

WOODEN LURE MAKING 101

— Greg "Doc Lures" Vinall —

**Make Your First Handmade
Lures A Deadly Success!**

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Wooden Lure Making 101

Make Your First Handmade Lures Deadly Effective

Greg "Doc Lures" Vinall



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1. Introduction

Almost anyone can learn to make amazing, stunning and deadly wooden lures in a matter of just a few weeks, if they choose. Even folks who have never made a lure before, have very few tools and no clue where to start. With the right guidance they're able to make lures that can open the door to a world of fishing that 99% of fishermen will never experience.

If that sounds intriguing, then prepare to embark on an amazing journey!

Now, if you're thinking that wooden lures are ancient history and I must be some old-time anti-progress clown, then think again. Well, ok. I'll admit I'm a bit of a clown at times.

But I love modern technology and if plastic lures were just as good as wooden ones I'd make the switch. But they're not, in my view. Although we live in a fast-food world of injection molded plastic and 3D printing, too much fast food is bad for your health. And too much injection molded plastic is bad for your fishing.

Custom wooden lures are more effective today than anything else you'll get your mitts on..... And they'll be even more effective tomorrow and more effective again the next day. I'll explain why that's the case later in this eBook. For now, just understand that my passion for wooden lures is driven by fishing results, not old fashioned nostalgia.

Luckily, wooden lure making is as accessible to 12 year old kids as it is 80 year old men. You can get the tools and materials cheaply in just about any part of the world and you don't need a fancy workshop to make awesome lures.

The purpose of this book is to open your eyes to the possibilities and get you off on the right foot.

1.1. Types Of Wooden Lures You Can Make

Most folks don't realize how versatile wood can be as a lure making material. There are very few hard body lure styles that can't be made with it, once you know how. In my classes and eBooks I show folks how to make the following lure styles:

- Bibbed/Lipped lures (aka "plugs") including all manner of floating, sinking and suspending crankbaits, lipped jerkbaits, jointed "brokeback" lures, wakebaits and squarebills.
- Lipless crankbaits and wooden rattlebaits
- Topwater lures such as poppers and chuggers, skipbaits, waddlers and walkers, propbaits (aka "fizzers")
- Glidebaits (aka "jerkbaits"), topwater and sub-surface stickbaits
- Multi-jointed swimbaits

Pretty cool, huh? The sky is the limit, you can pretty much make any style of hard bodied lure!

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2. Checklist Of Tools And Materials

Lure making can be complex if you let it be. It can use all kinds of weird and wonderful tools and equipment. I've amassed quite a collection over 35 years, let me tell you.

But you can also keep things really simple. And you'll be blown away at what can be made with very little in the way of tools.

To illustrate the simplicity: Right now my family is enjoying a fishing and camping road trip. I'm away from my workshop with very little space and limited access to electricity, yet I'm still making lures. I've packed a small kit, stowed it in with our camping gear and taken my passion on the road with us.

No workshop, no machinery, no problem! Wooden lure making at its finest – and proving almost anyone can get involved!

Obviously bandsaws, lathes, drill tables and so on can make things faster and easier. But this eBook is for beginners, so we're going to keep things ridiculously simple.

Let's start with a quick rundown of the “must-have” equipment and materials.

2.1 Ridiculously Basic Tool Kit

- Handsaw. You'll need this to cut your blocks of wood (“blanks”) to size and to make slots for through wires and diving lips. A tenon saw is a good choice.
- Battery drill. Great when you need to weight your lures, add rattles, drill pilots for screw eyes and so on. An electric drill will do if you don't have the cordless variety.
- Pliers. You'll need these for working with wire, twisting in screw eyes and so on. You'll get by with a single pair of pointy nosed pliers, but round nose, locking, and side cutting pliers are handy if you have them. You'll find cheap sets in craft shops – they're often a little on the light duty side, but enough to get you started.
- Hacksaw. Good for cutting metal and plastic for diving lips and so on.
- A sharp blade. A good, sharp chisel is perfect for shaping your lure bodies, although my favorite tool is a #5 wood carvers gouge. You can also use a craft knife if you don't have a chisel.
- Airbrush and accessories. I'll put this in here, but it's really an optional luxury item. You'll only need it if you want your lures to look really professional. If your main aim is to catch better fish then aerosol cans or hand paints will be fine to get you started.

2.2 Basic Raw Materials

- Wood, obviously! I'll talk about wood in more detail later, because it's important to use the right one. But rest assured, wherever you are in the world, there will be a suitable timber available.
- Wire. You need to attach hooks to your lures and have somewhere to tie your leader. You can take care of this by picking up a little 316 grade stainless steel wire. 1mm (#18g) wire is perfect for most small to medium lures and you'll find it online, in tackle stores and at welding supply joints. You can also use screw eyes, which we'll talk about in Section 2.3

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- Lexan, aluminum or other thin sheet material is needed for diving lips, if you're making diving lures. Don't use acrylic; It's brittle and breaks too easily.
- Lead, for weighting. The tiniest ball sinkers you can find are perfect for weighting most small lures. Larger sinkers are fine for larger lures. For really tiny lures even the smallest sinkers are overkill, so try switching to ball bearings. If you want to go lead-free, then brass rod can be cut into short lengths and used to weight your lures.
- Adhesive. I use 24 hour curing, two part epoxy for my lures. The 5 minute cure stuff breaks down after a couple of years and is generally to be avoided. Be patient waiting for glue to cure, it might save you lost fish later!
- Wood sealer. Making tough and long lasting lures means treating the raw wood with something to harden it and create a protective barrier. Penetrating wood hardener is great for this. Some folks use supa glue, too. I've found that the epoxy I use to clear coat my lures is also the best product for sealing the raw wood, so that's my preference.
- Paint and clear coat. We'll go into these later in more detail in Chapter 5.
- Hooks and rings. The final, but most important ingredient! Without these you don't connect to the fish. There are lots of options, and what you choose depends on a lot of different factors. I like stainless steel rings in either bright or dark, because I hate rusty split rings in my lure boxes. As for hooks, I generally prefer short shanked, needle sharp trebles, but it varies depending on the lure design and target species.

2.3 Even Easier, Off The Shelf Lure Components

If you want to speed the lure making process up, there are plenty of specially made components available online.

Here are some items you might consider purchasing:

- [Screw eyes](#). These are little eyelets that simply screw into the wood, giving you an instant tow point or hook hanger. Some are closed, and others are open, allowing you to slip a hook straight onto the eye and close the loop with pliers. This eliminates the need for split rings, but makes it harder to switch hooks when they get rusty or blunt. When you buy screw eyes, be sure to get stainless steel ones.



Screw eyes can make the installation of tow points and hook hangers fast and easy. The screw eye drill bit shown in this pic goes into a cordless drill to make the job even faster and easier again.

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- Diving lips. You can purchase pre-cut [lexan](#), [circuitboard](#) or [stainless steel](#) lips through online suppliers, saving you time sourcing material and making these items.
- [Props and blades](#). Available in a range of sizes and in plastic, nickel plated brass or stainless. These are so cheap it makes no sense to even bother making your own.
- [3D adhesive eyes](#). Baitfish eyes are known to be a feeding stimulus for predatory fish. You can paint eyes on your lures, but adhesive 3D eyes give a more professional look.
- [Lure “blanks”](#). You can buy pre-shaped wooden lure bodies (blanks) at various online places. Using these exclusively will limit the range of body shapes available. But clever weighting, customization of diving lips and tow points, and of course paint jobs all contribute to these lures still having unique, custom qualities.



