

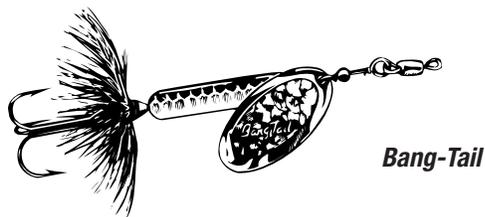
How to Effectively use

# BANG TAILS & OTHER SPINNERS

Spinners are as versatile as the angler who uses them. They can be cast or trolled, are deadly for a wide variety of fish species and can be effectively worked in virtually all water conditions . . . from the fast current of a river or stream to the stillness of a lake or pond.

Spinners obtain their widely acclaimed fish-catching and attracting qualities because they appeal to a variety of fish instincts, including feeding, curiosity and territorial/protective. They produce sound, are highly visible in the water and represent natural food items . . . baitfish. It is for these reasons many anglers choose to use spinners over other kinds of lures and baits.

The Bang Tail spinner begins to spin the instant it hits the water. Its pulsating, lifelike hackle tail helps bring strikes from gamefish such as bass, trout and panfish which feed heavily on insects. It comes with an enamel-tough solid body and is equipped with straight point treble hooks.



*Bang-Tail*

## LAKE CASTING

In a lake situation where you'll be casting and retrieving, you will want to fish different levels until fish are located, and then be able to return to that level consistently.

Cast the Bang Tail out and count the number of seconds it takes to sink to the bottom (line goes slack) then begin your retrieve. On successive casts, subtract two seconds each time until you've covered the water thoroughly from bottom to top. Pay close attention to the number of seconds you allow the spinner to sink because when you receive a strike, you'll want to return immediately to that fish-holding level.

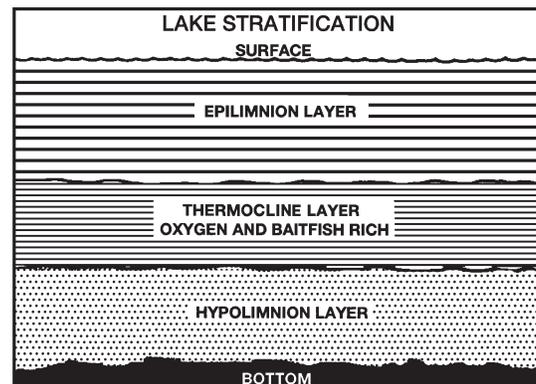
## PROSPECTING A LAKE

Lake fishing, either casting or trolling, with a Bang Tail requires different techniques from those utilized in current. Fish may be at any level in a lake or other still water area which is the reason for employing the counting technique when casting, and varying speeds and following "S-curve" patterns when trolling.

**STRUCTURE:** All fish relate one way or another to structure (shelter/cover). They use it for protection from predators, to escape from direct sunlight, for feeding and, in some cases, for spawning. Deep water, docks or other man-made structure, overhanging trees, shade, underwater rocks and cliff areas all are forms of structure likely to attract and harbor fish. They must have shelter both from predators and from direct sunlight so fish most often will be either next to or within easy reach of a shelter/cover/structure area. A quality depth finder is a fishing tool that will help you locate ledges, dropoffs and underwater

islands which are not apparent any other way. This will save you valuable fishing time in finding these hot spots as well as allowing you to troll next to or cast along them accurately.

**OXYGENATED WATER:** Most lakes stratify into three layers during spring (see diagram below) and stay that way until late fall. The middle layer of water, the thermocline, contains both a large amount of dissolved oxygen and forage fish. Your Bang-Tail should be close to or in the thermocline for best results. This layer will be from 15 to 50 feet down in most lakes, depending on the size and depth.



## VARY RETRIEVE SPEED

Retrieve speeds and actions are quite different when it comes to fishing still water as compared with currents. In a stream, the current will pretty much take care of the action of the spinner by forcing the blade to revolve, so your main task will be to keep it running just off bottom where the majority of fish will be found.

In still water, such as a lake or reservoir, where fish can see more clearly and inspect the spinner more closely, you should add a little extra action to the lure for optimum results.

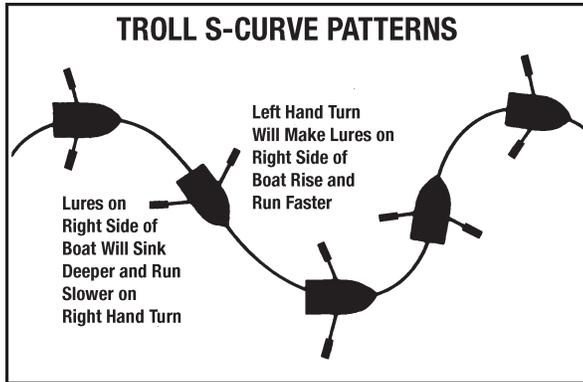
DO EVERYTHING you can to keep the spinner from running at a constant speed and in a straight line. A fish will not spend any more energy than necessary to catch a meal and a naturally swimming lure might not be easy to catch once the chase has begun as there's nothing apparently wrong with it. A spinner moving in an erratic fashion and giving off "panic" vibrations, however, is another matter and signals "meal time" to nearby fish.

Twitch your rod tip every few seconds, speed up and then slow down, stop the spinner in the water and then start up again, reel extremely fast for a few seconds, and so on. The more variety in speed and action you impart to it, in combination with its already deadly built-in sonic effect, the better your chances of enticing a strike. If you are working sections of a river, such as in deep holes where current is minimal, you should also employ the above added action techniques.

