

# SMART REEL MAINTENANCE

## Angler's Notebook

by Carl Haensel

Before you stow your gear until spring, take the time to care for your most important fishing companion—your reel. Even if your buddy leads you to his secret bass spot, you couldn't catch the big one without your reel working well. The following simple maintenance

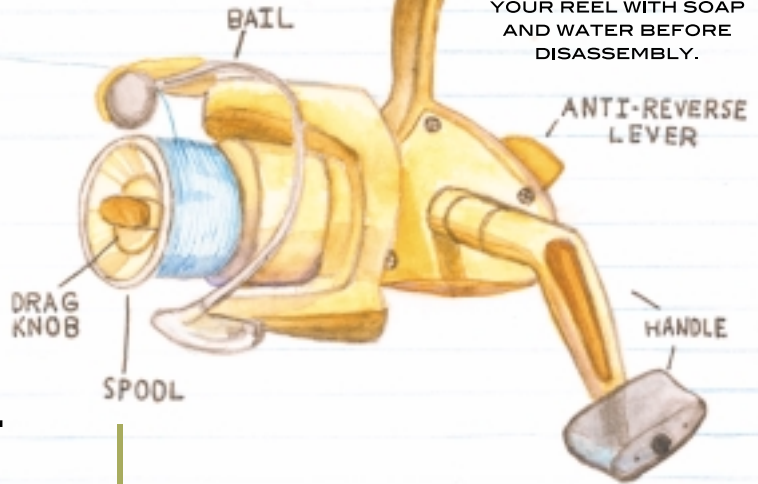
steps are designed for spinning reels. Regardless of the type, your reel should be periodically cleaned, lubed and oiled. Consult your owner's manual or contact the manufacturer for additional information on how to keep your reel ready to fight the big one!



### YOU WILL NEED:

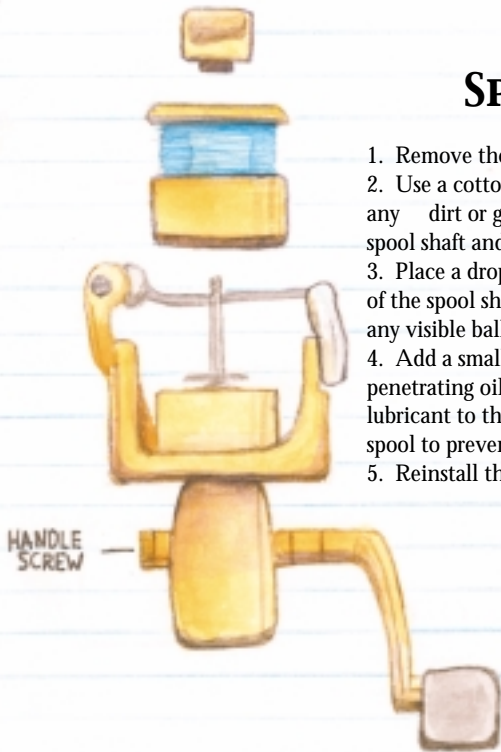
- COTTON SWABS
- PAPER TOWELS OR RAGS
- LIGHT HOUSEHOLD OIL, REEL GREASE, PENETRATING OIL
- APPROPRIATE SCREWDRIVERS
- SCHEMATICS (DIAGRAM) OF THE REEL, IF AVAILABLE

CLEAN THE EXTERIOR OF YOUR REEL WITH SOAP AND WATER BEFORE DISASSEMBLY.



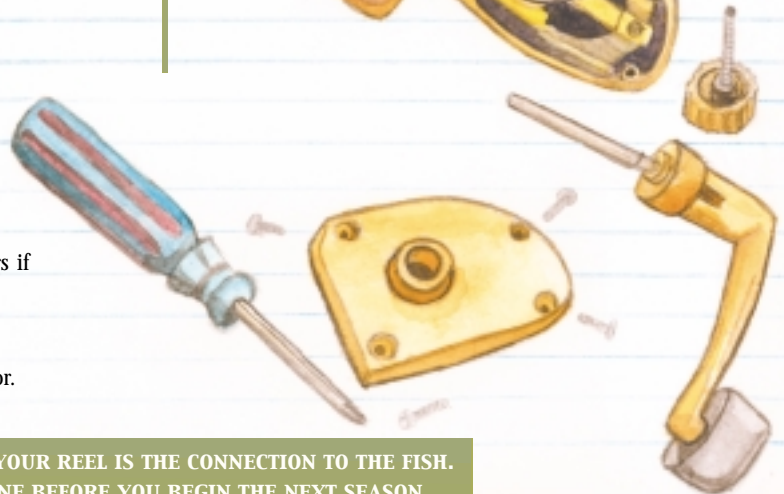
### SPOOL

1. Remove the spool.
2. Use a cotton swab to clean any dirt or grease from the spool shaft and the spool.
3. Place a drop of oil on the base of the spool shaft, and lightly oil any visible ball bearings.
4. Add a small amount of penetrating oil or similar lubricant to the drag discs in the spool to prevent rust.
5. Reinstall the spool.



### HANDLE AND GEARS

1. Remove the handle and body plate (side) of the reel.
2. Clean the gears, body and handle with a cotton swab.
3. Place a very small amount of grease on the reel gears if they are dry.
4. Apply a small amount of oil to the handle shaft.
5. Reinstall the body plate and handle.
6. Wipe off any excess oil or grease from the reel's exterior.



**TIP: THE LINE ON YOUR REEL IS THE CONNECTION TO THE FISH. REPLACE OLD LINE BEFORE YOU BEGIN THE NEXT SEASON.**