Commercial balsa lure blanks save time on hand shaping your lure bodies but still require skill to complete. Variations in weighting, diving lips, towpoint location and other aspects allow you to customize these lures to your needs.

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3. Five Important Tips Before You Start

Once you've gathered all of your tools and materials it's tempting to put the chisel to the wood start carving some lures.

Resist the temptation just until you read this section! It might save you a bunch of wasted time.

I've seen countless newbies just start carving wood in the hopes of creating a perfect lure, but with little thought or planning. Most fail because they haven't bothered to understand the basics. Some give up but others just keep making dud lures until they figure out what they're doing.

So if your #1 goal is to figure it out for yourself, then go ahead and start carving! But if your #1 goal is to catch fish ASAP then don't waste valuable time learning the hard way. The fastest way to learn is from the mistakes and experiences of others. So here are some important lessons I've learned through over 30 years of lure making:

3.1 Choosing The Right Wood Is Half The Battle

When I first got started at wooden lure making I was just a kid with empty pockets. So I'd scrounge off-cuts of whatever timber I could find from local building sites. I soon learned which ones worked best.

Pine was light, easy to work and gave my lures a crisp action, but it was a little soft and easily damaged. Meranti was good, but slightly heavier and more opened grained. Cedar wasn't common but was my favorite. Local hardwoods were too difficult to carve and the weight tended to kill lure action.

Over the three decades that have passed since then (why do I suddenly feel old?). I've used dozens of timbers to make lures. Some were great. Most were suitable. A few I'd rather forget. But I have pretty much figured out the qualities to look for in a lure making timber:

- It must be easy to carve, so relatively soft, light, straight grained wood is best;
- Weight is very important. The lighter the better, even if you're making sinking lures. For the technical minded, I like timbers that are no more than about 35-38 lbs/cubic foot (560 – 610 kg/cubic meter).
- It should be easy to get locally. You don't want to invent a killer lure and never be able to get the right wood to make it again!
- Good screw and glue holding strength, and takes paint well
- Dry, well seasoned and square.

Some of the more popular lure making timbers include balsa, various cedars, meranti, beech, poplar, cypress knees, basswood and jelutong. Depending on the style of lure I'm making, my personal favorites are balsa, western red cedar and smoked Baltic pine.

3.2 Weighting Turns Ordinary Lures Into Extraordinary Ones

Some wooden lure designs work just fine without being weighted. But the majority of them need some internal ballast to get the most out of them.

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The best advice I can give a newbie is: If in doubt, weight your lure. Yes, even topwater lures! Here are some tips to get you started, though the exact location and amount of weight to use is a matter of trial and error.

- Adding weight just under the skin at the belly of a crankbait or other lipped lure style stabilizes the action. It keeps the lure right way up and resists rolling onto its side. This gives a stronger action and allows lures to be worked over a wider range of speeds. It also contributes to diving depth by assisting the diving lip.



Most crankbaits need to be weighted close to the skin on the belly or chin for best results.

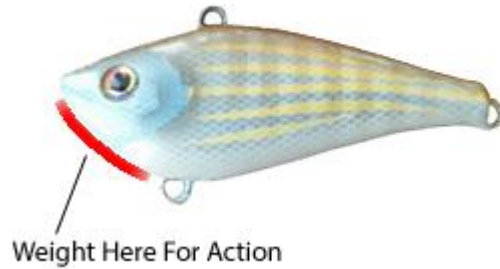
- For propbaits and fizzers, belly weighting helps the lure stay the correct way up and resist the rotational force of the propeller. Sometimes the weight of the hooks is sufficient for this, but often a little more internal weight is required. It can also help keep the lure horizontal on the water by counter-balancing the weight of the prop blades.



Propbaits often benefit from a little weight to counterbalance the weight of the propeller(s).

- For most lipless crankbaits and rattlebaits the struggle between internal weight and the buoyancy of the wood is what causes the action. Getting the weighting right is critical!

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Lipless Crankbaits are usually weighted heavily around the chin area

- For swimbaits, correct weighting keeps the lure right way up and stabilizes the head section, causing the tail segments to wave from side to side.



Weighting swimbaits as shown helps stabilise the head section and encourages good action in the tail segments

- For suspending lures you must add the correct weight in the correct places, to allow the lure to “hang” motionless in the water when there is a pause in the retrieve.

- For many topwater poppers and stickbaits, tail weighting is required to get casting distance and allow a high speed retrieve for saltwater pelagics. For others, the weight might be shifted forward to maximize surface disturbance at slower retrieve speeds.

You get the idea. Weighting your lures properly is one of the really important skills of lure making. And knowing how much weight to use and where to place it can only come from experience. Or, by using templates and patterns that someone else has developed and perfected, like the one in my tutorial. You access the tutorial here: <http://woodenlureworkshop.com/balsa-crank-tutorial/>

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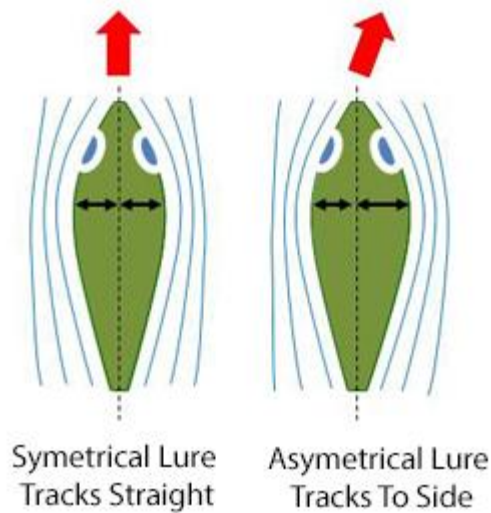
Poppers for long casting and high speed retrieves need weight towards the tail. Lures that will be used at slower speeds and on reasonably calm waters are usually better weighted so that they float more horizontally.

3.3 The Power Of The Mirror Image

To get a stable and effective action it's really important to get your lure bodies symmetrical and all of the components properly aligned. What do I mean by this? Well, look at your lure body from above and imagine a line going from the head to the tail, right down the middle.

Look closely on either side of that center line. Are both sides exact mirror images? If not, your lure won't perform as well as it should.

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The lure on the right is slightly thicker on the right hand side, causing it to pull in that direction. This can be sometimes be fixed by tuning, but often lures like this will never track properly no matter you tune them.

If one side of your lure is thicker than the other it will automatically pull to that side. For diving lures, this can also destabilize the action, reduce the diving depth and make the lure difficult or impossible to tune.

The same applies when you look at your lure from below, in front and behind. You really want even water flow over the body of your lure. That way the diving lip, internal weights, joints, props or other features that create the desired action can be 100% effective.

Great symmetry also means your lure will work over a wider range of cranking or trolling speeds. That range varies from lure to lure, but if your lure is balanced and symmetrical you'll be able to work it a bit faster and a bit slower than a similar lure that isn't symmetrical.

