

Dedicated to the Memory of **Commissioner Enoch S. "Inky" Moore Jr.**

PLAY



Winter
2009

Pennsylvania • League • of • Angling • Youth

by Andy Desko and Andy Fedor

BACK TO THE BASICS

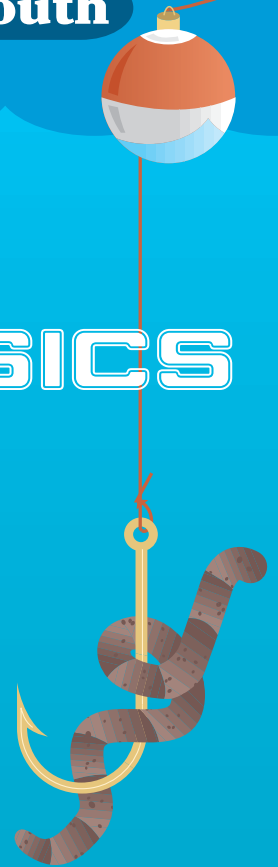
Rod and reel? Check. ✓

Hooks, line, floats and sinkers? Double check. ✓✓

Bait? You'd better believe that's a big check. ✓

Twenty foot, fifty horsepower boat equipped with sonar and GPS locator?
Che..... What?

There are plenty of ways to enjoy fishing. It can be easy to get caught up in the glitz and glamour of fancy equipment. It's nice to have that kind of gear to use, but you don't need it to have a great time. It's not the cost of tackle that catches fish—it's the angler's skill and patience. An angler can have fun and success with basic equipment and techniques.



GREAT GEAR

Choosing the right rod and reel can be a tough decision. What's an angler to do?

- A. Curl up in a ball on the floor.
- B. Narrow down your choices.

Here is a hint; it's not A.

There are two great rod and reel outfits for beginners: spincasting and spinning.

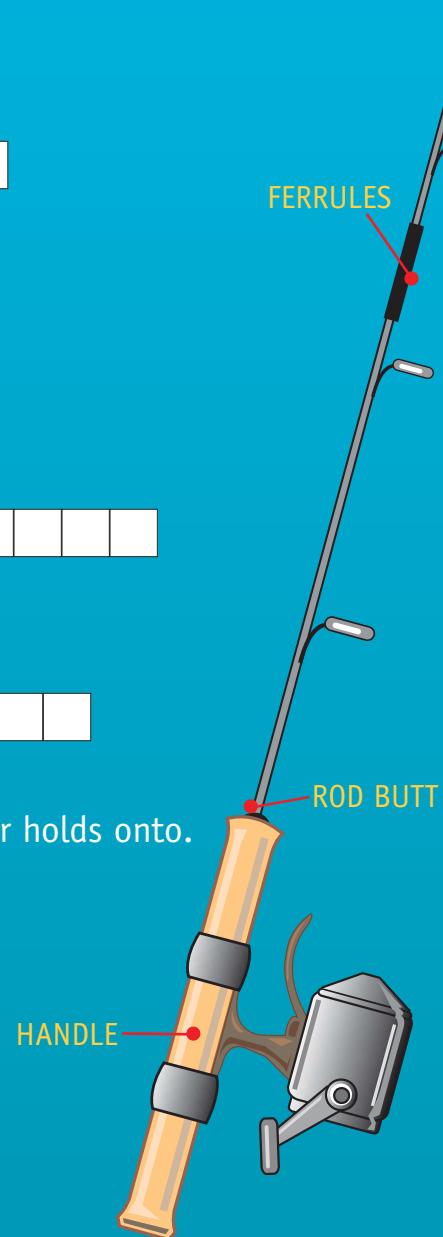
Either outfit is great with practice. The spincasting outfit is held with the reel facing upward. A push button releases the line. It is easy to use and a good choice for beginners.

A spinning outfit requires more practice and skill. It is held with the reel hanging below the rod handle. The angler's index finger (pointing finger) releases the line.

