

THE MODERN SCIENCE OF

# Spin-Fishing

by

ERNE

ST. CLAIRE



In these 100 pages the world's best known spinning authority gives his readers more practical "how-to-do-it" information about authentic spin-fishing than is contained in books three or four times this size, and more than six times its price.

Absolutely nothing is left to guesswork - every phase of advanced spin-fishing is clearly and precisely explained in words and pictures.

5-611

265 ILLUSTRATIONS

## PREFACE

This book is dedicated to the task of helping the serious spin-fisherman to become expert in the use of his tackle, so that he may derive greater enjoyment from the science of spin-fishing. Unlike all other books on the subject of spinning, which deal only with the elementary aspects of the sport, this deals with the **ADVANCED TECHNIQUE** - presuming that each reader, who is not a spin-fisherman, can learn the A-B-Cs of spinning from the clerk who sells him his tackle.

The spinning technique described here is my own, and it has been proven to be correct in every detail. It required years of hard work to perfect it to this degree, and every movement, conscious and subconscious, has been carefully recorded in words and pictures to make it easier for my readers to understand. I do not pretend that my method is the only successful way to become expert in the science of spinning, but I do know that it is, by far, the most scientifically correct, and I will prove this to you in the following pages.

One thing for sure, everything here is original. The casting technique, the tricks and the methods were perfected "the hard way", during my over twenty years of using the spin-rod and reel exclusively, and they are the same as I use today in my own fishing and exhibition casting. Unlike the "TYPEWRITER-ANGLERS", who do their research in the public library, I do my own research with spinning tackle on stream and lake.

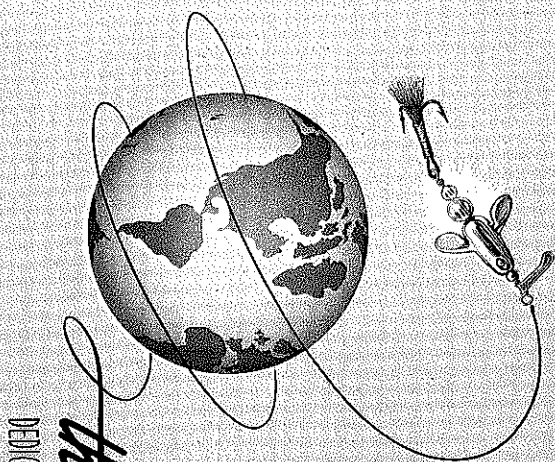
A long time ago, I worked for a man who said, "the secret of success is not in knowing *what* to do, but what *not* to do". The man who said that, was the great showman Ted Lewis, of band fame. I have found this philosophy very helpful in everything I have undertaken - especially spinning.

The purpose of this book is to tell you what not to do, as well as what to do, to become proficient in the science of spinning. By this method, a technique which took me years to perfect can be mastered by you in a fraction of the time, because you can avoid my time consuming mistakes.

# FIRST EDITION

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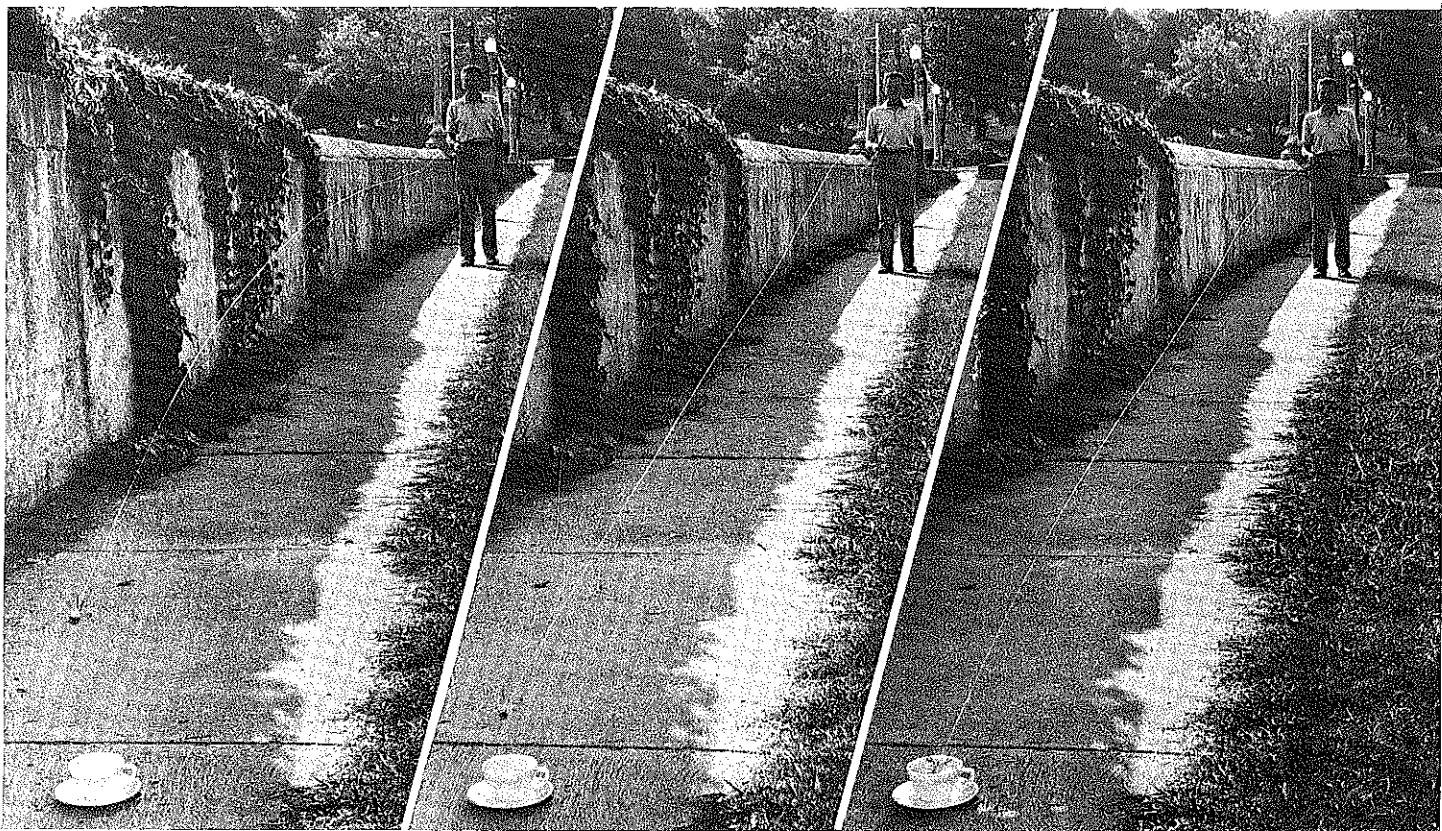
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THE DEADLY ACCURACY OF ERNE ST. CLAIRE HAS EARNED HIM THE TITLE OF "THE WORLD'S MOST ACCURATE SPIN-FISHERMAN". Here, from a distance of fifty feet, he casts a one-eighth ounce bass bug into a cup of water. Note how little of the liquid is splashed out by his perfectly controlled lure. The teacup is one of Erne's larger targets; for he can literally hit the proverbial dime and proves it during his exhibitions.

## INTRODUCTION

The rapid growth of spin-fishing in the United States has posed a most serious problem for those who wish to learn more about this fascinating sport. Unfortunately, the brief period that it has taken for spinning to become America's number one fishing method, has been far too short to produce enough experts to properly instruct the many new spin-fishermen in the correct choice and use of spin-tackle. The resultant vacuum has been filled by the "exploiters" and "publicity seekers", who are themselves uninformed; and the vicious circle continues - with the blind leading the blind.

Today, anglers using some kind of spinning tackle dominate all fishable waters in this country and Canada, but it is seldom that one sees an angler who has mastered its correct use. Really good spin-fishermen are extremely rare on our lakes and streams, and when one appears he is sure to attract the attention of all who see him work.

It isn't surprising that good spin-fishermen are such a novelty, when one considers the volumes of fallacious information which have been printed and broadcast on the subject of spinning by the highly commercial, but hardly authoritative, "TYPEWRITER-ANGLERS" - for the sole purpose of "getting on the gravy train".

The natural development of a true spinning technique in this country has been further retarded by the "gadget inventors", who have built large businesses by making and selling "bastard" tackle items, under the name of authentic spinning equipment, to a gullible angling public.

These "gadgets" are determined to maintain their control over the American fishing scene by combining spinning and bait-casting tackle design, and in so doing, are mongrelizing two authentic forms of angling. Such a union can not harm the rugged sport of bait-casting, but it can destroy the delicate science of spinning. Already our spinning rods have taken on the action of the bait-casting rod; and today, the magazines and tackle catalogs are full of so-called spinning lures, originally designed for bait-casting and even trolling.

The average spin-fisherman of today doesn't know the difference and he accepts the bait-casting type tackle without a complaint. His only reason for taking up spinning, in the first place, was because backlashes drove him to it.

It is true that many of these fishermen were so handicapped by their lack of casting ability that even their so-called spinning, with inadequate tackle, is a Godsend to them; and for the first time in their lives they are taking fish - not consistently -



but fish. It makes little difference to them that they are unsuccessful by spin-fishing standards, because all that they have for comparison is their own previous fishless record.

With so many of this type fisherman dominating our lakes and streams, there is little wonder that most American anglers are ignorant of what made spinning so effective for taking fish, in the first place.

Most of the early American spin-fishermen were expert anglers in other fields, and casting had never been a problem to them. Why then, did these expert fly and bait-casters, who were successful fish takers in their own right, adopt spin-fishing? Without exception, these men were attracted to spinning because of the deadliness of the small compact spin-lures, and spinning was the only successful method by which they could be cast.

Spinning is a distinctive sport, only faintly resembling the other methods of casting. It is as different from bait-casting, as bait-casting is different from fly-casting. There is no more reason to expect an expert bait-caster to be able to spin expertly, without proper training, than there is to expect him to be a fine fly-caster, without proper training and practice. Less in fact, because it requires much more time and practice to achieve perfection with the spin-rod, than it does to attain the same degree of success with any other method of angling. I say this with some authority, as I have been in my lifetime, officially recognized as an expert bait-caster, fly-caster, and spin-caster, in the order named.

Because the rudiments of spin-casting are easy for a beginner to learn, it has been overpublicized as an "easy method", for the sake of sales promotion. I think that this has done spin-fishing a disservice, because it has conditioned the minds of many fishermen to expect nothing more of spinning than something easy to do.

When spinning was young in this country, the popular misconception that it was a simple, easy method, lost for it the respect of many fine fishermen in other fields of angling. Today, even some of the most prejudiced among them, who have seen spinning demonstrated properly, will grudgingly admit that a spinning outfit, used correctly, will outfish their respective methods. However, there still remains a few "die-hards" who stubbornly refuse to recognize the superiority of spin-fishing, even after seeing that superiority demonstrated time and time again.

There are a great number of spin-fishermen who use the word "spinning" loosely, applying it to *any* fishing where a spin-reel is employed. Just so there can be no misunderstanding of what is meant here by the word "spinning", the following definition is in order before proceeding further.

"Spinning" is a method of casting with highly specialized tackle, designed to cast lightweight lures or bait on thread-like lines. Unless casting is involved in your fishing, you are not spinning - regardless of the type of tackle used.

There is no reason why spinning tackle can't be used successfully for trolling or still fishing, but when doing so, one is not spinning - he is just using his spin-tackle as a substitute for the tackle designed for those methods.

Because of its limited casting range, lightweight lures, and small diameter lines, spinning is necessarily limited to fresh water. Salt water bays and estuaries, small enough to successfully employ other types of fresh water tackle, are the exception.

"Surf-spinning" is not included here, because it is not an authentic form of spinning. Its only resemblance to the latter being the huge spinning type reel which is substituted for the conventional surf reel.

When this book refers to a "spin-cast", it means a cast made with authentic spinning tackle - not the "gadgeteer's" name for bait-casting with a "spin-type" reel.

A spinning reel doesn't perform miracles, and just because a person is using one doesn't necessarily transform him into a spin-fisherman. The reel owes its existence to the method of spinning - not the other way around.

The word "spinning", as applied to fishing, preceded the invention of the spinning reel, as we know it today. Prior to the invention of the stationary spool reel, now known as the spinning reel, spinning was a method of fishing with minnows rigged to spin when drawn through the water. The method also included artificials which simulated the spinning minnow action.

Minnows and lures, small enough to attract trout, are extremely light in weight and there was difficulty in casting them with the multiple casting reel, unless additional weight was added. The added weight destroyed the naturalness of the bait and rendered it less effective. Thus, the need for a reel which could cast ultra-lightweight lures was created, and the stationary spool reel was invented to fill that need. Because the stationary spool reel was designed for the fishing method called "spinning", it became known as the "spinning reel".

The new spinning reel enabled its users to fish with lines of extremely fine diameter, so the sport was renamed "thread line spinning", to distinguish it from the heavy tackle spinning previously done with the multiple casting reel.

I think the name "thread line spinning" is more descriptive of the modern technique than is the all-inclusive word "spinning", but until the former name is officially adopted by all Americans, to mean *THE* authentic form of spinning, I will jealously defend the latter name from all usurpers.

We spinners must draw the line somewhere. Unless we establish rigid standards and stubbornly adhere to them, the word "spinning" will gradually replace the word "fishing" in the English language.

## CHAPTER ONE

### SPINNING TACKLE

No matter how expensively a man is dressed, or how good his health is, he is miserable if his shoes pinch, or his collar is too tight. It is the seemingly little things that take the joy out of life - and fishing.

Just as one tiny mosquito can spoil your night's rest, so can one little recurring fault in your spin-tackle spoil your day's fishing. These small tackle faults seem trivial, and are easily overlooked when purchasing tackle, but they are directly and indirectly responsible for many more serious angling difficulties.

I don't know how true is the saying, that "clothes make the man", but I do know that tackle makes the angler. The type of tackle one uses determines the technique one masters, and to a great extent, even the species of fish for which one angles. All fishing techniques owe their origin to the tackle with which they were developed. It is true, that man must originate the combination of movements which set off the cast, but unless the tackle he uses has the inherent ability to respond correctly, all of his efforts would be in vain.

Fishermen who make the mistake of buying poorly designed tackle, thinking that it is good enough until their technique improves, are endangering their chances of ever becoming expert. Such thinking has made "casting-cripples" of many an enthusiastic angler. Mediocre tackle develops nothing but mediocre skill.

It is a false sense of economy which prompts a price conscious angler to buy tackle just because it is cheap in price. The cheaply priced stuff is also cheaply made, and is really much more expensive in the long-run. Good tackle will outlast the cheaply made tackle ten to one, and it is such a satisfaction to own and use.

All fishing tackle, worth our consideration, is designed by fishermen, for other fishermen, who fish as they do. The authenticity of any tackle's design is completely dependent on the skill of the designer in the particular method of angling for which it is intended. In other words, the better the fisherman, the better the design.

If the designer is unskilled in the use of authentic spinning tackle, all of the tackle designed by him, for that method of angling, will reflect his unskillfulness. Just as lice are transferred from one body to another, so will his bad fishing habits be transferred to everyone who uses his tackle, because it will have all of his faults built into its design.