On the subject of symmetry and crankbaits, it's also super important that the diving lip is perfectly symmetrical and that it is not crooked in the lure body. Once again, diving depth, ability to handle a range of retrieve speeds and the robustness of the action all hinge on this.

3.4 Water Is The Enemy Of Wooden Lures

I know, it seems ironic. We're making lures to throw into water, yet water is the enemy?

Raw wood is like a sponge. Nature designed it to absorb and convey water.

But the balance and action of your lure depend on the wood staying light and buoyant. The absorption of water can ruin this balance and buoyancy. So if a fish tooth penetrates the wood or your lure has altercations with rocks and pylons the paint can chip and the rot can set in. Literally!

Even a tiny chip or crack allows water to penetrate deep into the wood by capillary action. As it does, the lure gets heavier and the swimming action suffers.

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Once inside the lure, it's hard for the moisture to escape again, because of the waterproof coating on the outside. This causes a couple of problems:

- It leaves the wood susceptible to microbes that cause rot. This can weaken the lure, especially in the vicinity of screw eyes and other fittings; and
- It eventually finds its way beneath the paint and clear coat layer, which is the #1 cause of paint jobs failing, in my experience.

The solution to these problems is to treat your lure bodies with a product that will protect it from penetration by water.

Please hear me when I say this: Too many lure makers rely only on paint and clear coat to keep the water out. But it's normal for these to get chipped and damaged during fishing. In fact, if you're not putting your lures in harms way then you're probably not catching as many fish as you should be! So your lures need an extra layer of protection.

There are a few products that can help. Lots of people use sanding sealer or penetrating wood hardener for this. These are products designed to soak deep into the wood fiber and cure hard. So they don't just put a coat of armor on the outside. They actually make the wood itself harder and more waterproof.

Supa Glue is another product that often gets used to harden wood, although I personally don't rate it highly. There are better products that give a far superior result. And it's expensive in the long run.

My personal favorite product for treating raw wood bodies is Envirotex Lite, a two part epoxy resin. I like to thin this down with a little alcohol and paint it onto lure bodies that have been gently warmed to open up the pores. This allows the resin to get a bit deeper into the wood before setting hard. I've found that this product gives the longest lasting, toughest and most durable lures. It also gives a perfect surface later on when you get to the painting stage.

3.5 Answer To The Eternal Question: Screw Eyes Or Through Wire?

These are the main options for adding tow points and hook hangers to your lures. For the newbies, here is a quick explanation:

Screw eyes are small fittings with an eyelet on one end and a threaded woodscrew on the other end. They can be added to your lure anywhere you need to tie a line, hang a hook or add a propeller or other hardware.

Twist eyes are homemade eyelets that are formed by bending a short piece of stainless steel wire around round nosed pliers, a nail or some other item, then twisting the ends together. To install them you must first drill a small hole in your lure body, then glue the twist eye in place with a good quality epoxy adhesive.

A through wire is a single piece of wire that is bent and twisted to form a tow point and hook hangers. It is then installed in the lure body by gluing it into a slot or by laminating two halves of the lure body with the through wire sandwiched between.

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A through wire ready for installation into a lure body. In this example the through wire passes through the diving lip and the two are glued into the lure body as a single piece.

So which one should you use?

Great question! In fact, it's one of the most commonly debated questions in lure making. So let me give you my views.

I almost always prefer to use a through wire in my lures. The main advantage is that your hooks and line are connected by a single piece of wire. So if the lure body fails or is chewed up by a toothy predator you stay connected to the fish. Through wires are a little more work and they add a little bit of extra weight to the lure, but I usually reckon they're worth the trouble.

Having said that, I often suggest beginners start out using screw eyes or even better, twist eyes. Unless they expect their lures to encounter sharp toothed species, that is.

Why do I recommend screw and twist eyes?

Quite simply, screw eyes are a lot easier to work with than through wires and they don't sacrifice much strength if they are properly installed. Proper installation is a little bit of an art, but pretty quick once you know how. Check out the video in my free tutorial for more info.

So, what about strength? How do the three options stack up?

Well, a while ago, I did some experiments for my Crankbait Masterclass using 3 inch wooden lure bodies. I wanted to end the debate, once and for all. I prepared one lure body using a 1mm through wire, one with inch-long, light duty brass screw eyes and a third with 1 inch twist eyes made from 1mm stainless wire and glued in with epoxy.

Next, I hung weights from each of the lures and kept increasing the weight until they failed. The through wire and twist eyes were able to sustain 88 lbs (40kg) of weight, which I left hanging from them overnight. For lures of this size, that's way above the line class and drag settings they'd ever experience.

The screw eyes failed at 44 lbs (20kg) because the eyes opened, rather than the threads pulling from the wood. But once again, the weight they handled far exceed the strength of any lines they would ever be used with. And, the use of stainless steel screw eyes would only make them stronger.

Even in balsa lure bodies it was the screw eyes, not the wood, that failed at 44lbs (20kg).

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So as far as I'm concerned there is usually no problem with using screw eyes as long as they are properly installed and of good quality. Once again, unless you're targeting toothy fish.

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4. The Part Of The eBook Concerned With Actually Making Lures

4.1 Designing Lure Bodies

It might be therapeutic to pick up a piece of wood and just start carving with no real plan, but it's not usually productive. Lures made without much thought usually don't perform that well. And if you happen to strike gold you may not be able to repeat it! That's why templates are so great.

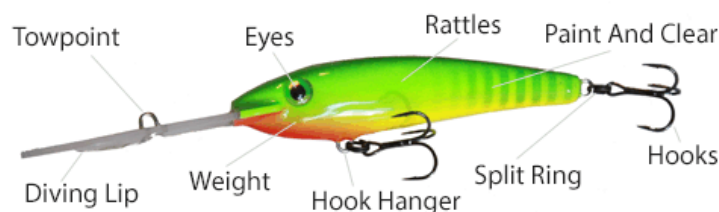
The shape of your lure bodies has a big bearing on their action, diving depth and so on. For example, the two lures shown below are Crankbait Masterclass projects and have the same size and shape of diving lip, the same internal weight and the same tow point setup. But the flat sided style only reaches depths of 15-18 feet while the minnow style gets down to 18-20 feet on the same line class. It all comes down to body shape.



Two lures with same diving lip size, shape and angle, same tow point location and same weighting. The top one dives 3 ft (1m) deeper, due entirely to body shape.

Your chances of success increase dramatically if you give some thought to all of this before you start to carve. Then create a template, so you can easily clone the lures that work best. Having a template will also allow you to modify and improve your designs too, as we'll discuss shortly.

4.1.1 Crankbait Design Tips



Anatomy Of A Typical Crankbait

- If you are imitating a particular baitfish it helps if your lure body size and shape is similar to the bait you're imitating. This not only makes them look more like the bait, it gives them a similar vibration. For example, flat sided crankbaits are perfect for imitating shad and other deep-bodied bait species. Long, slender lures are better for imitating minnows. Chunky, stocky lures are great for craw patterns. You get the idea!