## TROLLING SPINNERS

Spinners make excellent trolling lures, either by themselves or when rigged 24 to 48 inches behind a lake troll such as a Ford Fender. The key to successful trolling, as in all lake fishing, is to locate fish depthwise and then present the spinner to them at that depth with an erratic action.

Changes in lure speed and depth are easily accomplished when trolling by making your boat track in "S-curve" patterns. The spinner will speed up and rise in the water on every outside turn and will slow down and sink on each inside one. If desired, weight can be added to get the spinner deeper. Try some split shot or other weight up the line from the lure.



## RIVER TECHNIQUES

Spinners can effectively be fished in a river (or anywhere there is current) with three distinct casting techniques: upstream, cross-stream and downstream.

As most gamefish will seek cover and food near the bottom, unless an insect hatch draws them to the surface, the trick to river fishing with a Bang-Tail, regardless of casting technique, is to stay constantly barely off the bottom.

Cast out and reel slowly at first until you feel the first "tick" of the spinner blade scratching bottom, speed up your retrieve for a few feet and then slow it down again until the next "tick" is felt. Continue this cycle until the retrieve is completed.

**UPSTREAM CASTING:** Of the techniques used for fishing spinners where there is current, upstream casting is usually the expert's choice. Upstreaming consists of casting the spinner upstream at about a 45-degree or sharper angle and then reeling back downstream to your position. It's a straight upstream and straight back position that's deadly because fish face into the current (heading upstream). The spinner, therefore, will be coming straight toward a fish where it always can be seen. It provides that fish plenty of time to make necessary adjustments in the water for ambushing, even before the lure enters the fish's territory.

However, upstream casting is only effective if you reel fast enough to keep the spinner's blade constantly working AND running just off the bottom.

**CROSS-STREAM CASTING:** This is a technique wherein the spinner is cast across and slightly upstream and then allowed to "swim" with the current until the first "ticks" are felt. The lure is then slowly reeled back to your position in a wide arc as the current will constantly be pushing it downstream.

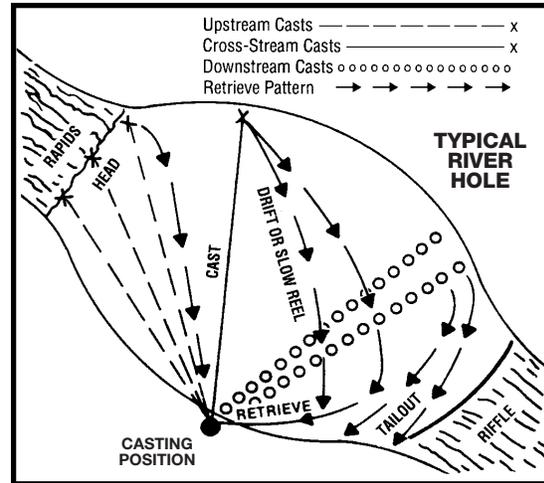
Cross-streaming can be a very effective way to fish big water with a spinner as the lure will swim consistently just off bottom, even in deeper holes. This technique is also effective for prospecting a section of river as it provides full coverage of a wide swath of water from bank to bank.

**DOWNSTREAM CASTING:** The third casting technique utilized by spinner anglers in current is downstream casting. This method is more difficult to master than the previous two as current will constantly be pulling the lure toward the surface and there will be few, if any, "ticks" to indicate the lure's position in relation to the bottom. Downstreaming is best employed when fishing a tailout section of a large hole or pool, where the water begins to run faster just before breaking into a riffle or rapids.

Tailouts are natural resting and feeding places and generally are from one to four feet deep. Food being swept along the bottom or along the surface concentrates in a tailout and that's why fish are there. Migratory fish also use tailouts as resting places as these areas provide the first slack water after a section of fast water.

Fish also tend to be more aggressive when found in tailout areas than in the middle of a hole as they have to be fast to catch meals being swept by.

Downstream casting is accomplished by casting the spinner across and downstream at about a 45° angle and then allowing the current to sweep it across the tailout. What you want to accomplish here is to cast your spinner short at first and then make progressively longer casts, allowing the current to sweep it across a new path in the tailout every time until you've covered the water thoroughly. A suggestion for this technique is to bring along heavier spinners without feathered trebles as these will sink deeper with the least amount of current resistance.



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## SHYSTER

Another spinner that deserves your attention when one with a different action is desired is the Shyster®. Fishing techniques for the Shyster are the same as those previously outlined for the Bang-Tail.

Besides offering another kind of underwater vibration pattern, Shysters have an off-center line hitch which greatly reduces line twist, eliminating the need for a swivel, and which keeps the spinner tracking straight in the water. It pays to go prepared with a good selection of both Bang-Tails and Shysters when visiting your favorite lake or stream so you can match any and all conditions and fish preferences on any given day.

## ADDITIONAL TIPS

One of the easiest things you can do to improve fishing results is to sharpen dull hooks with the Luhr-Jensen's Original Hook File. Simply hold the file parallel to the hook point and, with gentle one-way strokes, remove a small amount of metal from at least two sides of each point to make them sticky-sharp. If the hook is too damaged replace them with premium quality VMC Hooks.



You should always use a premium quality braided or monofilament line that has superior knot strength, small diameter in relation to pound test and is abrasion resistant.

Purchase a quality depth finder which will help in locating fish as well as prime underwater fish-holding structure which can't otherwise be detected.



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