Those who are in charge of the manufacturing of tackle in this country are like those in the automobile industry, who make basic changes in design for no other reason than to render what is already sold obsolete. By doing so, they create more sales from the fad-happy American buying public.

Beware of fad tackle items. Spinning, like all fishing, is a very conservative business. One's success at casting and attracting fish depends on repetition. *Doing the same thing, with the same tackle, over and over again, in the exact same way, is the secret of successful angling.* Only men are caught by fads - fish have better sense.

### THE SPINNING ROD

The spinning rod is the most important item of the spinner's equipment, without which the rest of his tackle would become useless. Its energy powers the cast, and its flexing length is the principle factor in the hooking and landing of fish. It is a beautiful and necessary tool.

The rod is a magnifier - a magnifier of motion. Just as a magnifying glass enlarges a tiny image so that it can be seen by the eye, so does a spin-rod enlarge a tiny movement of the hand and transforms it into power by magnification. An imperfect magnifying glass will distort the enlarged image, and an imperfect rod action will distort and misdirect its power.

If a caster's rod is of poor quality you can be certain that his casting will also be poor. Fine casting is done only by those who own fine quality rods. I don't mean to say that a fine rod will automatically make everyone who uses it a fine caster - that requires lots of work - but unless they are fitted with a fine rod during practice, all of their efforts to become an expert caster will be in vain.

A fisherman who buys an expensive reel to use with a cheap, poor quality spin-rod, reminds me of a man who buys bullets with no gun in which to fire them. If circumstances compel a fisherman to economize when buying spin-tackle, he should do so on items other than the rod. A fine quality rod is the very first tackle item he should acquire. One can always squeeze by with a cheap, but serviceable reel, until one can afford to buy a better one, and in the meantime, practice complicated expert casting. On the other hand, you can't make a poorly designed rod perform expertly, regardless of the quality of the reel with which it is used. All you can expect from such a rod is simple elementary casting. Casting technique is developed through the rod's action - not the reel's action.

All of the ready-made spin-rods which I have tried were built with bait-casting action, so don't ask me which is the best - I actually don't know. It's like asking a fellow whether he would prefer to die by drowning or falling off a cliff - *they are both too bad to merit investigation.*

Ready-made tackle is just like everything else which is ready-made - it is built to appeal to the largest buying group. It's just good business for the rod makers to design most of their spinning rods with bait-casting action, because there are so many more bait-casters using the spin-reel, than there are authentic "spin-anglers".

Most of the bait-casters who convert to the spin-reel, do so because of their inability to handle the multiple casting reel - not because they are endeared to the method of spinning. Needless to say, few of these bait-casting failures ever become expert "spinanglers", because they are not practicing spinning with their so-called spin-tackle - but instead, a bastard form of bait-casting.

## - MATERIAL -

Not until the glass rod was invented did spinning really become of age. The power and reflex action of the glass material opened up new horizons for the exhibition caster and the angler alike. Tubular glass is the perfect material for the spin-rod, and its indestructible qualities make it possible to take monstrous fish on tiny wand-like rods. No other rod material can take the abuse to which a modern spinning rod is subjected and come through in one piece.

## - LENGTH AND WEIGHT -

The perfect length for a spinning rod is from six to six and one-half feet. Rods of longer length, while more sporting and powerful, exert too much tiring leverage, and rods of shorter length are too much like the stubby clubs used in bait-casting. A "spinangler" needs a rod of at least six feet to properly handle modern casting and fighting fish.

To arrive at this conclusion, I started with a seven foot rod length and cut one inch off of the butt each month, until it was only five feet long. Each of the twenty-four lengths were given the same exacting tests, both in casting and fishing, for one full month.

One should not be as concerned with the weight of his spin-rod as he is with the material of which it is made, its length, and its action. If these are right, the weight will automatically be correct for that particular rod.

## - ACTION -

Most of our present day "production line" spinning rods are unsuitable for authentic spin-casting, because they are designed with a soft tip and a stiff butt section. See (Fig. 1-A). A rod with this action, when casting spinning lures, uses only its weaker tip section. It requires heavy lures, such as those used in bait-casting, to bring out its full power potential. This is what is referred to here as "bait-casting action". Reject rods of this action for spinning.

Some rod makers go too far to the other extreme in designing spin-rods, and place too much softness in the butt section and not enough in the tip. See (Fig. 1-B). This action is called parabolic. It was originally designed by the English for casting live baits. Its soft, slow action, prevented baits from being dislodged from the hook during the cast. Even though this rod will cast ultra-lightweight lures, it is weak, sloppy, and not unlike casting with a wet dishrag - completely unsuitable for modern snap-casting.

The perfect spinning rod action is that which is a balance between the two actions described above. By placing the center of are in the exact center of the rod one creates a rod with full-bow action. See (Fig. 1-C). This action uses the full length of the rod, and thus, releases its full power - like an archery bow. *That is why I call it full-bow action.* Rods of this action are lighter in weight, and will cast lightweight spinning lures beautifully, but yet they are powerful enough to kill monstrous fish.

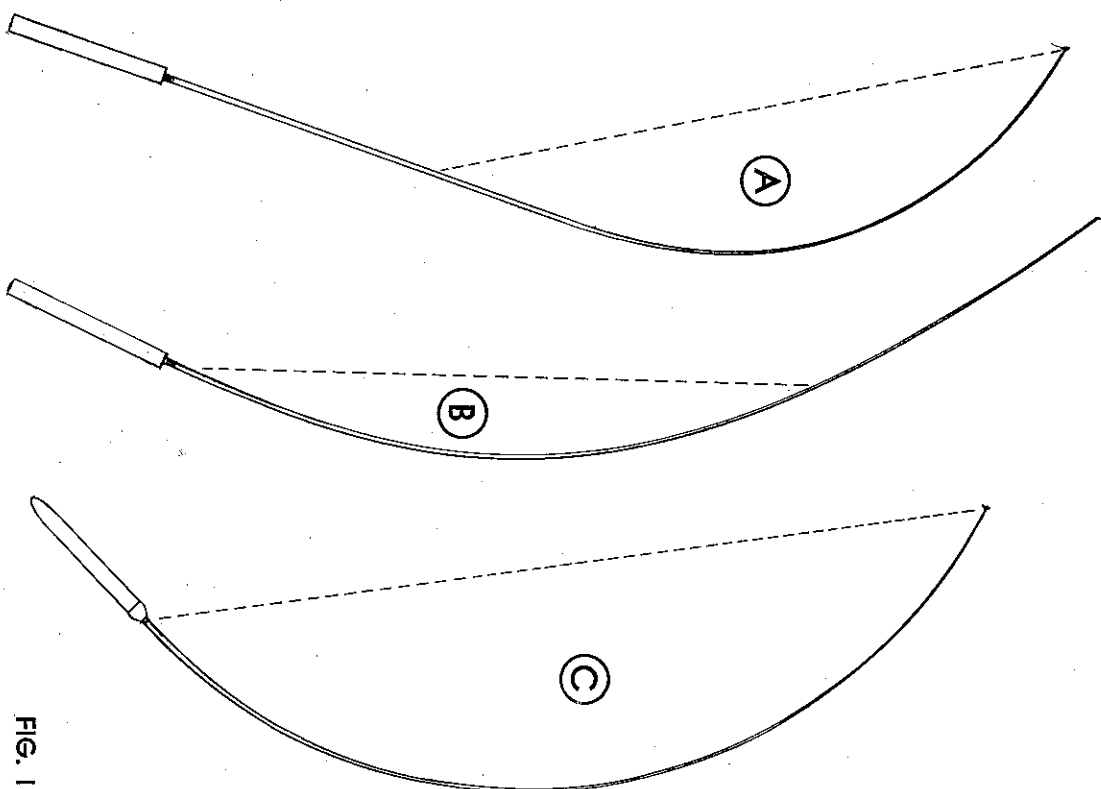


FIG. 1

A: TIP ACTION; referred to here as bait-casting action. This rod is too fast for good spin-casting. It requires heavy lures to bring out its full reflex energy.  
 B: BUTT ACTION; often called parabolic. The action of this rod is miserably slow, and its reflex energy is feeble. Even though it will cast ultra-lightweight lures, it is completely unsatisfactory for the modern spin-casting technique.  
 C: FULL-BOW ACTION; the perfect spin-rod action. This rod is neither too fast nor too slow. It will cast lightweight lures beautifully, and its reflex energy is tremendous.  
 The dotted lines indicate the area of each rod used during the cast. Please note that the full-bow action rod exerts its whole length into the cast - thus, releasing all of its reflex energy.

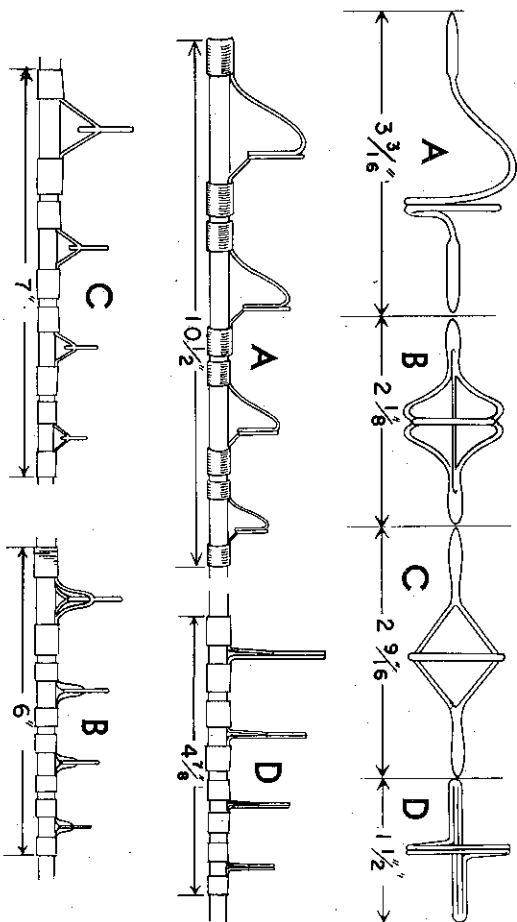
## - THE GUIDES -

Guides are too often overlooked when buying a spin-rod, but they are nearly as important as the action of the rod itself. A rod with perfect action can be ruined, and one of imperfect action can be made worse, by fitting it with poorly designed guides.

Guides are a very necessary part of every rod, but each guide acts against the rod's free reflex action and tends to slow and stiffen it. Regardless of the type of guides used, spring wire or welded rings, the rod area covered by them is inactivated for casting. If a guide has a spread of three inches, then three inches of your rod will be rendered stiff and inactive when the guide is fastened to it. When you measure the spread of a full set of guides you begin to see how much of your rod's reflex energy is sacrificed because of them. See (Fig. 2).

FIG. 2

TOP VIEW



TOP: THE EXACT MEASUREMENTS OF THE FOOT SPAN OF THE FIRST (OR BIG) GUIDE OF EACH OF THE POPULAR TYPES. (EACH LETTER REPRESENTS A POPULAR TYPE AND WILL CONTINUE TO REPRESENT THAT TYPE THROUGHOUT THIS CHAPTER.)  
BOTTOM: THE SPAN OF EACH SET OF FOUR GUIDES. SHOWING HOW MUCH OF YOUR ROD IS STIFFENED BY THEM. IF MORE THAN FOUR GUIDES ARE USED THE STIFFENED AREA WOULD BE INCREASED BY THE SPAN OF THE ADDITIONAL GUIDES.

Some of the manufacturers of spring wire guides claim that their guides bend with the rod - they do - when brute force is used, as in playing fish, *but not during the cast where it is needed.* When we speak of rod action, we mean how the rod flexes freely during the cast - not how it can be made to bend by fastening the line to something solid and "raring" back on the rod.

Because each guide is a deterrent to the rod's reflex action, it goes without saying, that the fewer guides we use, the more reflex action we retain. It's too bad that we can't completely eliminate guides from our rods, but they are a very important and necessary part of spinning.

Bait-casting and fly-rod guides have but one function, and that is to evenly distribute the stress along the rod's full length, to prevent breakage. The guides on a spin-rod also have to serve as a funnel - a very important funnel - without which nothing but slow, short casts would be possible with a spin-reel.

When line is cast from a spin-reel it rushes off the spool in spring-like coils. It is the duty of properly designed spin-rod guides to gather these coils and to gradually straighten them as they travel the length of the rod. This must be done with the least possible friction, and at the same time, holding the line far enough away from the rod to prevent the unstraightened coils from slapping, or wrapping around it, and thus, arresting the forward movement of the cast. That is why spin-rod guides are so much larger than those on other types of rods, and so much more important. See (Fig. 3). Beware of small or low guides when buying a spin-rod.

A six foot glass rod should have only 4 guides and tip-top. The first guide (the big gathering guide) should have a ring of at least one inch in outside diameter, and should be offset above the rod at least 5/8 of an inch. See (Fig. 4). This guide should be set between sixteen and twenty-two inches from the handle. The smaller guides (of the proper diameter and height to make a funnel) are placed between the big gathering guide and the tip-top, with ever decreasing distances - so that a line drawn taut, between the tip-top and the big guide, will touch the inside rim of each guide between without sharply bending. If this can be done, the rod's guides will not cause excess friction or line slap during the cast.

THESE GUIDES ARE TOO SMALL AND LOW, CAUSING LINE-SLAP.

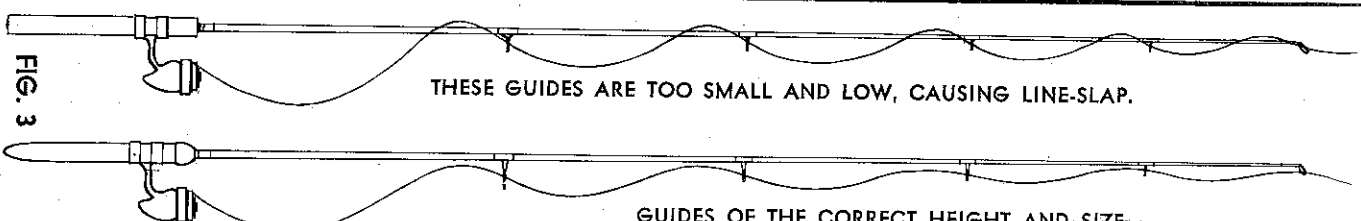


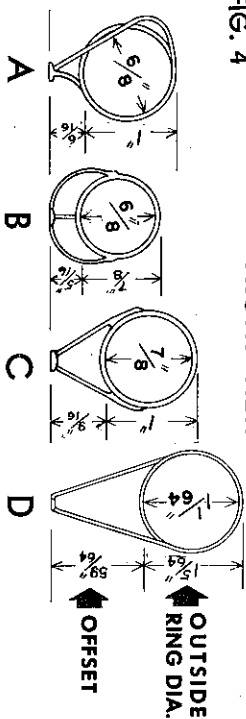
FIG. 3

GUIDES OF THE CORRECT HEIGHT AND SIZE  
ELIMINATE LINE-SLAP.