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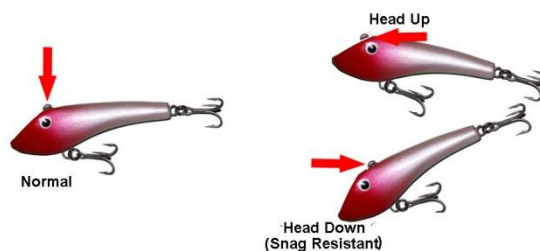
- Deeper bodied styles need a little extra weight to sit properly in the water. Without it they have a tendency to roll onto their sides.
- A larger diving lip usually requires more belly weight to stabilize the lure, but not always. It depends a lot on body shape.
- A large diving lip needs to be set into the lure almost horizontally, but smaller diving lips work better if they are angled downwards.
- Making the tail section of a lure too thick can reduce action, but making it too thin is asking for breakage.
- The location of the tow point is very important. Large diving lips usually require the tow point to be installed on the lip. Designs with smaller lips usually work best if the tow point is on or under the nose.

4.1.2 Designing Stickbaits and Other Topwater Styles

- “Walk the dog” style stickbaits often work best if they are an inverted banana shape with weighting towards the back and the tow point under the nose.
- Fizzers with front propellers may need a little tail weighting to make them float horizontally.
- If you fit multiple props on a lure, make them rotate in opposite directions. This will help overcome the tendency for the lure body to want to twist.
- Casting poppers and those you want to fish at faster speeds need weight back towards the tail. You want these to float in a tail-down position at rest. Poppers for slower speed fishing and flat water conditions need to be more horizontal, so reduce the weight and shift it forward a little.

4.1.3 Lipless Crank and Rattlebait Tips

- Weighting is often critical for these styles and needs to be well forward. This creates opposing forces between the weight holding the lure right way up and the buoyancy making it want to roll onto its side. This is precisely the cause of the action in these lures

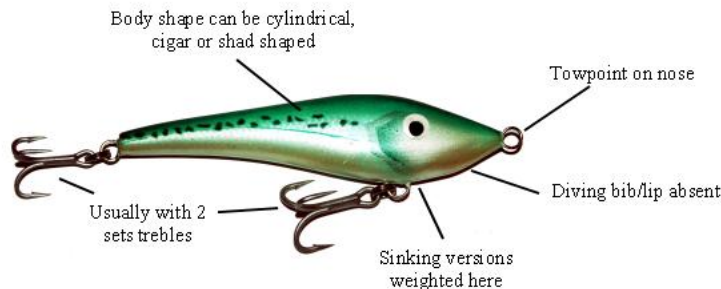


Moving the tow point location on a lipless crankbait can change its attitude in the water, as well as the working speeds to which it's best suited.

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- The tow point for these lures is never on the nose, it's always on top of the head. Moving it forwards slightly will reduce the action and make the lure work better at high speed. Moving it backwards makes the lure swim more "head-down", increases the action and is better for working lures at slower speeds or vertical jigging.
- It's feasible to put two tow points on this style of lure, one forward and one further back. This increases versatility and fishing options from a single lure.
- A flat area in front of the tow point increases action at slow speed. A rounded body shape in front of the tow point creates a tighter shimmy and allows higher speed fishing.
- Don't be put off by the quieter, lower pitched sound compared to plastic rattlebaits. It might seem a little more subtle to human ears, but the sound of a wooden rattlebait is more natural and is very attractive to fish.

4.1.4 Glidebait and Swimbait Secrets



Anatomy Of A Typical Glide Bait.

- These can be floating, fast or slow sinking, depending on how you weight them. They work best if the weight is balanced so that they stay horizontal when they are not being pulled through the water.
- Action is created by the body shape, articulation and/or rod action. Getting everything balanced and symmetrical is important if you want lures that dart from one side to another. Out of balance lures will tend to swim to only one side, which can look unnatural.
- Tow point is always on or under the nose of the lure.
- Long, slender body shapes tend to glide and dart better than shorter, stout ones.

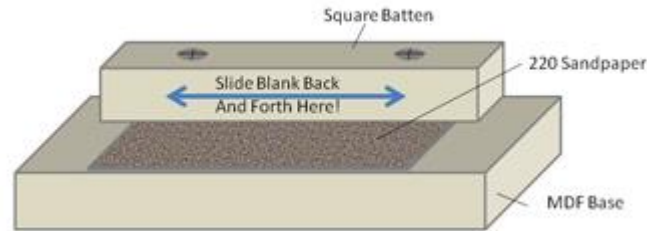
4.2 How To Turn A Block Of Wood Into A Lure Body

Something I have always advocated is to start with wood that is perfectly square and straight. It's one of those little things that can make a difference between success and failure. It makes it so much easier to get everything aligned properly when the wood is square.

If a blank is out of square you can use the simple jig shown below to fix the problem. It's just an MDF base with some sandpaper attached using 220 grit sandpaper. A square batten of mdf or other straight

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edged material is screwed on. The lure blank is held against the batten and moved back and forth over the sandpaper to square and straighten the edges.



Simple hand jig for squaring wooden lure blanks

Once the blank is square, mark the center lines on each of the sides and transfer the body shape from your template. While you're at it, mark the location of tow point, hook hangers, weights, rattles, 3d eyes, diving lip or any other fixtures.

I usually cut through wire slots and diving lip slots next, if my design requires it. I also drill for weights, rattles and 3D eyes before I start the shaping. Doing all of this while the wood is still square allows me to get everything perfectly aligned so the lure is properly balanced. If I'm making one of my regular patterns then doing things in this way results in a very low failure rate.

The next task is to remove the waste until the lure is the same shape as the template, like in the image below. This can be easily done using a chisel or sharp knife, but if you have a bandsaw, scroll saw or belt sander you can do things a little quicker.



Cutting the diving lipslot, through wires slot and side profile of a medium sized crankbait.

Be warned, I DO NOT recommend using a bandsaw for cutting small parts unless you develop a way of doing so safely. If you choose to ignore this warning, take extreme caution and do so at your own risk. No lure is worth losing a finger over, and it's harder to hold a fishing rod with missing fingers!

You need to concentrate on keeping the wood square in cross section at this stage because that will help later to keep everything symmetrical and properly aligned.

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Next I transfer the top profile of the lure onto the blank and do the same thing. Once again, keep everything square in cross section.



Underside of blank after removing waste from sides, top and bottom. Note the through wire slot and holes for weights.

Now you just need to round off the corners and whittle away until the lure reaches final shape. Only take light cuts at this stage, to avoid gouging out more wood than you intend to. Remember to always work with the grain.



Smoked Baltic pine lure blanks at various stages of hand shaping

Finally, it's time to sand. A piece of 240 grit sandpaper can be used to remove the tool marks and refine the final shape. 400 grit sandpaper will smooth things up nicely and remove many of the sanding scratches from the coarser paper.

4.3 Tricks For Creating And Perfecting New Styles

I have better than 95% success rates when I'm cloning one of my older designs, but not when I'm developing a new lure design. Usually I'm pushing the limits, improving a design or doing something a little "out there". So the fail rate is a lot higher.

If a lure design is dud I want to figure that out before I invest too much time in it. That allows me to move on to the next idea and get to my final goal faster.

I try to view failed lure designs as a badge of honor. "Killer" lures are rarely developed by accident. Usually, it's a process of developing and designing something different and then testing and trialing lots of modifications and "tweaks" until the design is perfected. Sometimes that process can take weeks. More often it's months or even years.

