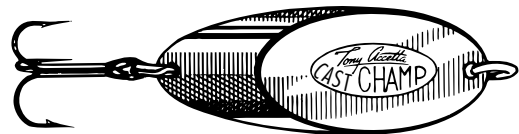
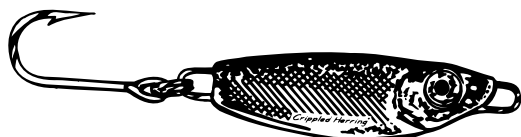


fine results. It has a distinct side-to-side fluttering action when allowed to free-fall in the water and gives off plenty of flash and vibration when worked with a jigging action.

Popular patterns for bass jigging where threadfin shad are found include *Chrome*, *Chrome/Silver Prism-Lite*® and *Brass*. Where bass are oriented to food sources other than shad, such as trout, perch, crayfish or other organisms, it will pay to experiment with different colors and finishes, including natural tones such as *Rainbow Trout*, *Frog* or *Grasshopper*, painted finishes such as *Green*, *Blue*, *Mother-Of-Pearl* and metallic finishes such as *Brass/Fire Stripe* or *Nickel/Fire Wing*. In some areas where bass are found extremely deep, a *Glo/Fluorescent Green Stripe* finish can be quite productive.



CAST CHAMP®: When it comes to jigging spoons, this is an excellent choice having a size range from 1/10-oz. up to 3-oz. It is a thick, slab-sided spoon which has an excellent jigging action and one that will rise and fall in almost a straight line. It is available with a white or yellow bucktail treble hook or a red, white, chartreuse or green tube tail for added attraction and appearance in the water. The *Chrome/White Bucktail* combination is especially deadly when jigging for striped bass. Because of its design, it is well suited not only for vertical jigging but also for casting/jigging as it casts like a bullet. The Cast Champ is available in 11 different color patterns with *Brass/Gold Prism-Lite*®, *Chrome/Silver Prism-Lite*®, *Chrome/Fluorescent Green Prism-Lite*® and *Chrome/Neon Blue Half & Half* good places to start.



CRIPPLED HERRING®: This minnow-shaped spoon is one of the most versatile in the Luhr-Jensen arse-

nal of lures and is the perfect jigging, casting/jigging lure for bass as well. It is different from the traditional jigging spoon because it is made of lead rather than polished metal. Available in sizes from 1/6-oz. clear up to 20-oz., the 1 1/2-oz. to 3-oz. sizes are best suited for bass jigging. It comes in 20 finishes with *Nickel/Neon Blue Back*, *Nickel/Neon Green Back*, *Pearl White* and *Metallic Perch* good colors to try.



NORDIC™: This is another minnow-shaped, lead lure and is available in three sizes, 1-oz., 1 1/2-oz. and 2-oz. It comes in eight finishes but try the *Mother-Of-Pearl*, *Pink Pearl*, *Silver/Dark Blue Stripe* or *Silver/Green Stripe*. For bass in extremely deep water use the *Glo/Fluorescent Green Stripe* model.

ADDITIONAL TIPS

Here are some more tips on spoon jigging for bass that will increase your catches and trip enjoyment:

- Most lost fish can be traced back to dull hooks. One of the easiest things you can do to improve your strike-to-landed fish ratio is to maintain super sharp hooks on every lure. Small-toothed, high-carbon steel files have proved to be the ultimate fish hook sharpening tools and, especially when jigging for bass which are light takers, hook points sharpened with Luhr Jensen's *Sharp Hook File*™ will ensure many more hookups. 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 the point, resulting in both a needle-sharp point and a knife-like cutting edge. These files are available in three versions: file with tang, file plastic handle and file with lanyard and handy clip.

- Spoons are extremely versatile and will allow you to reach the haunts of not only deep water trophy bass, but also those fish at both shallow and medium depths. You can also use the spoon jigging techniques described here for a variety of other gamefish so always take a few spoons along.

There probably is no one accessory item as

important as a good depth sounder, such as those made by *Bottomline*®. A flasher unit will pinpoint structure and the levels of suspended fish and will help you in deciding where to jig. A paper chart recorder is a deluxe depth sounder which will also give you a printed record you can refer back to. You can chart specific areas, bottom contours and the like and actually see the fish in relation to that structure. A depth sounder is an investment that will pay for itself time after time in both fish and fishing enjoyment.

- Use a quality monofilament line such as *Trilene XT*® which has high knot strength, small diameter in relation to pound test, low visibility in the water and high abrasion resistance.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

Spoon jigging requires patience, concentration and the learned ability to detect light strikes. It is a technique when mastered however, that will allow you to take fish from areas not possible with other techniques and in many cases catch larger fish than normal. It's a versatile technique you should learn and add to your bag of tricks for those times when "something special" is needed.