FIG. 4

## FRONT VIEW

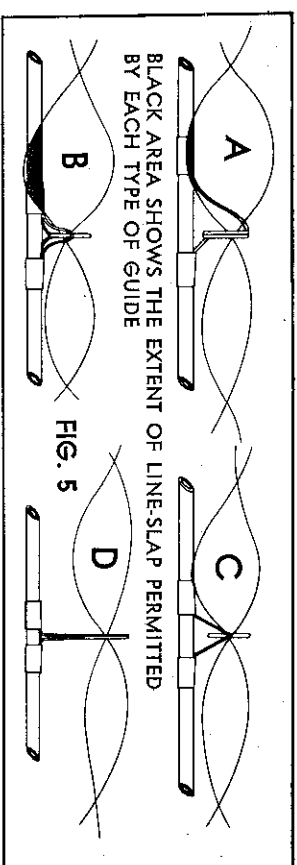


DIMENSIONS OF THE FIRST (OR BIG) GUIDE OF EACH SET

## - THE LINE-SLAP TEST -

If your present rod is allowing the line to slap against it during the cast, you are being cheated out of much of your casting distance, and are wearing out your lines prematurely. Line-slap will also prevent accuracy and cause your line to kink and tangle.

To determine whether your rod is guilty of line-slap, mix a little graphite with some vaseline on a pad of cloth. Pull out about 30 feet of line from your reel (some place where there is room to stretch it out straight) and rub the pad over it until the line has a good coat of the black substance. Reel up the graphite coated line and make several fast snap-casts. Whenever your graphite have allowed the line to slap can be determined by the black markings the line has left on the rod. **THERE SHOULD BE NO MARKINGS IF YOUR GUIDES ARE PERFECT.** See (Fig. 5).



## - THE TIP-TOP -

The tip-top ring must also be of generous diameter if one intends to successfully practice modern snap-casting. The small ringed tip-tops, with which the average spin-rod of today is fitted, are completely unsuitable. They were designed when the American spin-caster was still casting with the slow side arm sweep of the Europeans, and have not kept pace with his advancing technique.

The line's greatest point of friction is as it bores through the tip-top. A large diameter ring at this point will add yards to your cast and a much longer life to your lines.

The Mildrum Jewel Company is the only manufacturer who makes a large ringed tip-top for spinning rods. Even from them, you must specify large rings, or else they will ship you their small ringed tip-tops which are standard. I use Mildrum (SRMT) on my rods.

## - THE HANDLE -

A man's spin-rod is a personal thing, and its handle is the most personal of all of its parts, because it is the part by which he holds his rod and controls its movements. Unless the grip is comfortable to his hand his casting will suffer.

I find a rod grip of  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inch in diameter to be just about perfect for the average man's hand. Grips of smaller diameter cramp the caster's hand and don't allow him full control over his rod.

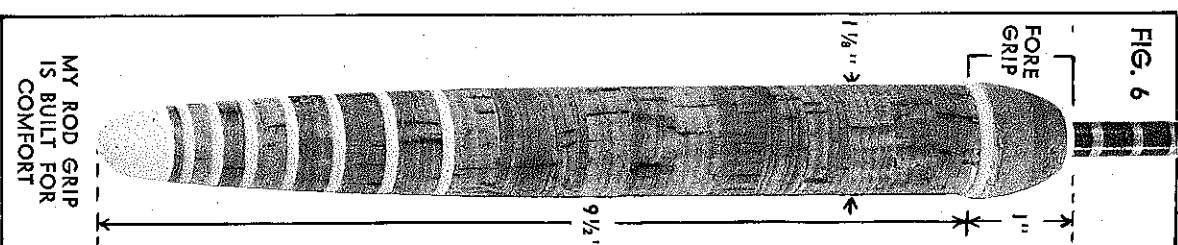
The proper length for the spin-rod's handle is from nine to eleven inches. Shorter handles make the rod feel tip-heavy and present a leverage problem when fighting large fish. Longer handles interfere with casting and make the rod feel butt heavy.

A small rounded fore-grip will aid you immensely in controlling your line and reel. It also helps in landing large fish. (See Fig. 6).

## - MAKE YOUR OWN ROD -

For the above reasons, it is very necessary that the fine spinning rod be custom made, but the problem is, by whom? There are pitifully few fine craftsmen left in this country, for there is small place for them in our mass producing economy, which places its emphasis on speed rather than quality. The fine craftsman is being replaced in the custom rod field by the professional "tackle-tinker", who is more "tinker" than he is tackle, and I'm being generous when I spell the word "tinker" without adding in front of it the letter "S".

If one doesn't have access to a fine custom rod builder, and few have, he should call upon the one craftsman he can trust above all others for doing a good job - the craftsman who doesn't mind long hours, will take direction without injecting dissenting opinions, and who will do the job over and over again until it is satisfactory.



## THE SPINNING REEL

Imagine how frustrating it must be for a beginner to have to make a choice from the many spinning reels, with which he is confronted, in the average sporting goods store. It's in the lap of the Gods and the sporting goods salesman, whether he walks out of the store a "true spinning" convert, with an authentic spin-reel, or just another "gadget fisherman" practicing an abortive form of bait-casting.

Of the many spinning reels manufactured in the United States, there are pitifully few which are designed correctly for authentic spinning. The following will help those who are not "spin-wise" to recognize the "true" spin-reels when they are ready to purchase their tackle.

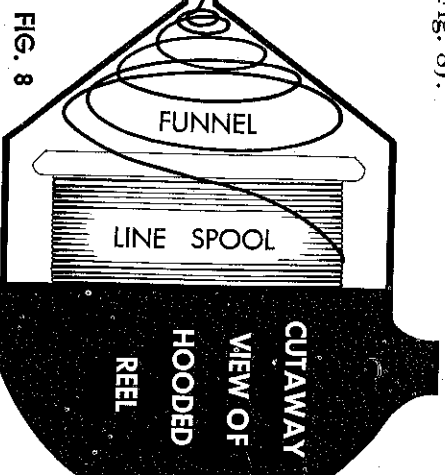
The free flow of line from an open-faced spinning reel is basic to the modern spinning method, and is what makes this reel so superior to all others for casting. When an attempt is made to mechanically control the freedom of the line's outward flow, by adding a hood over the reel's face, the cast is slowed and shortened, and it requires heavier lures to take out the shorter line. It is then no longer authentic spinning.

It is doubtful that you will ever be called upon to cast *blind-folded*, but if you ever are, I'll assure you that you can do it much better with an open-faced spin-reel. Hooded reels are made for bait-casters - not spinners - so don't be blindfolded in your choice by trick advertisements.

When a line is cast from a stationary spool reel it peels off in loops, which form themselves into spring-like coils. With authentic spinning tackle it requires a series of large diameter guides, placed along the full length of the rod, to gradually reduce and straighten these coils of line, to prevent distance consuming friction. See (Fig. 3). Hooded spin-reels disregard friction, and attempt to straighten these coils of line within the two-inch space of their funnels. See (Fig. 8).

THE FRICTION INSIDE OF THE HOOD OF A CLOSED FACE REEL IS TREMENDOUS, BECAUSE THE COILS OF LINE COMING FROM THE REEL SPOOL MUST BE ABRUPTLY COMPRESSED AND

STRAIGHTENED IN THE ONE OR TWO-INCH SPACE OF THE FUNNEL. A FAST CAST WILL CONGEST THE LINE AT THE SPOUT HOLE AND COMPLETELY STOP ITS MOVEMENT.



The craftsman to whom I'm referring is the one most of us have locked within ourselves - the "do-it-yourself" instinct. There are few men who haven't enough dexterity and latent talent for the craftsmanship required to finish their own rod.

Many years ago, I came to the conclusion that if I were to continue my exhibition casting I would have to design and build my own spinning rods. For the reasons mentioned earlier, commercial interest can't be depended upon to supply specialized tackle to expert fishermen, because there are just too damn few expert fishermen to make it financially feasible.

There are no stock spinning rod blanks now being made with "full-bow" action. For the past fifteen years I've had to make my spinning rods from fly rod blanks - bobbied off to the proper length. The finest blank for this purpose is a two piece, eight and one-half foot, tubular glass fly rod blank (dry fly action). Each section is 51 inches in length. By cutting 24 to 30 inches from the butt section one can make this blank into an excellent 6 to 6½ ft. "full-bow" spinning rod. Even though this rod is only 5/64 of an inch in diameter at the tip it has tremendous power.

The rather long tip section of the blank enables one to place all four guides on the one section (See Fig. 7). This is of great advantage to the spin-fisherman, because the guides can never become misaligned.

I use Mayfield spring wire guides, because they are larger in diameter, higher, and lighter than all others - to say nothing of their shorter foot spread. They are made by B. M. Mayfield, 2210 E. Gregory Blvd., Kansas City 30, Mo.

AN 8½-FOOT FLY ROD BLANK (DRY FLY ACTION) MAKES AN EXCELLENT SPIN-ROD WHEN IT IS BOBBED OFF TO SPIN-ROD LENGTH AND FITTED WITH THE PROPER GUIDES AND HANDLES. (TIP DIAMETER SHOULDN'T EXCEED 5/64 OR BUTT DIAMETER 35/64 OF AN INCH.)

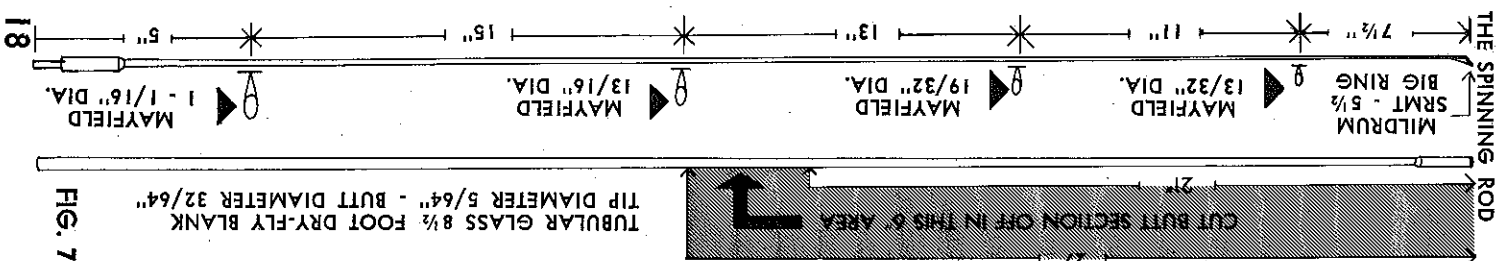


FIG. 7  
TUBULAR GLASS 8½ FOOT DRY-FLY BLANK  
TIP DIAMETER 5/64" - BUTT DIAMETER 32/64"

## THE SPINNING REEL

The volume rate at which a funnel can discharge its contents is determined by the size of its spout hole. When anything is poured into its cup at a greater rate of volume than its small spout hole can discharge, it simply fills and overflows. No matter how much, or how fast you pour into the top, the amount which flows out of the bottom remains constant.

The hoods which are placed over the face of the "gadget type" spin-reels are also funnels - they are line funnels. Inside them the spring-like coils of line are abruptly pushed together and forced through the small orifice of their spout holes. Even during a slow, easy cast, the friction is great enough inside of these funnel hoods to fray and weaken the line, but the friction within them becomes of such magnitude, when a fast cast is made, that it actually becomes a solid and completely stops the line's forward movement. None of the casts described in this book can be correctly done with a hooded reel, for they are just too fast for the hooded reel's funnel.

The "true" spin-reel must have an open-faced spool, and be designed to set directly under the caster's hand. Reels which sit in front or back of the caster's hand throw his outfit out of balance, and exert too much firing leverage for good spin-casting. The reel should always retrieve in the same position in which it casts, so as to avoid unnecessary line twist.

The smaller, lighter spin-reels make for better casting, because they allow your reflexes more freedom of movement. They are also easier to control and less tiring to use. The farther a reel extends below the hand the more leverage it exerts, and the slower your movements become.

### - THE SPIN-REEL MUST FIT THE CASTER'S HAND -

In no other method of angling does the fisherman's casting hand come in such close contact with the reel, as it does in spin-casting. The spin-fisherman's hand is not only in constant contact with the reel during the cast, but also while retrieving and playing fish. It just makes sense to say, that unless the reel fits his hand properly he will become extremely uncomfortable after a few hours of fishing - just as uncomfortable as if he were wearing misfitted shoes. No man can concentrate on fishing and casting under those conditions. Make certain that your reel is correctly fitted to your hand.

To properly determine the fit of a spin-reel, mount it on the rod's grip and hold it as you would while casting. If in that position, without shifting your hand, you can easily touch the center of the reel's spool with the tip of your index finger, the reel fits your hand - if not - it is too large for you. See (Fig. 10).

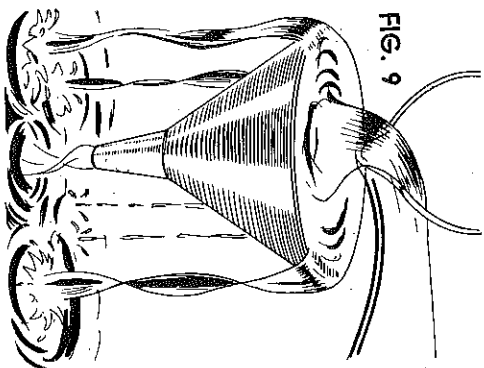


FIG. 9

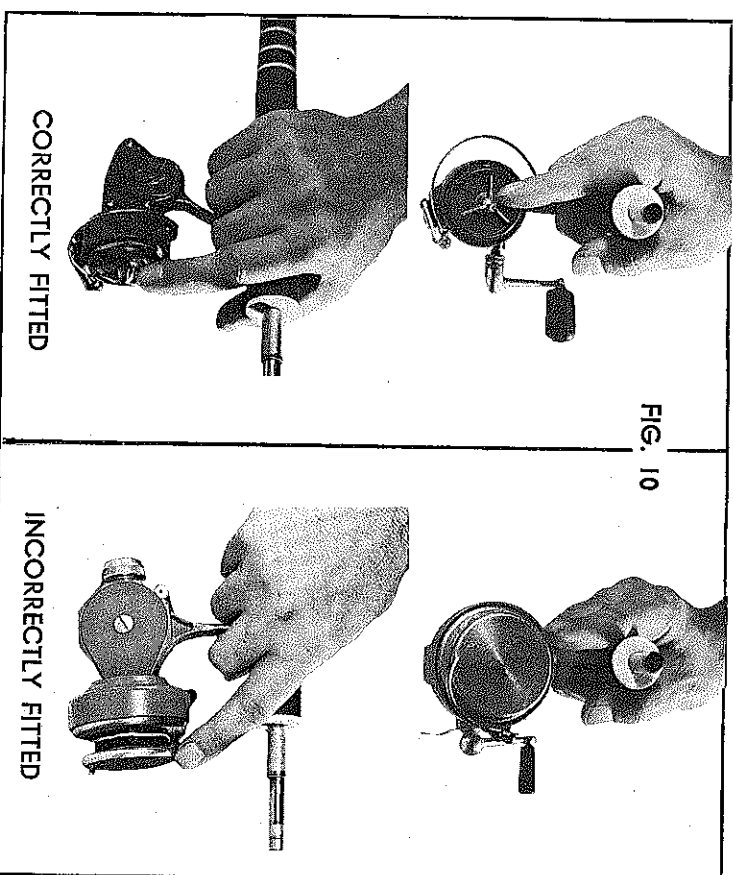


FIG. 10

## THE SPINNING REEL

### - THE REEL HANDLE -

A spinning reel's physical design is just as important as its mechanical design, and any serious angler should evaluate each part of the reel before making a choice. Even the size and shape of a reel's handle is quite important to successful spinning. The small reel handles which allow the fingers to slip from their grip will cause many tangled lines and lost fish. See (Fig. 11).