The point is, you want to get through the failures fast so that you can get on to the winners sooner. So here are some tips for perfecting your new design:

- If it's a completely new lure, start by thinking it out on paper first. Go back over the Section 4.1 and think about what you need the lure to do. If you're tweaking an existing design to make it better, go back to your template and try changing ONE thing at a time. Then you can see what difference it makes.
- For completely new designs I suggest making 5 or 6 identical prototype lure bodies to play with, test, tweak and modify. Once you've shaped these, go ahead and seal and harden the wood, as I described above.
- Don't use through wires in your prototypes, even if the final lures will have through wires. For testing purposes screw eyes are enough. When you are fitting screw eyes, don't bother to fit them properly, especially the tow point and front hook hanger(s). Just screw them into place so that you can easily remove them and relocate them until you're happy with the balance and action.
- Don't drill holes for weights just yet. I find that the best way is to fit the screw eyes, hooks and rings, propellers, diving lips and other components. Then add weight to the outside of the lure using double sided tape or hot glue. Drop the lure into a bucket of water to test how it floats. If the lure is well balanced, great! If not, remove the weight(s) and relocate or replace with larger/smaller ones until you're happy with the balance. Then drill out the prototype and glue the weights in place with 5 minute epoxy. You don't need the glue in a prototype to last long, so don't wait 24hr for it to cure!
- For lipped lure styles, make a few different diving lips to try. This might include different lengths, widths, thicknesses and materials. If the tow point is to be on the diving lip you might also try various locations for the tow point. Fit your preferred lip using a small bead of hot glue, rather than epoxy.
- Don't bother painting or clear coating your prototypes, they're only meant for testing the design and don't need to look pretty. As long as you've waterproofed the lure it will be fine
- Be sure and keep notes of what you use and where it's located. It's frustrating to finally perfect the weighting of a lure and then not remember exactly what weights you used!

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Once you've developed a prototype it's time to put it to the test. Don't bother dragging it through the bath tub or aquarium, you need to actually test it on a good length of line. A swimming pool is the perfect place, or just a river, lake or pond where you can try it on a suitable length of line. Remember to have a stick of hot glue, some pliers and a cigarette lighter so you tune your lure or knock out a diving lip or weight and switch it for a different one.

Don't be surprised if your prototype catches a fish, even unpainted. It's happened more than once to me!

Oh, and if your lure doesn't swim properly, don't immediately throw it out and start over. Sometimes a little tuning is all that's needed to get it working (see Section 4.5)

Once you're happy with the balance, action, diving depth and so on, go ahead and make a small batch of maybe 5-6 lures. These should be fitted out with the hardware properly, painted up and clear coated. You're wanting to check that the prototype translates into a working lure, so don't make thousands of them just yet, just in case some final refinements are required.

4.4 Mini-Me. How To Clone Your Best Lures

With practice, it's not too hard to make batches of handmade lures that are virtually identical to look at and fish with. And once you've made a batch or two your results will get more and more consistent.



No two handmade lures are ever completely the same. It's the minor variations and slightly more erratic action that gives these lures a strong edge over molded plastic lures.

I'm about to give you some tips on how you can make the process of duplication a little easier. But before I do, please understand this:

“As handmade lure makers we face a conundrum. We want to duplicate our best lures, so we strive to make batches of identical lures. Yet, it's the subtle differences between handmade lures that makes them so powerful. This comes from a non-uniform raw material as well as the minor variations inherent in hand-making any item. Each lure is just slightly different, emits a slightly different vibration. That makes it impossible for fish to become educated about not eating them, it's good to have some variation in your lures.”

What I'm trying to say is: It's good to get batches of lures that are very similar. It's also good if they are not exactly the same. So don't get too hung up on making perfect copies of your lures! It's one time when close enough is actually good enough.

Tips for cloning your lures:

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- Always make a template and keep notes on how you've built your lures. Apart from the body shape, substituting anything can change the action. Type of wood, amount and location of weight, rattles, clear coat and so on all matter. Diving lip size, shape, angle, material play a part. Tow point location, type of hooks and rings can affect things. You need to keep good records so you can use the same stuff next time.



Batches of small wooden stick and jerk baits at various stages of completion.

- Making lures in batches helps with consistency. Cut out a heap of bodies at once. Shape them in stages so they all stay at the same level of progress. It's a lot easier to get consistency that way.
- Creating jigs can also help speed processes up while maintaining consistency.

4.5 A Final Spit Polish Will Make Your Lures Hum

Sometimes handmade lures and prototypes work from the moment you tie them onto your line. But more often they need a little tuning before they work properly.

Tuning is a minor adjustment that involves bending the tow point, ever so slightly, to correct a bias in the action of the lure. So for example, if the lure has a tendency to track to the left, try bending the tow point very slightly to the right.

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Before bending the tow point, inspect the lure carefully. Make sure the hook hangers are properly aligned and give them a gentle twist if necessary to bring them into alignment. Once this is done, it's time to get the tow point properly aligned

To do this, use a pair of pliers to grip the tow point. Hold the lure firmly with your thumb and forefinger on either side of the head as close as possible to where the tow point comes out of the wood. This helps ensure the wire bends rather than the wood splitting. Then gently bend the wire or screw eye in the desired direction.

Make only very slight adjustments at a time, have a couple of casts and then do it again if necessary. Repeat until the lure is tracking straight. Useful tip: Sometimes it's useful to "de-tune" a lure so that you can cast parallel to a pontoon or laydown and have the lure track underneath as you crank it back!

Also, you can sometimes increase the action of a lure slightly by bending the tow point downward, assuming it's not on the diving lip.

If your lure is rolling onto its side, then tuning may not help much. This response tends to be symptomatic of something else out of alignment, rather than a tow point adjustment. Perhaps the weights are off center. Maybe the diving lip is misshaped or crooked. Maybe the tow point or hook hangers aren't centered. It's worth trying to gently twist the tow point and see if that corrects the problem. Often, there is little you can do with this except rack it up to experience and try to make a better job of it on your next attempt.

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5. Paint Turns Wooden Lures Into Fishing Weapons



Painting your lures protects them from the water, fish and general knocks and bumps. But professional looking paint jobs are usually more important to fishermen than fish

The painting and decorating aspect of lure making is generally of far greater importance to fishermen than it is to fish. My experience, observations and years of scientific training all confirm this. Everything we have covered so far is of far greater importance to fish than the painting step, so focus on getting all that stuff right and worry about lure art later!

Yet, far more time and effort goes into perfecting the painting of lures than pretty much anything else! And that's why we have so many beautiful looking lures out there that don't swim properly and couldn't catch a leech in a bog. The lure maker was more interested in giving his work a professional look than an effective action.

Why is that so?

Partly it's because we as humans are conditioned to think that if our lures don't look pretty they probably won't catch many fish. Commercial lure makers with their immaculate paint jobs and ultra detailed finishes have conditioned us to feel that way. They have to do this in order to sell their products. Be honest, if you had to choose between a lure that looked lifelike and stunning and one a preschooler painted, which would you go for? Yep, you'd make a choice based on appearance over performance!

Don't worry, we all do it.

Take my business, for example. Quite a few of my prototypes have caught fish during testing, when they were ugly, unfinished and unpainted. Others have become so chewed up by fish that the paint jobs are destroyed – yet they continued to catch fish.