Good Fishing
and
Have a Safe Trip!



This is one in a series of more than 25 detailed technique reports produced by Luhr Jensen. For a complete set, a patch for your jacket or cap, a price list and a full-color catalog showing all of our quality fishing tackle and accessories, send \$5 (\$3 credited to your first order of \$20 or more) along with your name and address to: Luhr Jensen, P.O. Box 297, Hood River, OR 97031, Attn: Customer Service.

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TECH REPORT #19

A Complete Guide on SPOON JIGGING FOR BASS



Spoon jigging is one of the deadliest lure-and-technique combinations ever devised for catching bass in deep water and around vertical structure such as steep cliffs or sunken forests. It is not necessarily an easy technique to master, but the rewards are great as few bass can resist the enticing action of a spoon bouncing up and down.

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Jigging spoons such as the *Krocodile*[®], *Cast Champ*[®], *Crippled Herring*[®] or *Nordic*[™] represent an easy-to-catch, wounded baitfish when jigged upward and then allowed to flutter back toward the bottom. These lures will draw strikes from even the most temperamental, non-aggressive bass if presented and worked correctly.

VERTICAL JIGGING

This technique consists of anchoring your boat, or tying it up, adjacent to vertical structure such as an underwater forest, cliff face, steep sloping bank, stickup (log that protrudes above the water), bridge piling and the like. Your jigging spoon is then allowed to drop alongside the structure, is jigged and paused and then lowered to a deeper level. The spoon is worked this way, clear to the bottom.

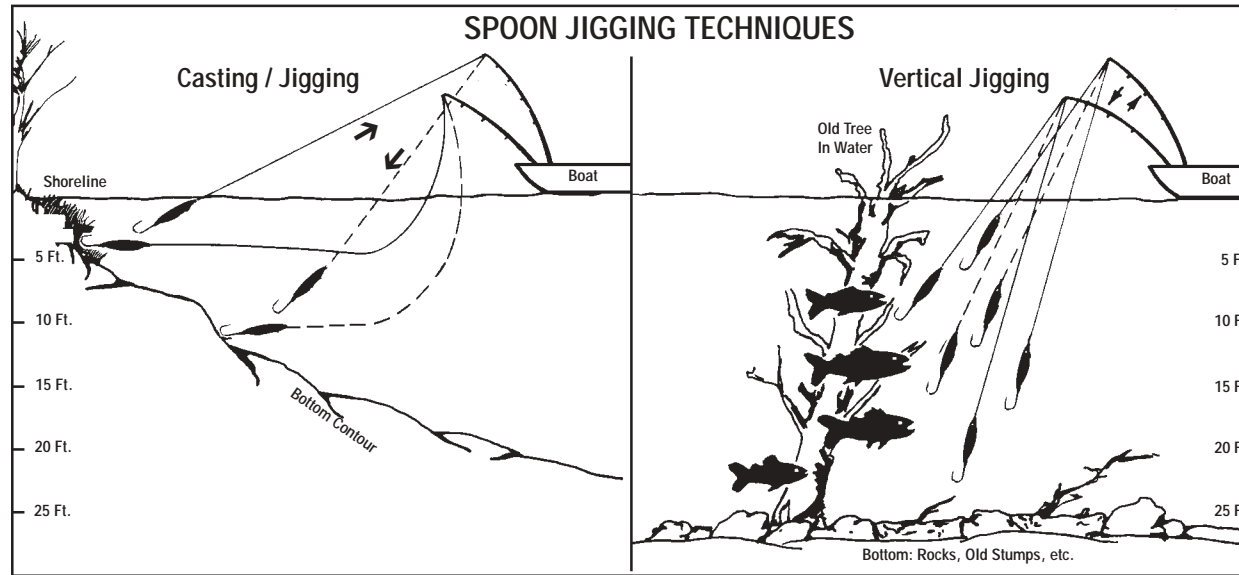
The jigging motion that should be used is a slow, upward movement of your rod tip anywhere from six inches to three feet, then quickly, but smoothly, dropping the rod and following the rod tip and line back to the starting level (vary the jigging motion at each level to give the spoon different actions).

In vertical jigging, as in all spoon jigging, rarely will a bass savagely attack the lure. You will not feel an arm-jolting strike in most cases, but rather only a tap or pause as the lure drops.