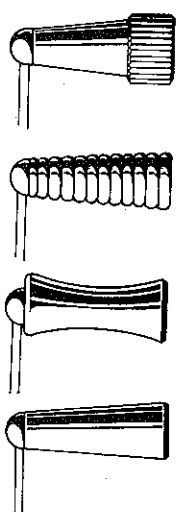
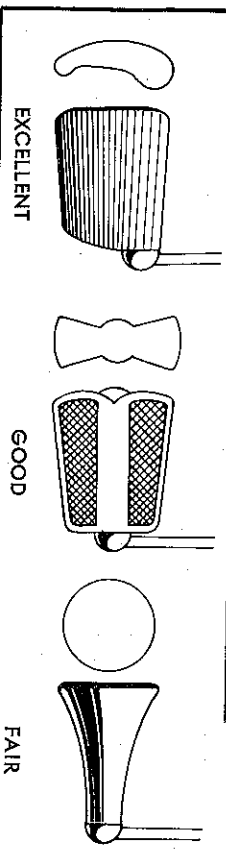


FIG. 11

THESE HANDLES WILL SLIP FROM YOUR GRIP WHEN PLAYING FISH.



## THE SPINNING REEL

### - THE REEL STEM -

The balance and leverage of a spin-reel is determined by the shape and placement of the reel's stem. Just as a straight-stemmed pipe will exert more leverage to the smoker's teeth, so will a straight-stemmed reel exert more tiring leverage to the caster's hand. See (Fig. 12).

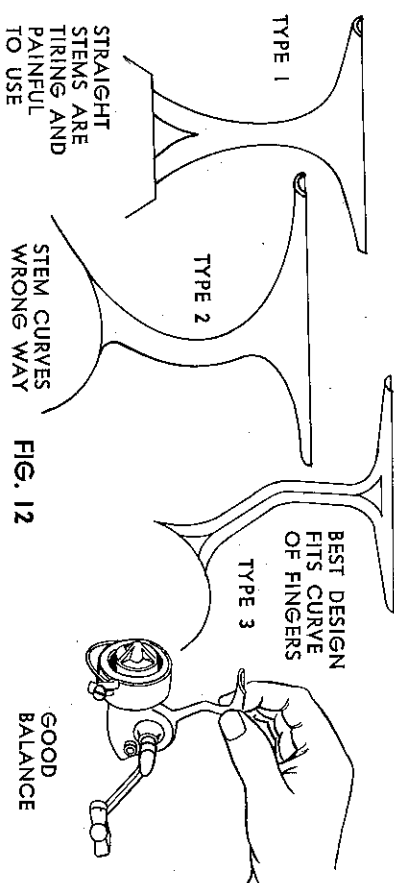


FIG. 12

Because the stem of a spin-reel is held between the fingers of the caster's hand, it is most important that it be thin enough to be comfortable. A thick stem will spread the bones of your fingers and cause actual physical pain.

### - THE BAIL PICKUP -

The bail pickup is the only one considered here, because it is, by far, the best. Make certain that the reel you purchase has a groove-proof line guide on its bail (agate is the best). Those bails which have no line guide are quickly grooved by the line's friction and should be avoided. See (Fig. 13).

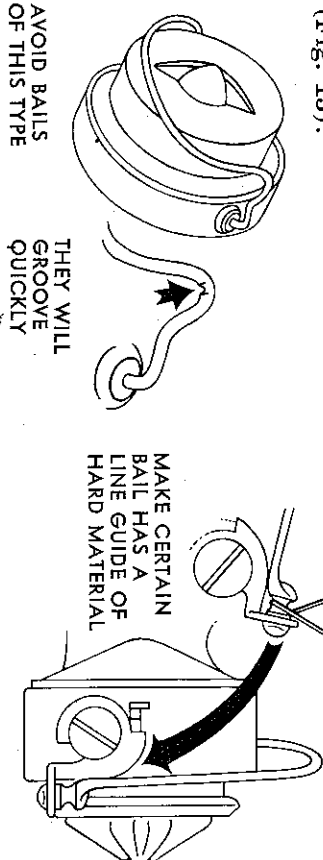


FIG. 13

## THE SPINNING REEL

### - THE SPOOL -

A spin-reel with a deep spool is unsatisfactory, because it will cause unnecessary line tangles. The reel spool shouldn't exceed 1/2-inch in depth.

### - THE LEVEL WIND -

Make certain that the stroke of the level-wind covers the exact depth of the spool - otherwise, the line will spool unevenly. Learn how to adjust the stroke of the level-wind, and see to it that it always spoils the line perfectly level. See (Fig. 14).

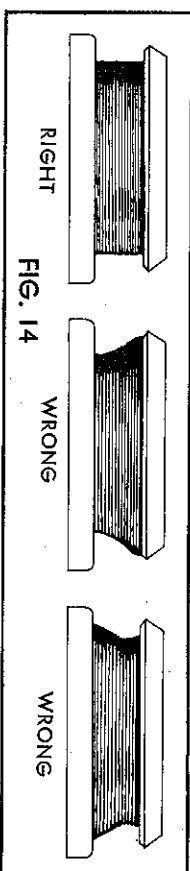


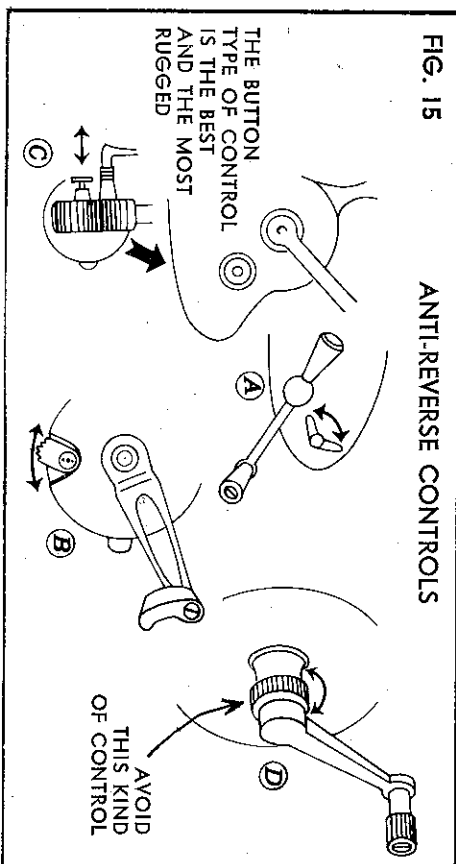
FIG. 14

### - THE ANTI-REVERSE -

The anti-reverse feature of a modern spin-reel is immensely important, and its control button should be located where it can be easily and quickly reached with either hand. See (Fig. 15).

FIG. 15

### ANTI-REVERSE CONTROLS



### - THE DRAG -

I prefer the drag control to be located on the front of the reel spool where I can see to adjust it quickly without having to turn my hand over, as I would if it were located in the rear.

Choose a reel with a high gear ratio, as it is advantageous to the spin-fisherman to be able to recover his line fast.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: An expert becomes proficient with a tool before he contemplates a change in its design. It is the pseudo-expert who attempts to redesign every tool which he is not skillful enough to master - blaming it for his inability. One must first learn how to use his tackle expertly before he is qualified to find its faults - or else, the faults he thinks he discovers in his tackle, may be his own.



## THE SPINNING LINE

*Be there a man with vigor so dead,  
To have gazed at her in undies and said,  
"The Nylon I find charming  
And your manner quite alarming,  
But I had rather go fishing instead"?*

Seldom do we connect the filmy undergarments of the female with the masculine sport of fishing, but for these frilly coverings of our ladies' nakedness, we would still be fishing with lines of crudely twisted cotton rope. Throughout the history of angling man has made his fishing lines from the materials which were originally invented for milladies' lingerie - so let us drink a toast to the darlings who inspired the DuPont chemists to invent Nylon, because without it the future of spinning would be glum.

The spinning line is the only connecting link between ourselves and our finny quarry - so it is extremely important, to our success as anglers, that it be smooth enough to cast well; tough enough to withstand abrasion; strong enough to land our biggest fish; and yet fine enough to fool the most wary. Nothing ever invented by man can fill all of the above requirements like Nylon monofilament.

I have found the synthetic imitations of Nylon to be unsatisfactory for my fishing, and I do not recommend them. The single strand Nylon line will keep its round shape and not become flat, as the softer materials do. A flat line doesn't cast nearly so well as one which is round, and flat lines will break easier, because they wear faster.

Spinning lines should never exceed six-pound test, and even that is too heavy for easy casting. I never go beyond four-pound test, or under three-pound test. I find these line strengths quite adequate for all fresh water fish, from the monstrous salmon of the Northwest, to the small, but wary trout of the Northeastern states.

It is my opinion that lines of lighter test than three pounds are more cruel than they are sporting, because their users leave so many lures in fishes' mouths. One and two-pound test lines are plenty strong enough to take the average fish, when they are newly tied to the lure, but after they scrape across the abrasive rocks of the bottom a couple of times they lose some of their diameter and most of their strength.

My principle objection to spinning lines which are lighter than three-pound test is because of their inclination to snap off during the cast. Accurate, flat trajectory casts are impossible with the ultra-lightweight lines, because they can't stand the shock of fast casting. Fishermen who use them must constantly be aware of this danger, and because of it, become "lobbers".

I have found that the color of the line is a great deal more important to the fisherman than it is to the fish. I use undyed Nylon for my fishing, because I don't believe that there is any color, or combination of colors, which will make a line invisible to fish. In my opinion, it's silly to think that a fish, which can see a tiny gnat-like fly floating on the surface of a fast moving stream, is going to be fooled by a camouflaged line.



## THE SPINNING LURE

The spinning method is the most deadly form of angling man has yet devised, and it is the small lures employed in the sport which are responsible for its tremendous effectiveness. Small attractive lures, tied to fine diameter lines, have a fatal fascination for all minnow eating fish. Nothing, short of dynamite, can take more fish than this combination, delivered by the hands of an expert spin-fisherman.

Spinning lures are those which are too heavy for the fly rod, yet too light for bait-casting. Because this size range includes the lures which are closest in shape and size to the average bait-fish, (which are consumed hourly by all minnow eating fish) they deceive more fish than do the smaller or larger lures used in the other methods of angling.

Spin-fishing loses most of its effectiveness, and all of its advantage over fly and bait-casting, when the lures belonging to the latter methods are substituted for its own. Only those lures designed for easy spin-casting, from 1/16 to 1/4-ounce in weight, should be considered as spinning lures. Just so long as spin-lures are kept within these boundaries, will spinning be more effective than its competitive methods.

I'm aware that the 3/8-ounce weight has been officially adopted by the spinning clubs of the nation - but that just goes to prove that there are more renegade bait-casters among their members, than there are authentic spin-fishermen. Those bait-casters who despair of the intricacies of the multiple casting reel, and are for that reason converted to spinning, seldom give up plug fishing. Their conversion is one of convenience - all that they have converted is the reel. They are like the atheist who, because he didn't know how to light his own furnace, went to church to keep warm.

## THE SPINNING LURE

Many outdoor writers recommend a different lure for every fish and condition, but their livelihood depends on pleasing the many lure manufacturers who advertise in the magazines for which they write. Unfortunately, editors buy fishing articles because of their literary content - not because of their authenticity on the subject.

Fishermen who have confidence in the lures they fish, catch ten times more fish than those who change from one lure to another every time they experience a dull period, because they really learn how to fish the lure effectively - under *all* conditions.

You can always tell a good fisherman by the lures he leaves at home - not by the number of lures he carries with him. Only poor fishermen continuously seek a new lure - if they were successful they wouldn't need it. **THE TIME SPENT IN CHANGING LURES IS JUST SO MUCH VALUABLE FISHING TIME WASTED.**

During the last 20 years, I have fished in every major body of water from the Yukon River in Alaska, to the Amazon River of South America, and have in every instance taken my quota of the game fish each lake, stream, or river had to offer. In all of those years, and in the many different waters, I used but two lures - a devon for under water, and my rubber bass bug for top water fishing. My tackle box is a plastic cigarette case - in it I carry only six lures, all alike in kind, size, and color.

No lure can make a good fisherman out of a bad fisherman, but many good lures are rendered ineffective by poor fishermen. It is the fisherman, not the lure, which takes the fish. The lure is just a medium through which he can display his skill. The better that medium is designed for his outfit, the more skill can he display.

Your choice of spinning lures should be confined to small compact types which incorporate enough weight in their small streamlined bodies to cast well. The weight, balance, and wind resistance of your lures, spell the difference between sloppy and easy casting, which is synonymous with fish - or no fish. The easier a lure casts, the more fish you will take with it, because it can be put in so many more fishable places.

When other considerations, such as popularity, brand-name, or recommendations of local fishermen, enter into the selection of lures, one is apt to be the owner of a brand-name lure which is very popular with the natives - but not with the fish. This is the kind of stuff of which mediocre fishermen are made.

Just remember that the lure which is successful for you in New York, will be just as successful, for the same species of fish, in California - and vice versa. Fish are the same the world over, and we need no inept advice from the natives on how to take them. Fish soon become wary of a lure which is overpopular in the area. Most of the native fishing guides are just handymen who are out of work - they are certainly not angling authorities.

## THE SPINNING LURE

It would require all of the pages of this book just to list and describe the many spinning lures which are now on the market, but believe it or not, there are only five basic types represented by the lot of them. No matter how diligently a lure designer may try to create a new and different lure, all he can accomplish is to change the balance, material, or color of one of the basic five - which were invented years ago. That is why it is almost an impossibility to be granted a mechanical patent on a fishing lure.

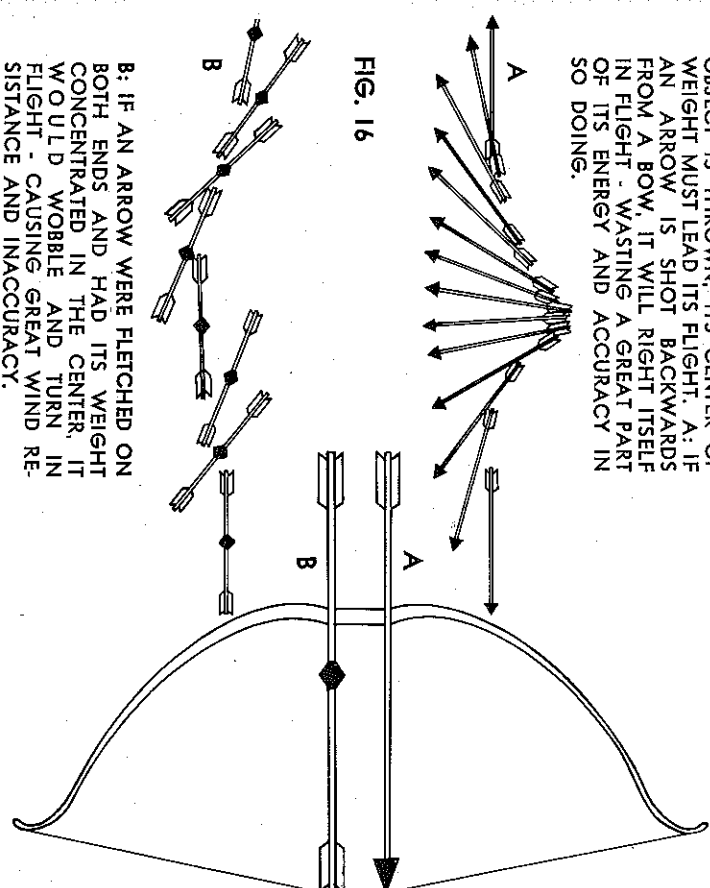
### SIMPLE AERODYNAMICS

Unless a lure is designed to travel through the air in the same position it is to be fished, it will wobble and turn in flight, hit the water headfirst or backward, and often as not, foul itself as it enters the water. A wobbling and turning lure doesn't make for accurate casting, and its aerial gyrations will create excessive wind resistance which materially shortens your cast. A great many fish are repelled by lures which do not alight in the water correctly, and I have yet to see a fish take a fouled lure.