I don't paint lures for my personal use to nearly the same level as those I post on Facebook or my websites.

As a lure making educator, I know that no one would take an interest in my books or courses if the lures looked like they'd been painted by a preschooler. No matter how many fish they caught, the photos would be unconvincing.

Of course, there are lots of other reasons why I invest so much time and effort in painting:

- It's therapeutic and satisfies my creative side

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- I like to be able to give lures to my friends as gifts..... it's usually appreciated if those gifts look great!
- It's a very popular (and sometimes frustrating) part of lure making. Being good at painting allows me to help other people with their painting challenges too.
- It's fun!

The point is, don't get too upset if your lures don't look professional when you first get started. Fish won't care, and your fishing will still improve. You'll find that your skills will develop quite quickly with a little practice.

5.1 The Low Tech Approach: Aerosols And Brushes



With a little practice, aerosols and hand paints can give reasonable results.

The best way to get a really professional paint job is using an airbrush and special paints. But not everybody owns an airbrush or wants to invest in one. Luckily, if your main goal is to catch more fish then hand painting and/or aerosol cans are good options. Your lures might not look quite as professional, but the fish really won't care!

If you follow my suggestion and seal your wood with epoxy then artist's acrylics can be brushed or dabbed straight onto them as soon as the epoxy has cured. But if you have used some other product to seal the wood, you might need to test the paints first and make sure they stick. The best way is to paint a small section, let it dry, then stick on some tape and pull it off. If the tape removes paint you need a primer to help with adhesion.

Of course, other paints, such as modeler's enamels, can also be used for painting lures. If you are switching between paint brands and systems just be careful to make sure that the products you use all play nicely together. Sometimes they can react badly with each other.

The other great option is aerosol cans. I haven't personally used these in many years, but found the small cans of automotive touch up paint come in small cans in a wide range of useful colors. Once again, test all of the products you intend to use with each other first, in case of incompatibilities.

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You can use aerosol cans with masks and stencils to create some pretty useful designs, but don't expect to get the sleek, ultrafine results that are possible with an airbrush.

5.2 Turning Lures Into Art With An Airbrush



An airbrush and quality paints take lure painting into the next dimension.

As I mentioned earlier, airbrushes are by far the most effective way to get professional looking paint jobs on lures. If you plan to sell lures for profit then a good airbrush, quality paints and some pretty good skills will make your lures much more saleable!

There is so much to say about airbrushing lures that I just can't cover it all in this little eBook. In fact, I've written a entire book and eBook on this very subject and I run online lure painting courses that cover all of this stuff in a lot more detail.

Here are some basics to get you started:

5.2.1 Airbrushes

Please, please, please don't be the next lure painter to buy a dirt cheap airbrush and get disappointed! You get what you pay for and although they might look similar to a quality airbrush, cheap airbrushes are likely to frustrate you with poor results and constant clogging. You only pay more in the long run if you have to upgrade later, so buy the best you can afford, right from the get go.

In my experience, dual action, gravity feed airbrushes with 0.30-0.35mm nozzles are about the best "general purpose" lure painting tools. You'll also need a good, constant air supply, so be sure to invest in a decent compressor. Quiet compressors allow you to work at night, which can make things a lot easier if work stops you lure making during the day and your family like a good night sleep.

5.2.2 Airbrush Paints

I use and recommend water based airbrush acrylics. AutoAir and Wicked are the best brands, Createx is ok, but not in the same league as the others.

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You'll need sealer, opaque and transparent colors to get started. You can add metallic or pearl, fluorescent and other specialty paints later as your skills evolve. You'll also need plenty of reducer for thinning your paints. Don't be tempted to use water or Windex for this, they're not good options.

Other paint types (eg automotive paints) can also be used, but most are a lot more toxic, flammable and smelly than the water based acrylics.

5.2.3 Painting Tips



Airbrush paints can give lovely gentle transitions, such as blue to white in this case. Or sharp, crisp lines when used with masks and stencils, like the gold stripe.

- Airbrush paints are not intended for use straight from the bottle. They are designed to be diluted with reducer first. Correct dilution depends on the air pressure you are using, your airbrush and the nozzle size. As a general guide, 6 parts paint to 4 parts reducer is a good starting point.
- A couple of coats of airbrush sealer improves paint adhesion. It's just not worth skipping this step if you want long lasting lures.
- After sealer, I usually like to give my lures a couple of good coats of opaque white or opaque black paint, depending on the pattern I'm painting. This gives a uniform base over which to paint the mid and top coats.
- Opaque, metallic, pearl and fluorescent paints are best used for base colors.
- Transparent paints are among the most important in your kit and are used for shading, toning, tinting, blending, grading and, most importantly, detail work. I use transparent paints for scaling, gills, fins, craw shells and any other detail I want to add.
- Metallic and pearl paints will clog your airbrush less often if they are properly diluted and sprayed at relatively low pressure.
- For best effect, fluorescent paints need a bright white base to be sprayed over. They are generally not UV stable and will fade over time.
- All airbrush acrylics are soft and porous and require a tough, durable clear coat before the lures are used for fishing.
- Use the lowest pressure possible for detail, stenciling or masking operations.

5.3 Make Your Lures Bulletproof With Clear Coat

Clear coating gives your lures that glossy, glassy, finished look. The right product also makes your lures tough, durable and long lasting.

There are literally hundreds of products used by lure makers to clear coat and finish their lures. And in 35 years I've tried a lot of them! The problem is, to this day I've never found the perfect product. Neither has anyone else I know.

I'll talk you through some of the options and their pro's and con's first. Then I'll go into a little more detail on my favorite clear coating option.

5.3.1 Moisture Cure Urethanes (MCU's)

As the name suggests, these are products that require a small amount of moisture to start the curing process. Commonly used ones are the flooring urethanes that are available through many paint and hardware outlets. Dick Nite also produces an MCU suitable for lure painting. Most modern marine varnishes also fall into this group of products.

The advantages of MCU's are that they produce a hard, clear and durable finish. They go on pretty thin, so if you have carved detail in your lure it won't be obscured by a heavy clear coat. Application is generally fairly quick – dipping lures and then hanging them is about the best option.

On the downside, the act of opening a tin of MCU lets in air. The moisture content of air is enough to start the curing process. So the whole tin will start to set and will give you a very limited shelf life. If you live in a humid climate this is especially problematic. Decanting the product into several smaller containers, purging with nitrogen or other dry gas and dispensing from a tap on the bottom of the tin all help, but don't solve the problem.

The best of these products that I have tried is called Glisten PC. It's a very good product, but is not cheap.

5.3.2 Clear Acrylics

Automotive and household acrylics are a cheap, relatively non toxic option. Unfortunately, they are just too soft and easily damaged for lure making. I couldn't recommend them.

5.3.3 Automotive 2-pack

2 Pack automotive clear coats are quite tough, glassy and durable. They tend to be polyurethane products, although not the moisture cure type, so they don't have the same issues with setting in the tin.

There are a couple of problems with 2 pack urethanes. The first is toxicity. The catalyst for these products contains isocyanate, which is very nasty and absorbs through the skin, eyes and lungs. In most places these products can only legally be sprayed whilst wearing a respirator, full body suit and in a registered spray booth. "Iso Free" products are available, but are not much less toxic and still require handling procedures and equipment that make them a poor choice for recreational or semi-professional lure makers.