Takes which occur when jigging spoons can be described as taps, a steady pull, a line twitch, slack line or hesitation. When any of these conditions occurs, set the hook hard! Another thing you'll find almost universally in spoon jigging is that the strike will happen as the jig is falling and fluttering or just as the lure has stopped and its upward motion begun. This is the reason for maintaining even, regular rod strokes and not allowing any slack line . . . if you have too much slack, you won't easily sense light takes commonly associated with this kind of fishing.

Vertical jigging is a technique tailor-made for working steep, rocky shoreline areas, dropoffs and cliffs, deep brush piles and/or underwater trees. Bass will orient themselves to the various irregularities of these structures, such as the outcroppings and crevices in a steep cliff wall. A jigged spoon provides total coverage of these formations within inches of the fish

The vertical jigging technique is illustrated above as you would use it from top to bottom of a piece of



timber. The same pattern would be used for fishing from top to bottom of a man-made feature, such as a bridge piling, or for jigging a spoon down alongside a steep cliff face.

Drop the spoon close to the structure and jig the upper several feet of water first, allowing it to pause motionless for a second or two after each jigging motion. After several jigging motions have been made at a particular level, allow the spoon to sink several more feet and continue to work the structure in 3- to 4-foot intervals until you have reached bottom. Then reel in the spoon at a medium speed, stopping every six feet to pause, until it's back to your rod tip. Work the structure down again to make sure you didn't miss any fish and then shift your boat position so a new section of the water column can be fished.

CASTING/JIGGING

The second method utilized by spoon jigging bass anglers is casting/jigging whereby the spoon is cast near likely-looking structure or cover area and then worked in a jigging motion back to the boat. The difference in technique between this and vertical jigging is that slack line must be taken in after each jigging motion as the spoon falls deeper and angles closer to the boat (see diagram). Again, however, it is critical to keep slack out of the line so you can feel the lightest of takes. Because of this, it often is

advisable to cast several feet beyond the structure or cover you wish to fish so that by the time the lure has been jigged a few times the angle of descent on a tight line will place it close to the fish's hiding place where it won't have to be chased.

The casting/jigging technique is particularly applicable when bass are found schooled in open water or found suspended in the thermocline layer of water. Besides this oxygen-rich middle layer of water which results when lakes stratify in the spring, bass can be found during summer months where other oxygen sources exist, such as around underwater springs or dropoffs next to inlet and outlet areas and in old river channels in impoundments where residual water flows still exist.

These fish generally will be scattered and the casting/jigging technique will allow coverage of more water in unknown areas. When the first bass is caught you then can switch to vertical jigging as a pinpoint technique.

DRIFT JIGGING

Briefly, this technique resembles the casting/jigging technique except that your moving boat keeps you over new water all the time. It is a method which sometimes comes in handy for locating fish scattered in the thermocline or where you wish to work a gently sloping ledge. It, like casting/jigging, is a fish-finding

technique that gives way to vertical jigging once fish have been located.

DIVERSE ACTIONS

One of the distinct advantages of using a jigging spoon for bass is the variety of actions you can impart to the lure besides those already built in, such as the fluttering one.

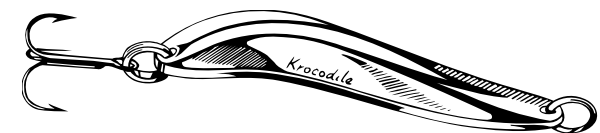
You can make a spoon hop, swim, flutter, inch along, stop dead, rise, fall, swim fast or however you wish it to appear to the fish. The slow, varied actions which signal "something's in trouble" to a big bass and an easy meal is nearby, are easily achieved with a jigged spoon.

You should choose a spoon that will be heavy enough to reach bottom easily on a free fall but you also should be careful of size, selecting smaller 1/8- to 3/8-oz. models when searching for smallmouth bass and larger models up to several ounces when after largemouth. Smaller spoons also will result in other species being caught such as crappie, perch, trout and walleye, so if you're interested in these fish species, stick to smaller spoons. Largemouth bass spoon jigging commonly is done with 1- to 2-oz. spoons and line testing from 14 to 20 pounds (sometimes heavier if working near underwater trees, brush or other snaggy objects where a big bass might run when hooked).

SPECIFIC JIGGING SPOONS

Four lures which lend themselves exceptionally well to jigging for bass are the Krocodile, Cast Champ, Crippled Herring and the Nordic. In fact, a chrome Krocodile was responsible for Stanley Mitchell's win in the 1982 Bass Master's Classic.

Following is a discussion of each spoon, its particular action and application in jigging for bass.



KROCODILE[®]: Versatility is the key word in describing the Krocodile's position in the spoon jigging scenario. The "Kroc" is an excellent lure for vertical, drift and cast jigging and can be worked at all levels with