The archery arrow is used here to graphically demonstrate the importance of weight distribution in an object which is to be shot through the air.

NO MATTER IN WHAT POSITION AN OBJECT IS THROWN, ITS CENTER OF WEIGHT MUST LEAD ITS FLIGHT. A: IF AN ARROW IS SHOT BACKWARDS FROM A BOW, IT WILL RIGHT ITSELF IN FLIGHT - WASTING A GREAT PART OF ITS ENERGY AND ACCURACY IN SO DOING.

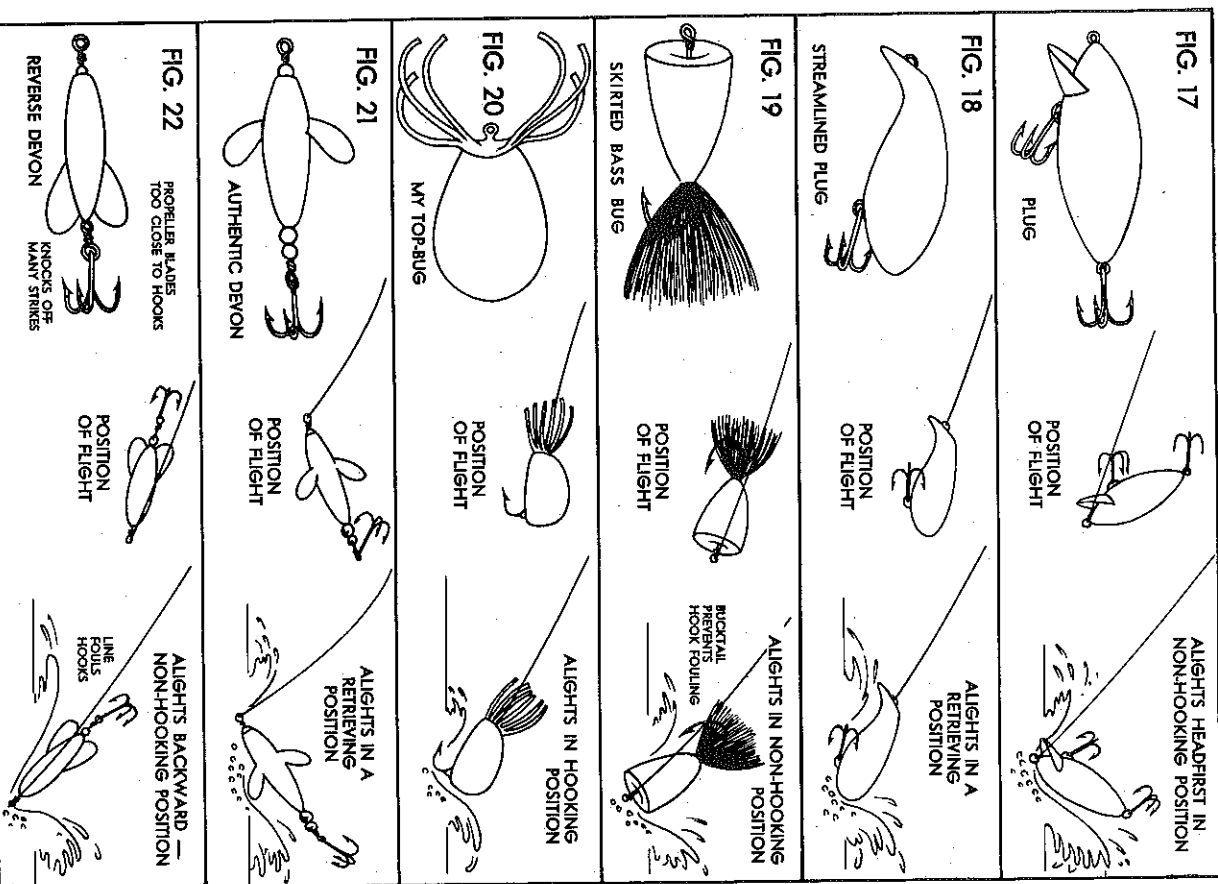
FIG. 16



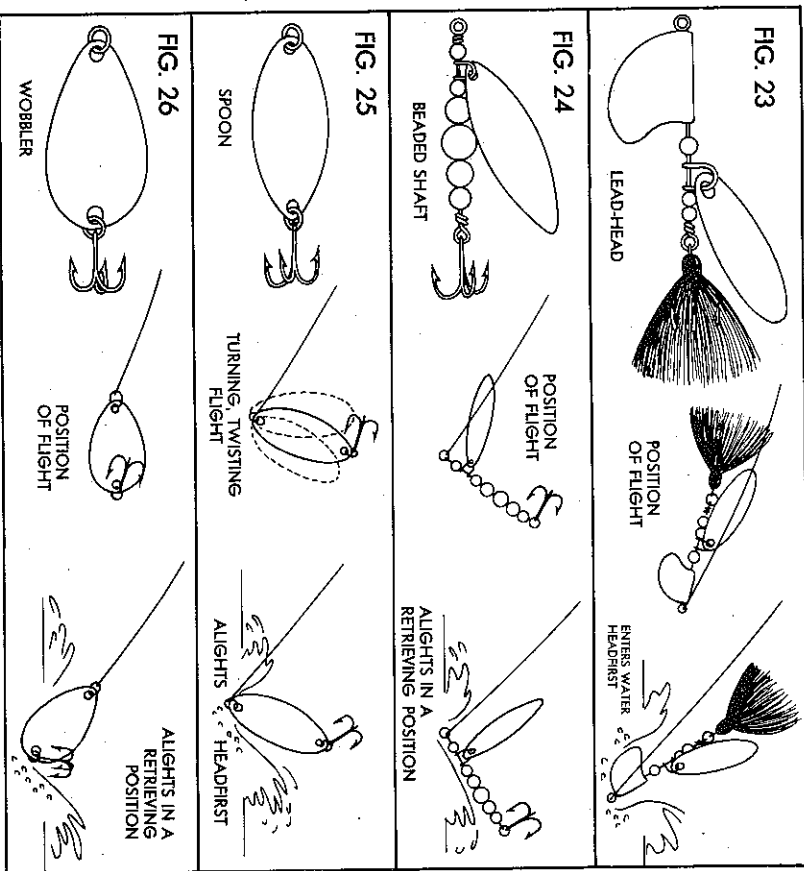
B: IF AN ARROW WERE FLETCHED ON BOTH ENDS AND HAD ITS WEIGHT CONCENTRATED IN THE CENTER, IT WOULD WOBBLE AND TURN IN FLIGHT - CAUSING GREAT WIND RESISTANCE AND INACCURACY.

## THE SPINNING LURE

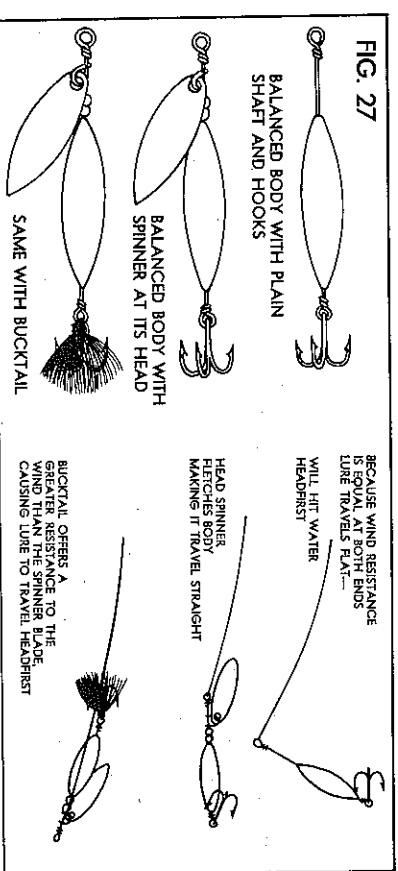
In their zeal to beat out their competitors, lure manufacturers often go too far afield, and design lures which are impractical for spin-casting. The following illustrates the difference between those which are, and those which are not correctly designed for good spin-casting.



## THE SPINNING LURE



Oftentimes a well designed lure body is ruined by overdressing. Fortunately, one can always remove that part of its dressing which interferes with good casting. The following, illustrates how a poor body shape can be made a good one by adding a spinner to its head for fletching - and then made even worse by overdressing with a bucktail skirt. Some fishermen just can't abide a naked hook, but fish are rather partial to them.



## CHAPTER TWO

### TACKLE ASSEMBLY

#### - MOUNTING THE REEL -

Presuming that one has completely outfitted himself with authentic spinning tackle, his next step is to assemble it properly for casting. Even before the reel is loaded with line, it should first be fastened to the rod handle in its proper position. The reel is placed just as far forward on the rod handle as the size of the caster's hand will permit.

Because the true spinning reel must be mounted under the caster's hand, he is forced to actually grip the whole reel seat while casting and retrieving. The intense discomfort of continually gripping a handful of metal rings, of various thicknesses, doesn't make for accurate casting. At their best, reel retaining rings are not any too dependable for holding the reel securely to the rod - especially when fighting big fish. In my early days of spinning, I lost many big fish because of their tendency to work loose, and leave me with the rod in one hand and the reel in the other. This is very embarrassing when you have a big fish on the end of your line going hellbent for the ocean. In trying to eliminate this disagreeable tackle fault, I devised a new method of attaching the reel to the rod which is now being used by most of the expert "spinners" of this country.

I completely eliminate the undependable and uncomfortable metal rings, and attach the reel to the rod handle by wrapping it on with SCOTCH PLASTIC TAPE.

This tape is strong, waterproof, and very durable. When the reel is joined to the rod handle by this method they become a single unit, very comfortable to the hand, and completely dependable in long fish fights. The uniform smoothness of this grip will increase your casting ability and improve your accuracy.

I buy Scotch Plastic Tape in the 3/4 inch size, and split it lengthwise with a razor blade, while still on the spool. The resultant 3/8 inch width is perfect for the purpose, and it makes each spool go twice as far. Brown is the best color to use on tan glass rods.

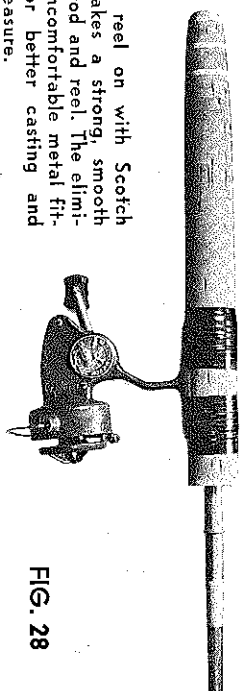


FIG. 28

Wrapping your reel on with Scotch Plastic Tape makes a strong, smooth union between rod and reel. The elimination of the uncomfortable metal fittings makes for better casting and more fishing pleasure.

#### TACKLE ASSEMBLY

To determine the proper place to mount your reel on the rod handle (this varies according to the individual's hand size) grip the rod handle well forward, until your extended thumb just reaches the top of the handle, as in (Fig. 29).



LOCATE REEL SEAT

FIG. 29

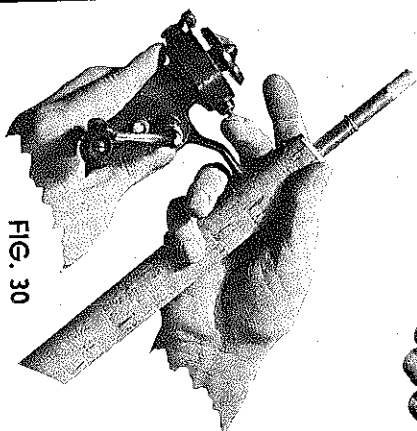


FIG. 30

PLACE REEL BETWEEN FINGERS

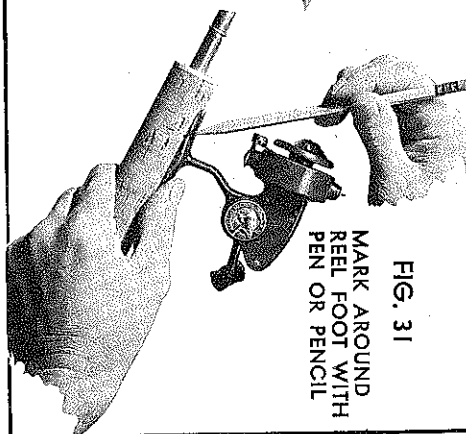


FIG. 31

MARK AROUND REEL FOOT WITH PEN OR PENCIL

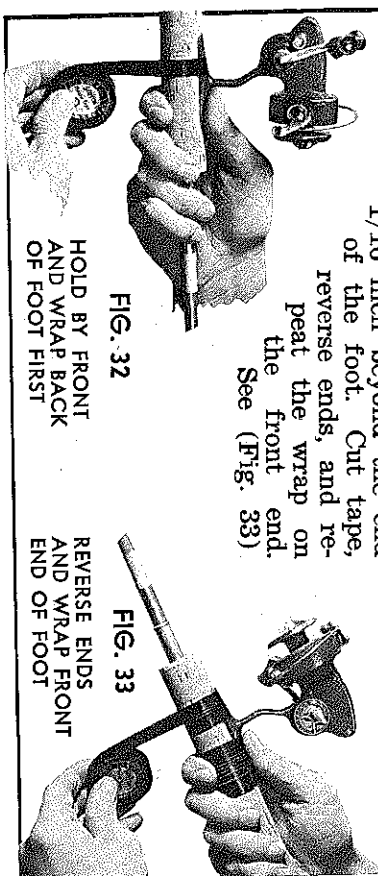


FIG. 32

HOLD BY FRONT AND WRAP BACK OF FOOT FIRST



FIG. 33

REVERSE ENDS AND WRAP FRONT END OF FOOT

Straighten the first and second fingers so that the reel's stem can go between them, and its foot can be placed against the rod handle. See (Fig. 30). Without permitting reel to shift position, turn the rod over, so the reel is on top. See (Fig. 31). Mark an outline around the reel's foot with a pen or pencil. Keep the reel's foot inside of this outline while you hold it by the front end, and start to wrap the back end. See (Fig. 32). Start the tape against the stem and wind out to 1/16 inch beyond the end of the foot. Cut tape, reverse ends, and repeat the wrap on the front end. See (Fig. 33)



## - COUNTERSINKING THE REEL SEAT -

If one wants to make a really "super-grip", he should countersink the reel foot into the cork handle from 1/16 to 1/8 of an inch (depending on the size of one's hand); 1/16 of an inch for large hands; 1/8 of an inch for small hands.