The second issue is that 2 packs tend to be a little brittle. I've found that the clear coat can develop cracks when the lure hits hard surfaces during casting or fishing.

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5.3.4 UV cure epoxy

There are a few epoxy products around that are cured by UV light, either from sunlight or from an artificial source. These are usually painted onto the lure, which is rotated under a UV lamp for a few minutes to set the resin.

UV cure epoxies are easy to use and very fast curing, which is great. But they tend to not be as hard as other epoxies and all of the ones I've seen tend to be slightly cloudy.

The manufacturers of these products say that they are non-yellowing, but I've seen numerous complaints from lure makers who have found this not to be the case. Do your research before investing in a tin of clear and a UV light.

5.3.5 Two Part Epoxies

I have deliberately left this group of clear coating products until last. They are very diverse and widely variable in their suitability for lures, so it's hard to be general about them. Instead, I'll talk about a few of the more commonly used ones.

Devcon 2K is actually an adhesive, but is crystal clear and is often used as a clear coat by lure makers. There are various mixing ratios and curing times, depending on the product you choose, but usually the pot life ranges from 10-30 minutes. This makes it suitable if you're only coating one or two lures at a time, but a bit of a nuisance if you want to do larger batches.

I'm not personally a fan of Devcon for 3 reasons. The first is that it cures too quickly, which can make it hard to get your lures coated properly before the clear coat gels. The second reason is that I've noticed a tendency for Devcon to develop fine cracks around tow points and diving lips with time and use. And finally, Devcon tends to yellow with exposure to UV.

Surfboard makers use a range of clear epoxies for finishing their products. I know that quite a few lure makers use these, but I don't have personal experience with them. Again, do your research before splashing out any cash!

Envirotex Lite (aka "Etex") is another commonly used epoxy clear coat, and is the one I generally use for most of my lures. The manufacturers say it's not suitable for outdoor use, presumably because it's not UV stable. But having made and used thousands of Etex coated lures over decades tells me it's not too much of a problem.

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Epoxy clear coats are thick, tough and crystal clear. Perfect for coating most painted lures, such as this foiled wooden rattlebait.

The great thing about ETex is the quality of the finish. It's thick, tough, ultra clear and looks fantastic. I don't find that it yellows too much, though I tend not to leave any of my lures in direct sun when they're not in use, regardless of the finish.

The downsides of ETex are numerous. I love the end result, but it is a pain to work with until you get the process nailed. It tends to work best if it is painted on thick, but a 24 hour curing time means you need to rotate the lure for a few hours to prevent the resin from accumulating at the lowest point. It stays sticky for hours, making it a real dust magnet. It stinks until it's fully cured. It needs to be measured very accurately or it will NEVER set, forcing you to throw away your lures. It can be sprayed with a lot of experience and suitable safety gear, but it's usually brushed on - and it's a real pain to clean off brushes

Despite these hassles, in my mind, the end result with ETex is worth the effort, so I persist with this particular product. That's why I'll give you some tips for working with it!

5.4 Insider Tricks For Epoxy Clear Coats

Many years ago I developed a system for working with ETex. Since then I don't recall ever having a failure with the stuff, which has taken much of the pain out of using it. ETex is still a bit laborious to use, but gives the best results I've seen.

Here are my tips:

- Disposable brushes make the job much easier. I bulk buy small brushes for around 3c each, use them once and throw them out.
- It is absolutely critical to get equal parts resin and hardener. I use glass syringes to measure the stuff out, but rubber free plastic ones work fine too.
- Disposable plastic shot glasses and ice cream sticks are perfect for mixing the resin and hardener
- When mixing, remember that the resin has a long pot life, so you have plenty of time to combine the two parts. Also remember that failing to properly mix will result in a clear coat that stays

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sticky FOREVER..... a throw-away job! So scrape down the sides as you mix, and keep going until you are absolutely, 100% sure the two parts are combined. Then mix again for another five minutes. Then mix again for another 2 minutes.

- Gently warming the resin and hardener bottles before mixing and then maintaining a warm and constant temperature during application helps. ETex tends to go quite thick if it's cold, so it doesn't flow onto the lure properly.

- After mixing, wait 10 minutes or so before painting the clear coat onto the lures. This will allow many of the trapped bubbles to escape (something that can't be done with Devcon).

- Paint the ETex on quite thick and then put the lure onto a rotating drying wheel. This will make the resin level out evenly over the lure surface. Usually 4-5 hours is long enough to keep them moving, provided the room temp isn't too cold. Over the first hour or so it doesn't hurt to take the lures off the drying wheel occasionally and just brush over any spots that might have become dry.

- If there are any dust particles in the clear, pick them out carefully with a needle while the resin is still wet. Air bubbles can be removed by heating gently from above with the flame of a cigarette lighter. Or they can be pricked with the point of a needle.

- Make sure the room is dust free and warm for the next 24 hours.

- It's always best to apply 2 coats of ETex. Sometimes the first coat will develop ripples or a kind of orange peel effect. I've never completely figured out why, although I suspect it's to do with room temperature fluctuations. Whatever the reason, in almost 100% of cases a second coat will fix the problem, so don't worry about sanding it back, just recoat.

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6. Seven Tips For Using Your Lures

OK, so you've made some lures. Fantastic, congratulations! Now it's time to go fishing and experience what a difference they can make – after all, that's the whole point, right?

The actual technique of using custom wooden lures doesn't differ all that much from fishing with their hard plastic cousins. But there are some big advantages that just naturally come with using these lures I really want you to be aware of. These are the things that will give you the edge over the fish.

Tip #1: Have Confidence In Your Lures

When you're first getting started your lures may be less than perfect. They might be a little, shall we say, unpolished. It's natural to assume they aren't as good as that shiny Rapala in your tackle box. The truth is, as long as they are getting to the right depth, have a good action are the right size and shape then they're probably every bit as good. The Rapala has to meet all of those requirements, too!

Ask any tournament pro: Fishing is a head game. Being confident means you stay focused longer, try harder and generally as a consequence connect with fish more often. It's just natural, and it doesn't just apply to tournament pro's.

For the casual angler confidence is just as important. It means you'll put a lure into heavy cover, try a lighter leader, experiment with different actions. It means you'll give your lure the chance to prove itself.

I once watched a buddy tie on one of his homemade lures. He fished with it for about 15 minutes and catching nothing, switched it for a commercial lure. He fished that one for a good hour or more and still caught nothing. Why did he fish his own lure for 15 minutes but persist with the bought one for an hour? He had confidence in someone else's lure but not in his own, so he was prepared to persevere with what he thought was a better lure!

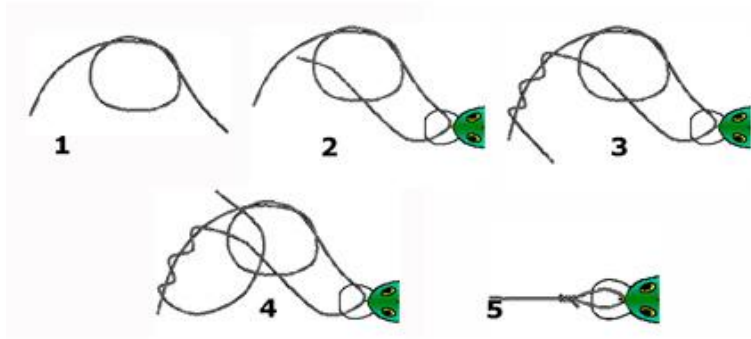
Think about it. You know exactly how well your own lure is made. You know it was designed for you and your unique fishing needs. You know that fish won't criticize your artwork. If it's the right lure for the day then it will catch fish, just like any lure.