Parts Jumble

1. RDO LDANHE:
2. DOR UTBT:
3. SDGIEU:
4. RLUFREE:
5. PIT PTO:
6. OPSOL:
7. UTMHB UONBTT:
8. LIBA:
9. RGDA:
10. ELRE DHNAEL:

1. Where the reel attaches to the rod and also what the angler holds onto.
2. Where the rod meets the handle.
3. Controls the line.
4. Where the rod parts join.
5. Guide at the rod tip.
6. Holds the line.
7. Releases the line.
8. Retrieves the line.
9. Adjusts the line tension between reel and fish.
10. Cranks the line in.



CASTING CORNER



You're all set to catch that big fish, right? Not quite yet. Casting skills are important. Accurate casts will help you catch more fish. Create a safety zone before you start. Extend your rod and slowly spin your body in a circle. Then, slowly wave the rod over your head from side to side. You will need to move if your rod tip touches a person or obstacle like a tree branch.

The casting motion for each outfit is the same. Releasing the line is a different story. If you have a spincasting reel, press and hold the thumb button. If you have a spinning reel, pinch the line against the handle with your index finger and open the bail with the other hand.

Face your target. Bring the rod tip back until it's behind you and to your side. Swing the rod forward. Then, release either your thumb or finger and watch the line fly.



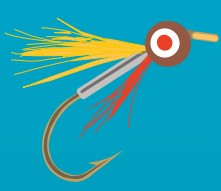
spincasting



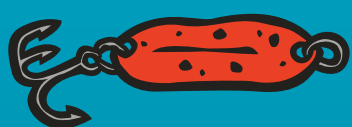
spinning

TERMINAL TACKLE

Terminal tackle is the name for all the stuff you tie to the end of a line to catch fish. Can you find the common types of terminal tackle hidden in the word search below?



Fly	Treble hook	Sinker	Bobber	Swivel					
	O	U	F	U	U	K			
	P	S	I	S	L	A	R	S	
	C	B	U	W	U	Y	B	T	
H	A	O	S	I	N	K	E	R	D
O	V	B	U	V	K	U	U	S	N
C	I	B	U	E	U	E	U	U	U
T	R	E	B	L	E	H	O	O	K
	S	R	H	S	O	K	S	S	
	V	S	U	R	U	T	U	M	
		T	F	M	I	C	S		



Stay tuned for more information on terminal tackle. The next issue of *PLAY* will provide details on rigging and using terminal tackle, lures and bait.

TIME TO ACCESSORIZE

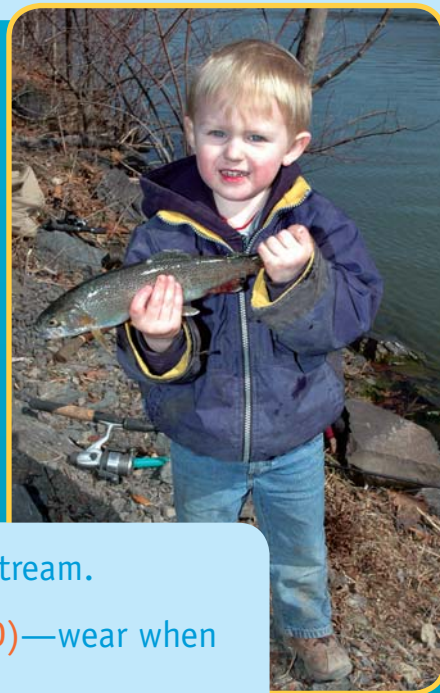
You've got a rod and reel outfit and terminal tackle. What else do you need? How about a tackle box or a fishing vest? A vest or tackle box does not need to be large or fancy. You only need space to store and organize basic tackle and a few other items:



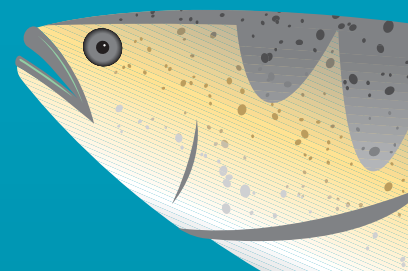
- MULTI-TOOL**—handy pliers that remove hooks.
- NAIL CLIPPERS**—not just for manicures, they trim line too.
- RULER**—measure fish for their legal size.
- FIRST AID KIT**—be prepared for accidents.
- STRINGER**—metal chain or braided nylon to secure a few fish for dinner.