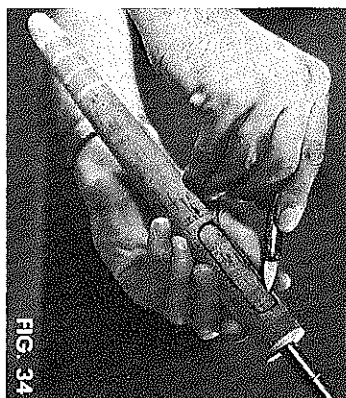


FIG. 34

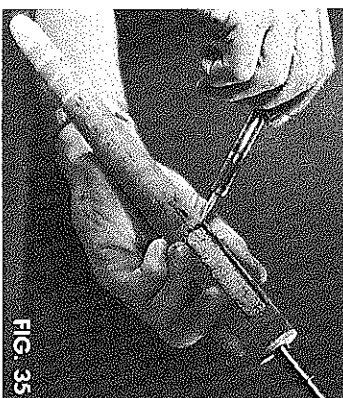


FIG. 35

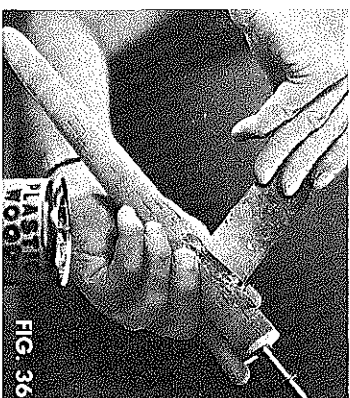


FIG. 36

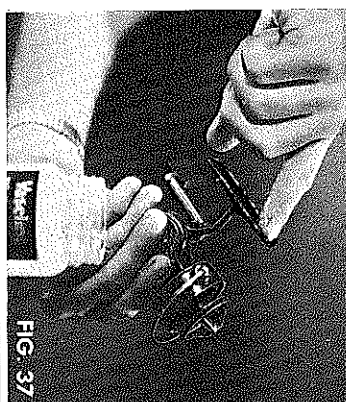


FIG. 37



FIG. 38

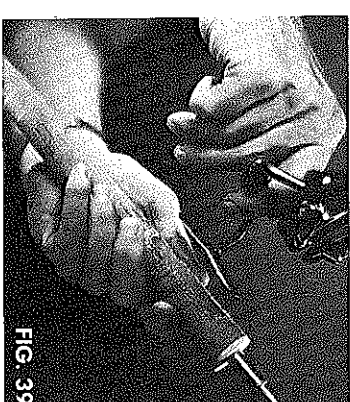


FIG. 39

Fig. 34: Locate and outline reel seat as shown on preceding page. Fig. 35: Cut away cork inside of outline to a depth of 1/8 of an inch or more. Remove cork slowly, repeatedly fitting the reel foot in the depression. Fig. 36: When ready, fill the cavity with plastic wood. Fig. 37: Grease reel foot with vaseline to prevent sticking. Fig. 38: Press reel foot firmly into the soft plastic. Fig. 39: Remove at once, and repeat after thirty minutes. Trim off excess and let harden.

Be very careful while removing the cork and do so only a little at a time - repeatedly fitting the reel foot in the depression. The reel is then wrapped with SCOTCH PLASTIC TAPE, as previously described. You'll like this job and be proud of its streamlined appearance. See (Fig. 40).



## - THE FIRST FILLING OF THE REEL SPOOL -

After the reel is mounted on the assembled rod, to your satisfaction, the spool must then be filled with line. There are several ways of doing this, but any way will give you straighter lines during the cast. The following technical data will explain my reason for adopting this method.

If the line is completely free of all twist when it is originally spooled, it will be twisted in a counterclockwise direction when it is cast off the reel - one counterclockwise twist for each loop cast off the spool. However, it will be straightened again when it is retrieved, because the reel's bail revolves in a clockwise direction, imparting one clockwise twist to each revolution of incoming line.

The above being the case, the line will lay on the water in loose curl-like coils, because it is twisted during the cast. The only time it will be completely free of twist is when it is on the reel spool. On the other hand, if the line is put on the spool with one clockwise twist per turn, as it would be if it were spooled in the following way, it will be straight when it is cast, and it will lay on the water that way, which is most desirable for good casting and fishing.

Draw off 10 feet of line from the manufacturers spool and starting with the tip-top, thread it through the rod guides in reverse. Remove the reel's spool and open the bail until it is locked in casting position. Fasten the end of the line to the reel spool with a slipknot and two halfhitches. Wind enough line on the spool, by turning it in your fingers, to cover the knots and prevent them from slipping around the hub. Replace the spool in the reel and turn the handle enough to trip the bail. The line should now be under the bail and ready for spooling. **MAKE SURE THAT YOUR REEL IS IN ANTI-REVERSE.**

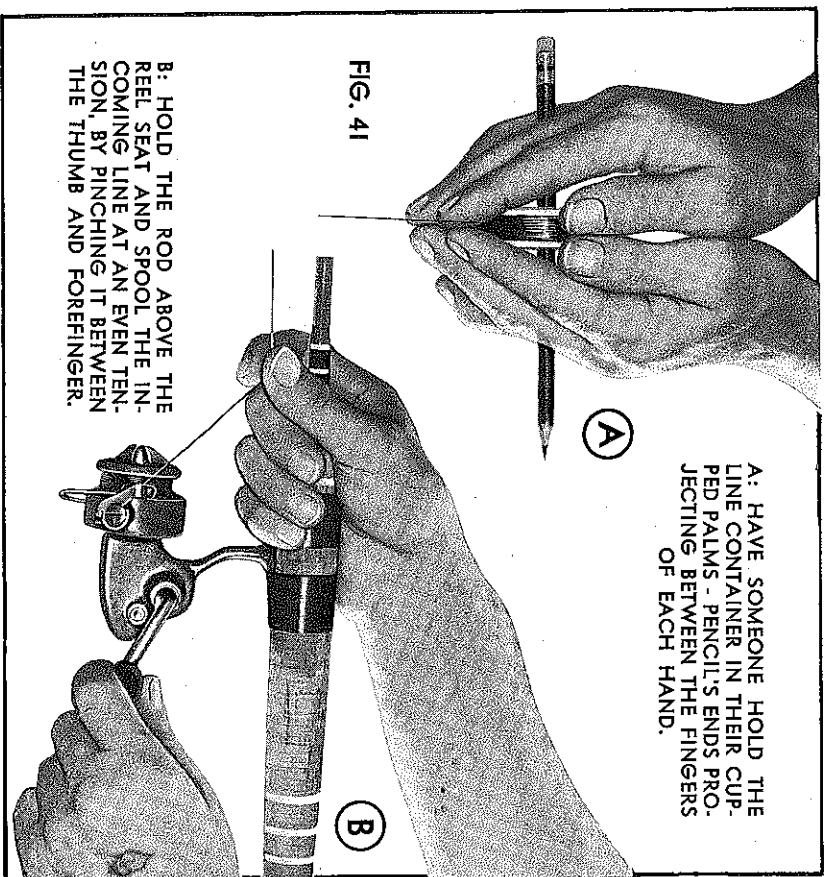


FIG. 41

### - SPOOLING THE LINE -

Stick a pencil through the hub of the manufacturer's line spool and enlist the help of another person to hold it by its projecting ends. The other person's fingers should cup the spool, touching it on either side. This acts as a brake and prevents the line from overrunning the spool. See (Fig. 41-A). The line must roll off the manufacturer's spool as it was spooled, and in no case, loop off the sides and around the pencil. Point the rod at the person who is holding the line and turn the reel handle. See (Fig. 44). To assure an even tension, grip the rod above the reel and let the line run between your thumb and index finger. See (Fig. 41-B). When the line has built up to within 1/8-inch of the rim of the spool, cut it off a rod's length beyond the tip. Never fill the spool above this point, or you will be plagued with tangles. It is much better to have an underfilled spool, than one which is overfilled. Make certain that the line is spooled level. See (Fig. 14).

Set the tension of the reel's drag to just under the breaking strength of the line. Always keep it at this tension when fishing, unless an emergency arises.

### - REPLENISHING WORN LINE -

When line becomes old and worn from use, replace only the "working line" (the front 100 ft.). The line remaining on the spool, after the 100 ft. of worn line is removed, will remain on the reel *permanently*, as *backing*. Attach the end of the new replacement line to the *backing* line with a barrel knot. See (Fig. 42). Repeat the spooling operation described above.

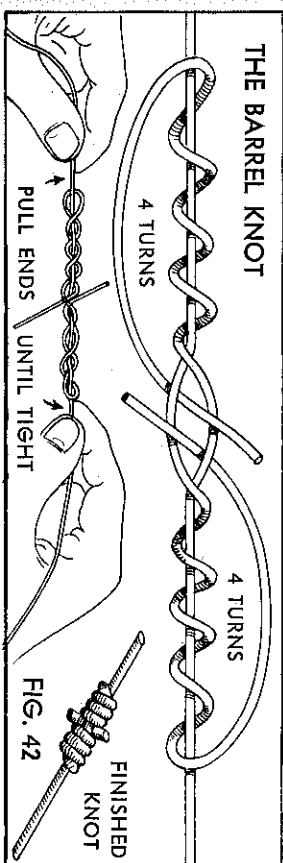


FIG. 42

### - THE TERMINAL KNOT -

For attaching spinning lures or practice weights, to Nylon monofilament lines, the double jam knot is thoroughly dependable and it is one of the fastest and easiest knots to tie. See (Fig. 43). Its double bight around the eye prevents friction from wearing it through at this most vulnerable point.

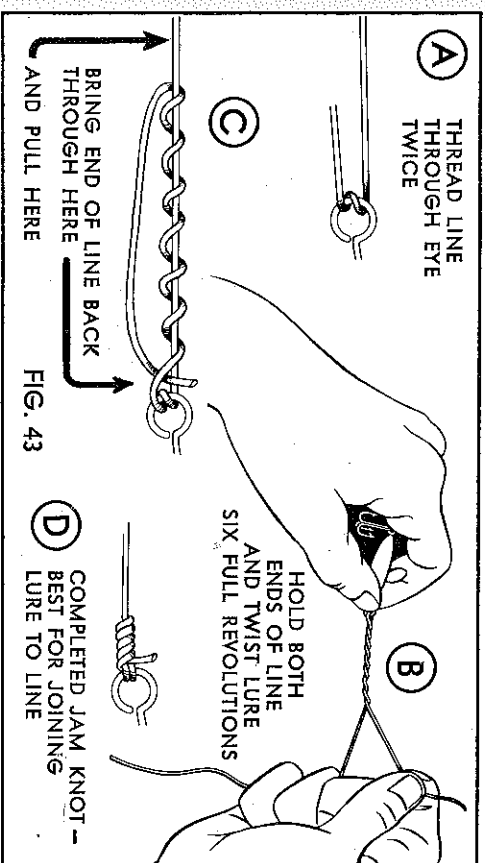


FIG. 43

Nylon monofilament line is very strong and tough, but the abrasive effect of sand, rocks, and fighting fish, will weaken it to the danger point. Always watch the first four feet of your line. If it shows the slightest sign of wear, break it off and retie it to the lure. It's better to lose a little line than to lose your fish and lure. When fishing, make it a regular practice to break off your lure and retie the knot every twenty or thirty minutes, *regardless of whether or not it shows any visible signs of wear*.

## TACKLE ASSEMBLY

You never know when that "big one" will hit, and you don't want to go into that kind of a fight handicapped by a worn knot. Always retie your knot after taking a fish, or the next one may break it where its predecessor has weakened it.

### - SNAPS ARE TABOO FOR SPINNING -

Snap (the kind that fasten lures to lines) have no place in fresh water spinning and should be avoided. Many lures and fish are lost because of them, and the action of some of the smaller lures are impeded when they are employed. The snap-fastener is OK for bait-casters, who use lines of eight-pound test and up, but the spin-fisherman's line is of extremely small diameter, and his terminal knot must be retied often if he doesn't want to lose his lures - *regardless of whether a snap-fastener is used or not*. As the only purpose of the snap is to save the fisherman the trouble of retieing this knot, when changing from one lure to another, it would best be eliminated from the spin-fisherman's kit. Anything which encourages laxness in retieing the terminal knot is dangerous to his sport. **THE KNOT HAS TO BE RETIED ANYWAY, SO WHY ADD A SNAP WHICH MAY MAKE A WARY FISH SHY AWAY FROM YOUR LURE?**

Don't assemble or disassemble your rod too near the water - otherwise, you may lose one of its sections.

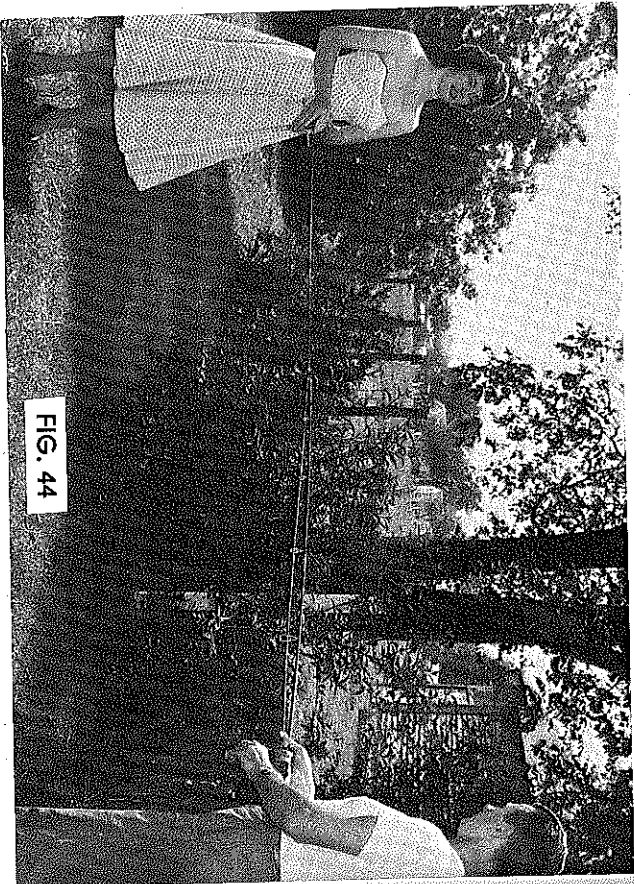


FIG. 44

An angler's wife can be of great assistance to him in the assembly of his tackle - and if she has a genuine affinity for spin-fishing, as my wife has, she makes a most pleasant fishing companion.

## CHAPTER THREE

### CASTING

Accurate casting adds to the thrill of fishing all of the thrills of gunnery and archery, and makes the accurate caster, not only a fine fisherman, but also a sharpshooter. He finds the same satisfying pleasure in being able to hit a tiny target as he does in fishing. Thus, he receives twice as much fun from angling as does the plain fisherman, and more than twice his catch. His accuracy permits him to cast his lure in places which are inaccessible to others, who do not possess his skill, and because fish hide in such places, his bag is never empty.

Only the angler who has mastered his tackle can experience all of the bountiful pleasures with which spinning is endowed. Anyone can learn to cast correctly, and those who enjoy fishing owe it to themselves to learn how. If for no other reason, a man's pride in his own accomplishment should be enough incentive to drive him on to better casting.