So by all means, keep switching lures until you find what works on the day. But treat your own lures with the same respect, if not more respect, than the bought ones. I guarantee, once you've caught fish on them your confidence levels will increase sharply.

Tip #2: Attaching Homemade Lures To Your Leader

In common with just about all lures, wooden or plastic, you should never use a knot that snugs up tight to the tow point. Doing so will impact on the action of the lure, sometimes severely. The best way to get your lure working effectively is to use a non-slip loop knot, such as "Lefty's Loop" (below).

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Lefty's loop: My preferred way of attaching custom lures to my line.

If you're the type of person who'd rather use snaps than tie knots, then it's best to keep them as lightweight as possible. Definitely don't use snap swivels, they add too much weight at just the wrong place. Personally, I find it only takes a few seconds to cut off a lure and tie a new one on. For the sake of better fishing, that's what I prefer to do.

Tip #3: Understand Resonance, Vibration And Sound

Most folks think that fish are visual hunters, just like humans. The truth is, fish are often more reliant on sound and vibration than sight. Even in very clear water they can often hear your lure and sense its vibration long before they can see it.

If you take 10 (or 100 or 1000) identical injection molded lures of the same make and model, they all have the same sound and vibration. Injection molding gives an extremely consistent result. So if a fish has had a bad experience with just one of those 1000 lures it will become wary of the vibration and sound of all 1000 of them, regardless of their color! It will actually be turned off taking that lure even before it sees it!

Even although we strive to make identical wooden lures, our handmade ones all have a unique vibration and sound. It's one less warning signal for the fish, which is a powerful edge for the fisherman.

In part, the variation in sound and vibration of wooden lures is due to the fact that no two handmade lures is exactly identical. But it's also due to the nature of wood. Wood has a resonance that plastic doesn't. It's to do with the internal structure of wood and how it conveys sound and vibration.

Ever wonder why guitars, violins and many other musical instruments are still made of wood? And not just any wood but the best cuts of a few select and very sought after species? Because plastic just doesn't cut it, that's why! No matter how you make a plastic violin or acoustic guitar it will never have the right sound because plastic doesn't resonate like wood.

In lure making, the same applies. Fish are extremely sensitive to vibration and sound. And wooden lures have a very different vibration and sound to plastic ones.

Tip #4: Catch Fish That Aren't Feeding

I love to make and fish lures that imitate particular bait species in size, shape, color and so on. If you know that herring are a favorite food item for the local bass population then it gives you a sense of confidence to use a lure that mimics a herring.

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But it's a big mistake to assume that fish take lures when they are hungry. Fish also lash out at lures from surprise, boredom, anger, territorialism, instinct or because they're just plain curious.

That's why reaction patterns can be so successful. And once again, it illustrates that it's not too important that your lures look like some work of art.

A big advantage of wooden lures is that they are much quieter than most plastic ones (have you tried to buy a commercial lure without rattles lately?). That quietness allows them to get much closer to a fish without being detected, which can surprise the fish into lashing out instinctively – a reaction strike.

It's a great way to connect with fish on those shut down days when they seem to be very shy.

Tip #5: Take Care Of Your Wooden Lures

If you follow what I've outlined in this eBook you can expect your handmade lures to not only look great, they should last a very long time. Especially if you take the time to properly harden, waterproof and seal the wood and then finish it with a very tough clear coat.

There are a few things you can do to help preserve them though:

- Don't leave them in direct sun for long periods. This goes for any lure and any paint/clear coat combination, of course. UV will eventually degrade the paint and/or yellow the clear coat, shortening the lifespan.
- Avoid leaving them on the deck of the boat or other places they might get trodden on or crushed. Broken diving lips, cracked clear coats and deformed body shapes can be the result.
- Rusty hooks and rings will cost you fish. But they'll also stain the clear coat on your lures, so rinse them off with freshwater and let them dry before packing your lures away. And of course, replace rusty ones with new, sharp ones.
- Be wary of really hot places like cars, boat dashboards and tackleboxes in direct sun. Again this applies to all lures. Expansion and cracking of wood can be the result, deformation of plastic lures is common.

Tip #6: Fish Reckon Your Lures Stink

Fish have extremely sensitive senses of smell and taste. Did you know that fish have taste buds all over their bodies? Unlike humans, who only have them on their tongues? In fact, fish can smell and taste your lures just by getting close to them.

So it pays to give your lures some weeks or months for the smells of clear coats and other residues to fade away.

Even then, hints of fuel, soap, tobacco, sunscreen or other smells on your hands can scent your lures. Using a good quality scent can help tremendously in overcoming this impediment. It's simple, yet so few lure fishermen actually do it.

Be different!

Wooden Lure Making 101

Tip #7: Explore The Deadly Lure Types That Can't Be Bought

Being a lure maker gives you so many opportunities to create and fish with lures that can't be bought commercially. You can design exactly what you need for any specific fishing situation.

To give some examples, here are some of the project lures that we make in my Crankbait Masterclass. Very few lures that can be bought off the shelves come close to these.

- Suspending wooden jerkbait
- Ultra-silent deep diving crankbait
- Wooden rattlebaits
- Micro lipless crankbait
- 12 inch lipped jerkbait
- Hunting wakebait

Right now I'm developing a suspending lipless crankbait, a new style of swimbait and a snag resistant topwater.

This ability to innovate opens up fishing opportunities that couldn't otherwise be accessed. The sky is the limit!

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About Greg “Doc Lures” Vinall

Greg has been a fanatical fisherman and passionate lure maker for all of his adolescent and adult life. In his 20's he completed a PhD in Aquatic Ecology, which led to a 20 year career working on fish and fish related issues as a professional scientist. Hence the nickname “Doc Lures”. Throughout all of those years his obsession with wooden lures only grew.

More recently he has become recognized as one of the world authorities on wooden lure making and has published a string of eBooks, a printed book, some websites and online videos on the subject. Many of his free webinars have been attended by hundreds of wooden lure makers keen to pick up tips on making and fishing with these versatile lures.

You can connect with Greg on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/woodenluremaking/>

Wooden Lure Making 101

Big, Fat, Hairy Disclaimer

This ebook is intended to get beginner lure makers off to a great start. It's a sample of basic tips and tricks for making quality handmade wooden lures. I've named a few of the products I use and that work for me, but they're not the only products that work. They're just what I use. There's always more than one way to skin a cat, so don't feel you have to follow what I do exactly.

Oh yeah, and in a couple of places I've given links to some of the products I use. In some cases if you click on the link and go on to buy something, I may get a small commission. This doesn't affect what you pay for your lure parts at all, you pay exactly the same. But it will help me to continue creating free lure making resources like this one if there is a couple of bucks in it for me. So please consider purchasing your lure making stuff from the links herein! Rest assured, if I don't personally use and recommend a product, it won't get a mention in this eBook.