Here is some other equipment:



- WADERS**—keep legs dry when standing in a stream.
- LIFE JACKET** (personal flotation device or PFD)—wear when fishing from a boat or wading.
- NET**—reduces stress on fish when releasing.
- CREEL**—a basket for holding your fish (instead of a stringer).



KNOW THOSE KNOTS

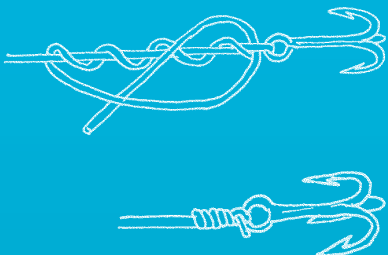
Knot tying practice will keep you occupied when you can't go out on the water. A good knot will reduce your chance of losing a fish. Practice tying these tried-and-true knots:



Improved Clinch

Attaching a hook or lure:

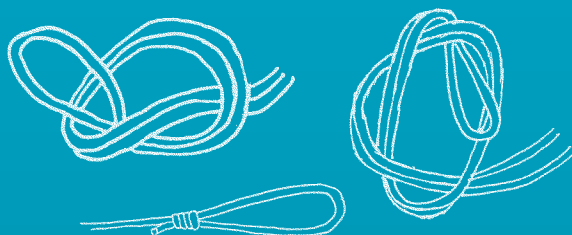
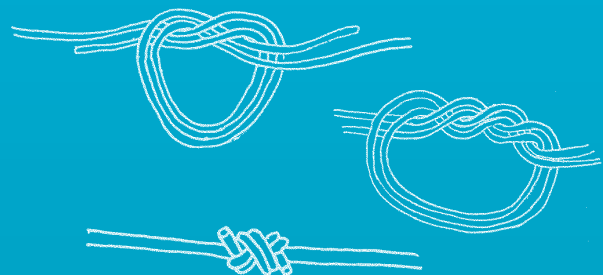
1. Thread line through hook eye and double back toward line.
2. Wrap loose end around line five times toward the reel.
3. Thread loose end through first loop above eye.
4. Thread loose end through big loop made in step 3.
5. Pull line tightly.



Surgeon's Knot

Joining two sections of line:

1. Place six inches of each line side by side.
2. Tie a loose overhand knot using both lines.
Don't tighten it yet.
3. Pull loose ends through knot again.
4. Hold each line, tighten.



Surgeon's End Loop

Attaching a swivel, a snelled hook or a lure:

1. Make a loop about two inches long.
2. Using loop, tie a loose overhand knot.
3. Pull loop through the knot again.
4. Attach hook by threading loop through the eye and passing loop over hook.

DON'T PICK UP HITCHHIKERS

Imagine an unwanted guest moving into your room that eats your snacks and takes up your space. Not much fun, right?

This situation is happening in Pennsylvania. Unwelcome plants and



animals from other areas have invaded our state. These invaders hitch

rides between waterways on gear and boats. They crowd out native plants and animals for habitat. They also compete with native creatures for food. A few examples

include the rusty crayfish, zebra mussel, purple loosestrife and Northern snakehead (a fish).

You can help stop the spread of these aquatic hitchhikers.

Never transfer or release bait, plants or animals into a different waterway.

Don't empty your bait bucket into the water (unless from that waterway).

Clean and dry your tackle and waders before heading to another waterway.

Spray down boat hulls (bottom of boat) before heading to a new waterway.

Don't release pet fish and turtles or other invasive critters.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.

www.ProtectYourWaters.net

rusty crayfish



zebra mussel



See the *PLAY* Spring 2008 Sci-fi in the Real World and *PLAY* Fall 2001 PA's Least Wanted newsletter issues for more information on aquatic hitchhikers.

PLAY

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