The bad caster, who offends his fishing companions with his troublesome casting, is not unlike the man who offends others by his uncleanness. But of the two, I would much prefer "stinky" to old "tangle-line" for a fishing partner. You can always escape the aroma of the "smelly-one" by fishing upwind from him, but the fellow who continuously casts his lures into the bushes is a nuisance and a menace to everyone who has the misfortune to fish with him - and he robs them, as well as himself, of the full enjoyment of fishing.

If a person has the mental and muscular coordination to flip a cigarette into an ashtray, from a distance of four feet, he can learn to cast a lure accurately with spinning tackle. Good spin-casting and the flipping of a cigarette are identical in movement, and they both involve the same mental processes of timing and gauging distance. The only difference, is that in casting we add an artificial extension to our arm and hand, which is the rod; and because it so greatly magnifies our muscular movements, we don't have to exert nearly as much energy in our cast as we do in the flipping of a cigarette.

Like all things worth-while, good spin-casting requires lots of time and practice, but the practice is so entertaining and its results so gratifying, that it is time well spent.

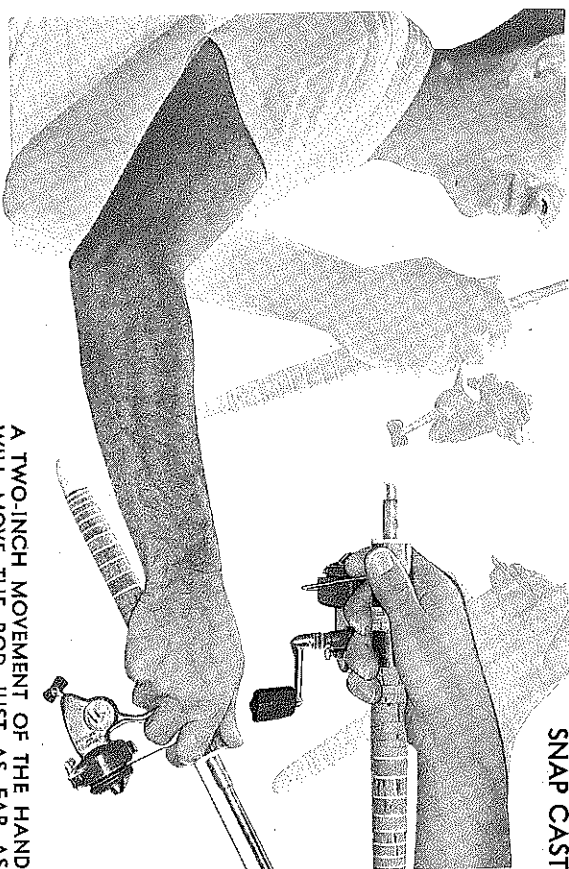


## - THE METHOD OF SNAP-CASTING -

The method of snap-casting is based on the same principle as the science of Judo. Its power is also created by timing, rather than by force. No other method of casting is as powerful or as accurate, because it utilizes all of the leverage and reflex energy of which a rod is capable - and it is all accomplished with just a tiny snap of the wrist.

Snap-casting is a great deal like popping a whip, without the pop. The cast is made by first activating the rod's reflex action with a small up-twitch of the wrist, which I call the "cock", because this movement cocks the spring of the rod; and then, immediately applying a more accentuated counter movement with a down-twitch of the wrist, which I call the "directional", because it is by this movement that we direct the cast at its target. The full up and down movement of the cast is completed in the short space of time in which it takes a person to blink his eyes twice, so the caster's movements must necessarily be very short and fast to be completed in time. The snap-caster moves his hand so little and so rapidly that it is difficult for an observers eyes to follow its movements. The reaction of those who witness a snap-cast for their first time is, "what makes it go?".

To better visualize the superiority of snap-casting, over full arm casting, think of how much faster and easier it is to snap your wrist up and down, than it is to throw your full arm in the same arc. The wrist can complete the movement three or four times in the time it takes the full arm to accomplish it but once.



SNAP CAST

ARM CAST

A TWO-INCH MOVEMENT OF THE HAND WILL MOVE THE ROD JUST AS FAR AS THE TWO-FOOT MOVEMENT OF THE ARM AND DO IT A DAMNSIGHT FASTER

## - THE ANATOMY OF THE CAST -

A well devised cast is one that moves with the natural movements of the bones and muscles with which the cast is made. A cast which defies these natural laws of anatomy is ill devised, and it will certainly be impractical, inaccurate, and extremely tiring to the caster who attempts it.

The following simple, but very practical, demonstrations will teach one the basic anatomy of the snap-cast, which will be of great help to him in learning how to correctly perform all worthwhile casts.

Place an ashtray across the table from you, and with your elbow resting on the table top, flip a cigarette into it without moving anything but your hand and wrist. See (Fig. 46). Repeat this action several times, until your movements become completely relaxed. Observe the quick, short, upward cock of the hand, and the equally fast, but much more pronounced, downward snap. You will note that the hand has already dipped toward the target, and has released the cigarette before the weight of its momentum pulls the forearm slightly downward. The action you have just completed is the same as that which makes fine snap-casting possible. If you can duplicate an identical action with the rod in your hand you are well on the road to expert casting.

THE MOVEMENT OF A SNAP-CAST IS NOT UNLIKE FLIPPING A CIGARETTE AT AN ASHTRAY - A: START (POINT); B: DRAW BACK (COCK); C: THROW AND RELEASE. IT IS BY THIS MOVEMENT WE DIRECT THE OBJECT AT THE TARGET.

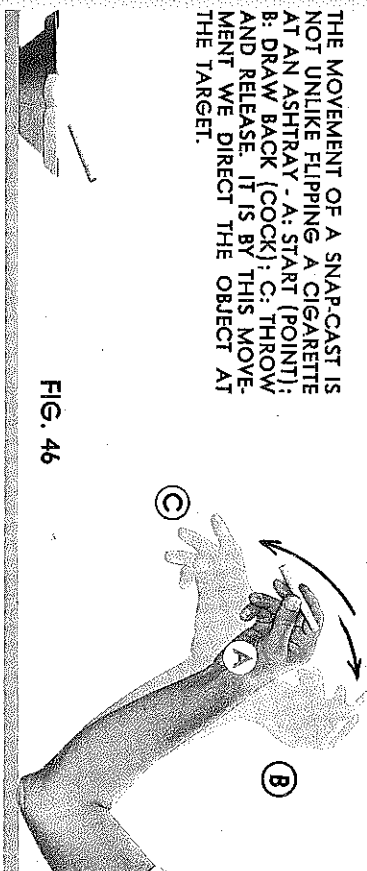


FIG. 46

The leader cords by which our fingers are controlled run through the wrist, and if just one finger is held tensed the whole wrist will be stiffened. See (Fig. 47). Because of this, it is extremely important that all members of the hand be completely relaxed during the cast.

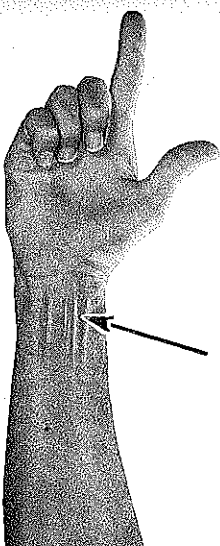
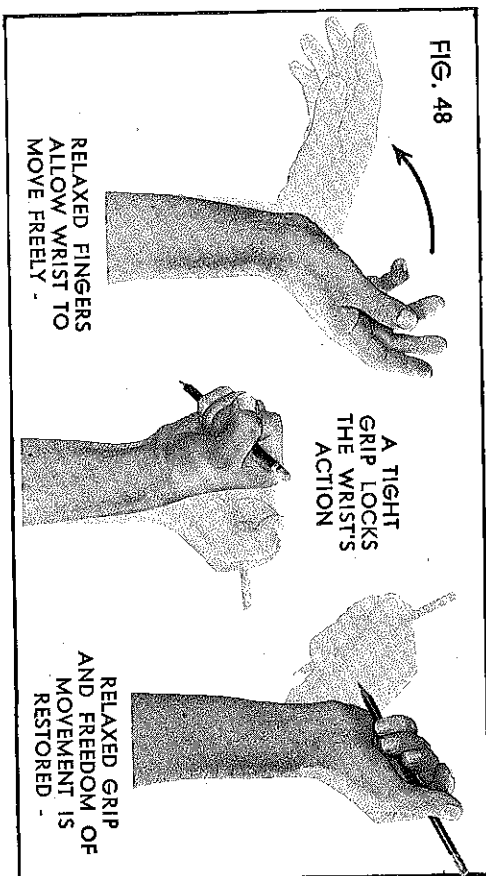


FIG. 47

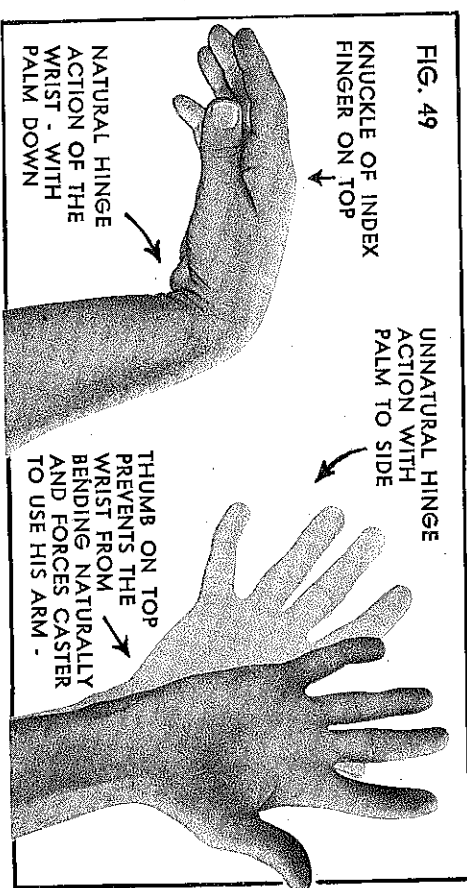
A TENSE FINGER WILL CAUSE STIFFNESS HERE AND PREVENT THE WRIST FROM MOVING FREELY. IF THESE TENDONS ARE EXTENDED YOU ARE TOO TENSE.



To further illustrate the importance of relaxation, place your elbow on the table as before and point your relaxed fingers toward the ceiling. See (Fig. 48). Let the hand suddenly fall forward by its own weight. After observing the wrist's complete freedom of movement, take a pencil in the hand and grip it tightly. Now, try to repeat the free wrist movement. You will find that the wrist is locked and will have to be forced down, so long as the fingers remain tensed around the pencil. Relax your hold on the pencil and the wrist movement is again free. The spin-rod must also be held in a relaxed grip to free the wrist action for good casting - or else the full arm will have to be employed.



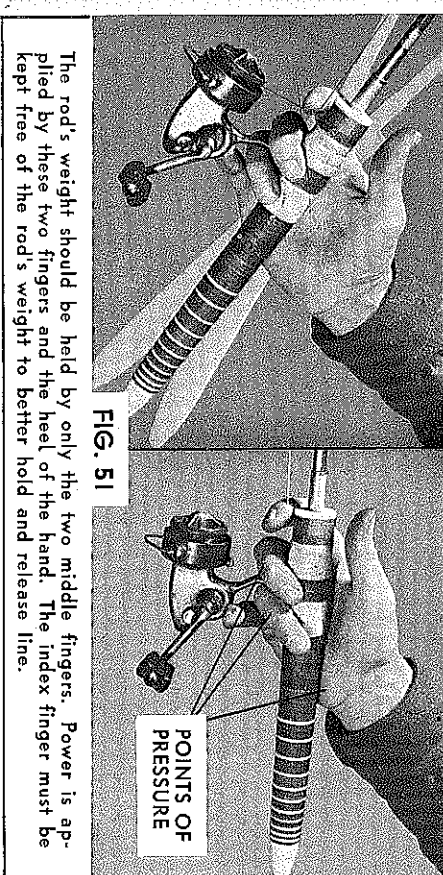
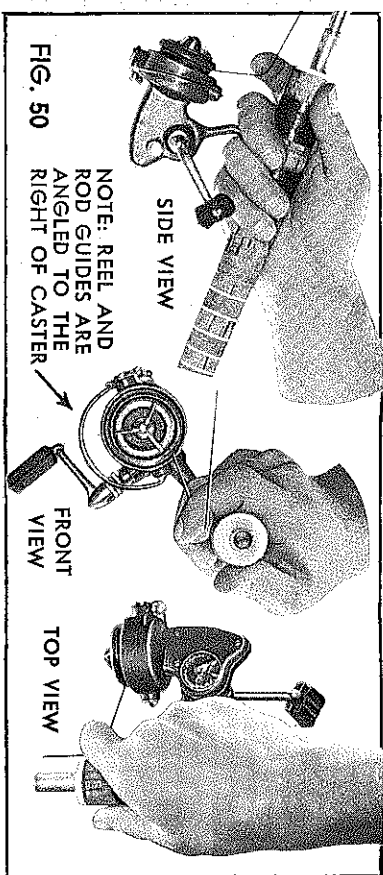
Before leaving the table top test, please note the natural hinge action of the wrist. Unless the hinge is used naturally it will not bend in a true vertical plane. See (Fig. 49).



#### - PREPARATION FOR CASTING -

The foregoing should, if nothing else, have taught the reader that the way he grips his rod is immensely important to his success as a caster. It took me over three years of constant research to ascertain the best grip for easy, accurate casting, and I'll assure you that I wouldn't have devoted so much time and attention to anything that I thought was trivial.

The correct grip is pictured in (Fig. 50). Please note that the thumb is relaxed against the side of the rod's handle - its only duty is to keep the rod from drifting to the left. *Only in fly-casting should the thumb be pushed against the top of the rod's handle.* When one does this in spinning, he ignores the natural hinge action of the wrist and forces himself to use his full arm, because the wrist can't bend naturally with the thumb on top of the handle. It also pushes the rod handle against the index finger, and makes that finger's reflexes too slow to release the line properly. Fig. 50 shows the angle of the reel and the rod guides when the rod is held properly. Please note that the knuckle of the index finger is on top of the rod's handle.



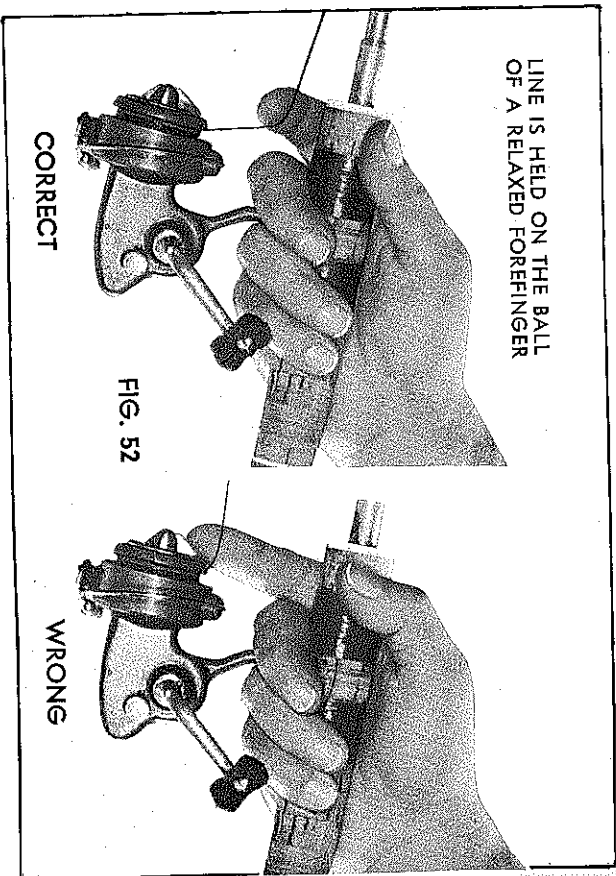
The rod's weight should be held by only the two middle fingers. Power is applied by these two fingers and the heel of the hand. The index finger must be kept free of the rod's weight to better hold and release line.

