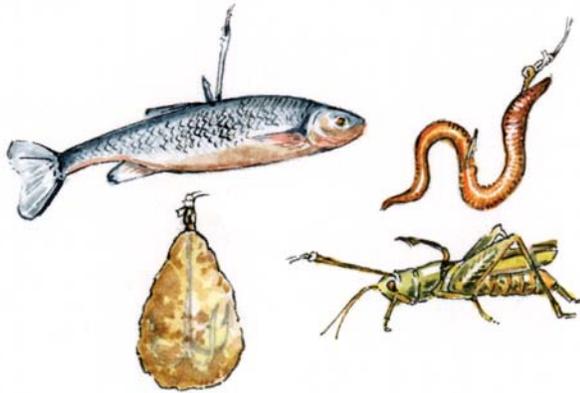


Sinkers

Non-lead sinkers



Luring Them In



Bait: live minnows, worms, dough balls, and grasshoppers



Jigs



Plastic tails



Crankbait



Pork rind



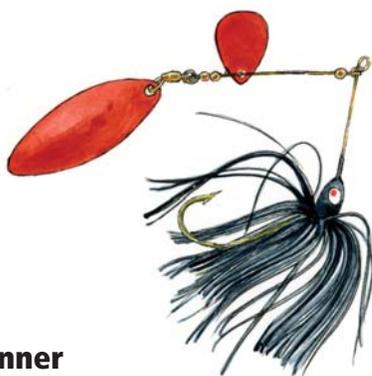
Marabou



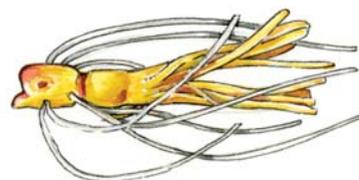
Spoon



Flies: dry fly (left) and wet fly (right)



Spinner



Popper