## - USE OF THE ANTI-REVERSE -

Always make it a habit to lock the reel in anti-reverse when you are not holding the reel handle, or casting. If you deviate from this practice only long enough to light a cigarette, or to swat a mosquito, the line may overrun the spool and tangle itself into snarls. Spinning can be completely trouble free just so long as one does everything he is supposed to do, when it is supposed to be done. Fishermen who have line troubles are those who carelessly neglect details such as this.

## - HOLDING THE LINE PREPARATORY TO CASTING -

In casting, the line is picked up and held by the tip of the index finger, as shown in (Fig. 52). Those who recommend holding the line by laying a stiffened forefinger against the lip of the spool are not adept in the science of modern snap-casting. If you have any ambition to become a fine spin-caster, avoid this like the plague, because it will lock the wrist and necessitate use of the full arm in casting.

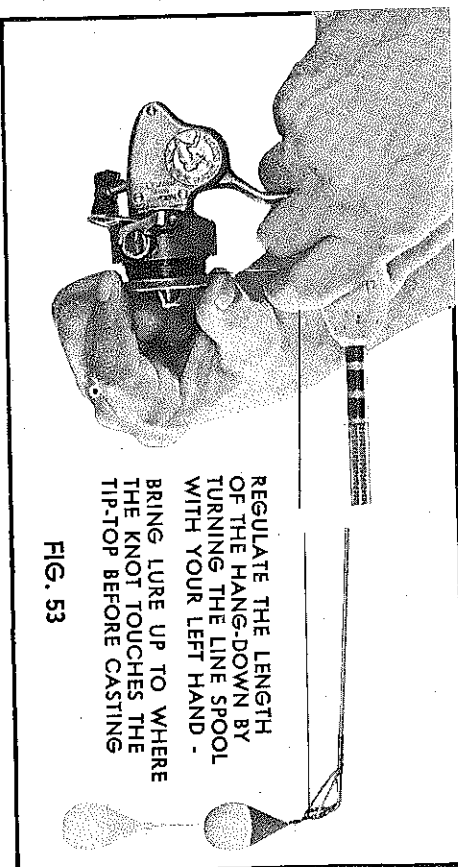


LINE IS HELD ON THE BALL OF A RELAXED FOREFINGER

FIG. 52

## - THE HANG-DOWN -

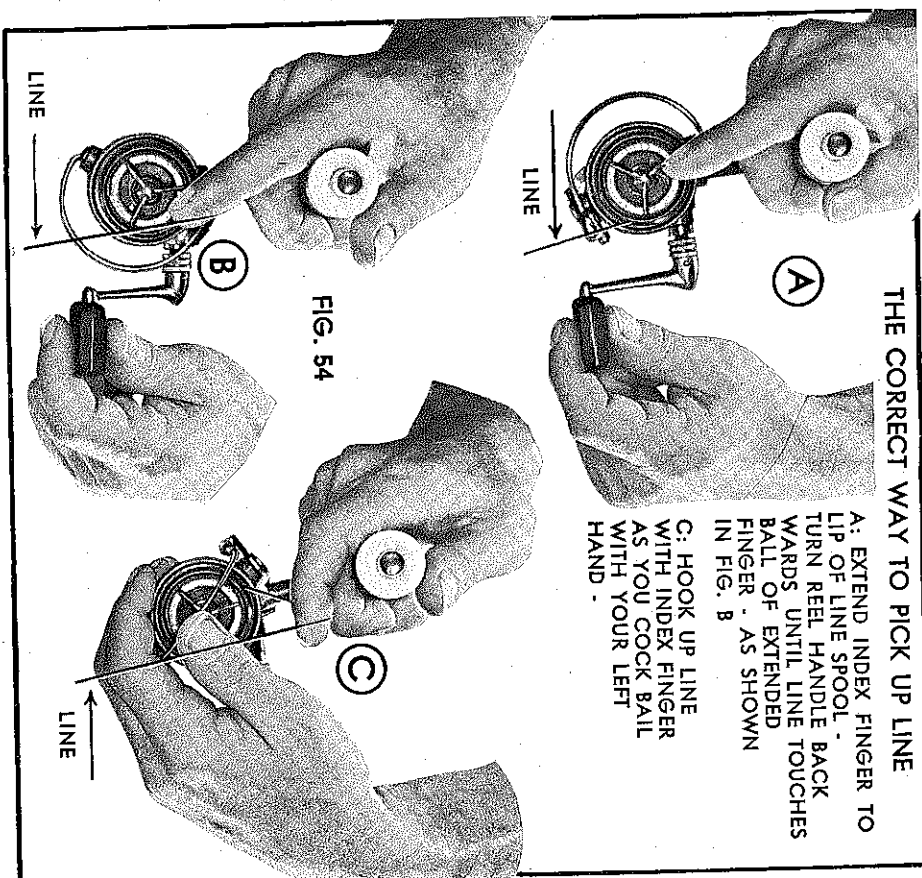
Before casting, regulate the distance between your lure and the tip of the rod. Don't ever try to cast with a long hang-down - that sort of stuff belongs to bait-casting and still-fishing. Regulate the hang-down by turning the reel's spool - not the handle. See (Fig. 53). The knot by which the lure is tied should just barely touch the tip-top. Longer hang-downs prevent accuracy and make timing difficult.



REGULATE THE LENGTH OF THE HANG-DOWN BY TURNING THE LINE SPOOL WITH YOUR LEFT HAND -  
BRING LURE UP TO WHERE THE KNOT TOUCHES THE TIP-TOP BEFORE CASTING

FIG. 53

## THE CORRECT WAY TO PICK UP LINE



A

A: EXTEND INDEX FINGER TO LIP OF LINE SPOOL - TURN REEL HANDLE BACK TOWARDS UNTIL LINE TOUCHES BALL OF EXTENDED FINGER - AS SHOWN IN FIG. B

C: HOOK UP LINE WITH INDEX FINGER AS YOU COCK BALL WITH YOUR LEFT HAND -

FIG. 54

B

C

## - THE TARGET -

Always cast at a target, especially when practicing, it will help you to become a better caster and fisherman. An eighteen-inch stake driven six inches into the lawn, exactly fifty feet from the caster, makes an excellent target. Its vertical line, which should be plumb (straight up and down), will help one to aim, and it will act as a gauge by which the caster can learn to move his rod in a true vertical plane - which is so important to accurate casting.

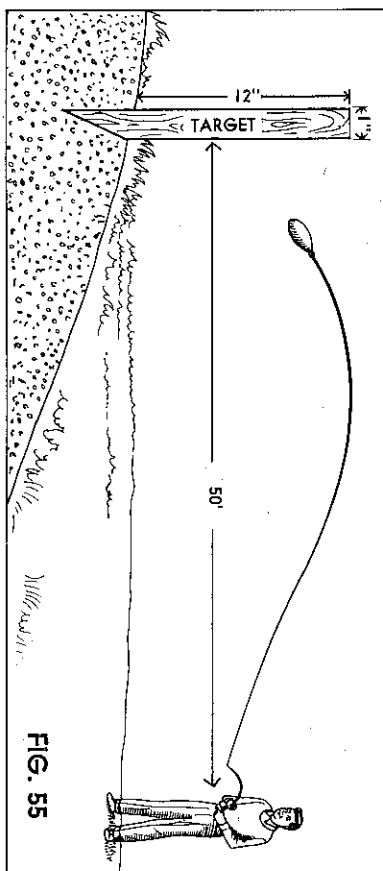


FIG. 55

## - CONSISTENCY IS THE KEYNOTE TO SUCCESS -

All of the above preparation for casting may be a bit overwhelming to a beginner, and awkward for him to grasp at first, but it will soon become an automatic operation, and quite fast. The important thing is to do it correctly every time you cast, so that when it is committed to the subconscious, as an automatic movement, it will subconsciously be done correctly each time.

I can't emphasize enough, the importance of being consistent in your movements and habits when fishing. Don't experiment with new methods until you have thoroughly mastered the old. Those who do are doomed to angling mediocrity - *and many fishless days*. Above all, be patient - it takes time to become proficient at anything. Patience and consistency is the stuff of which champions are made.

## - THE OVERHEAD SNAP-CAST -

The overhead cast is the basis of all good casting, and it must be mastered correctly and completely before going on to more intricate casts. Learning it will speed up your reflexes, give you a better sense of timing, and train your eye for accuracy.

Concentrate on this cast and practice it until you can consistently place a lure within a three foot circle, at a distance of fifty feet. When you can do this, you will find that the more intricate casts will come to you easily and quite rapidly - and besides, you will derive great pleasure from fishing with this excellent cast.

## - THE STANCE -

Stand slightly quartering to your target, with the weight of your body evenly distributed on both feet. Don't hold your feet too close together, as this causes the body to weave from side to side. An accurate cast can be launched only by a steady and well-balanced caster.

Drop your casting arm to a relaxed position at your side, then lift the rod, by bending the elbow only, to the position illustrated in (Fig. 56-B). Your elbow should be relaxed against the side of your body and the forearm and hand holding the rod should also be relaxed. Avoid tenseness, as tense muscles don't respond properly. You are now in the correct position to make an overhead snap-cast.

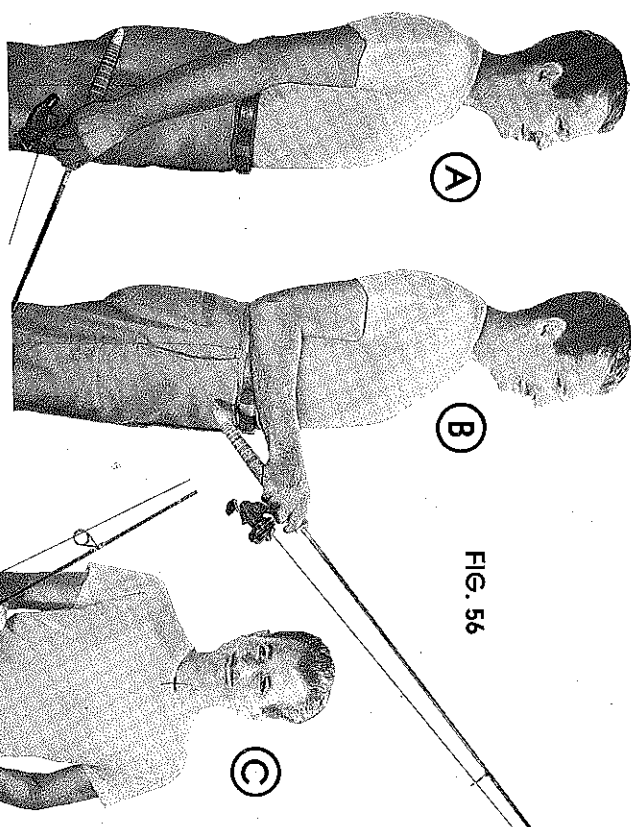


FIG. 56

FROM A RELAXED POSITION AT YOUR SIDE (A) - LIFT ROD INTO CASTING POSITION (B) - BY SIMPLY BENDING ELBOW.

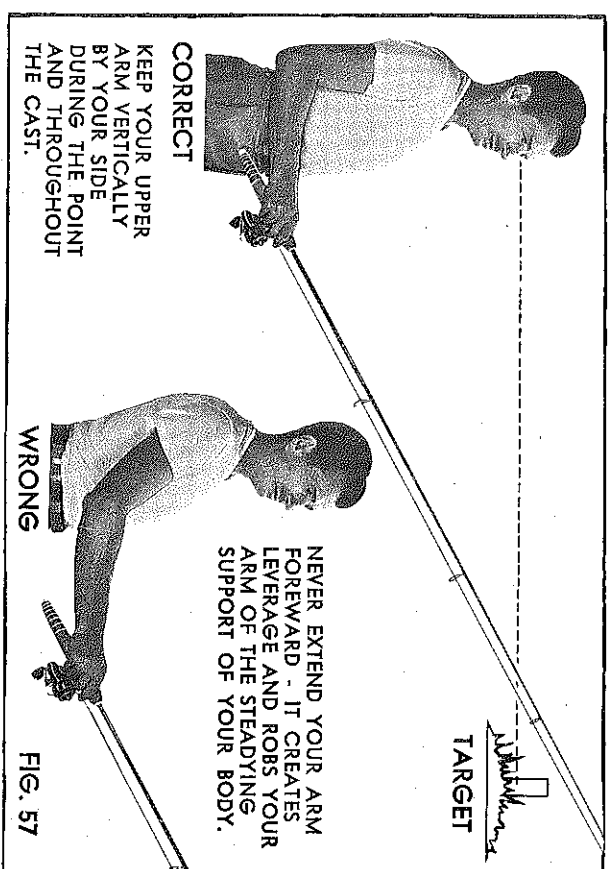
MAKE CERTAIN YOUR ELBOW IS AGAINST YOUR SIDE THROUGHOUT YOUR CAST.

**AUTHOR'S NOTE:** The foregoing preparations and stance remains the same in all casts made with authentic spinning tackle, the only difference being, the angle at which the rod is held, and the direction of the action.



## - THE POINT -

Sight across the rod's angled length until it converges (optically) on your target, as in (Fig. 57). This should be done quickly, and the cast should be made just as soon as the rod is steady. Don't hold this pose any longer than is absolutely necessary, or your hand will begin to waver, due to the rod's leverage pull.



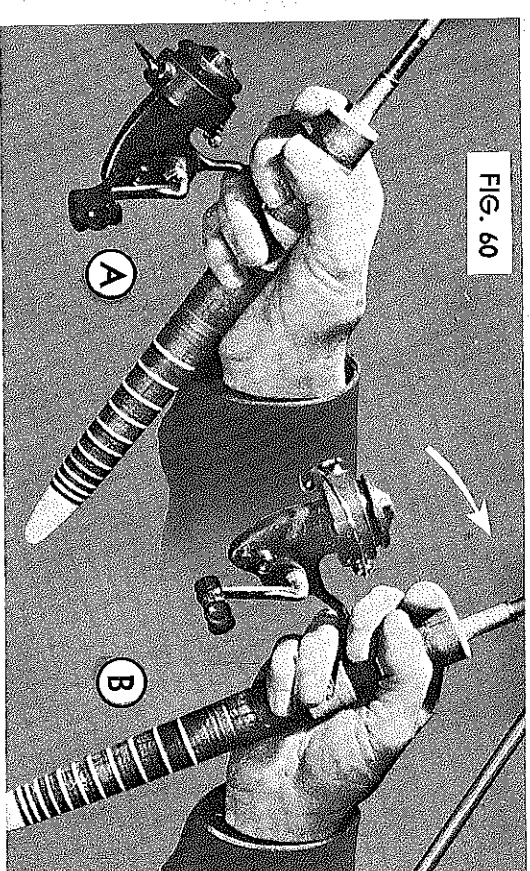
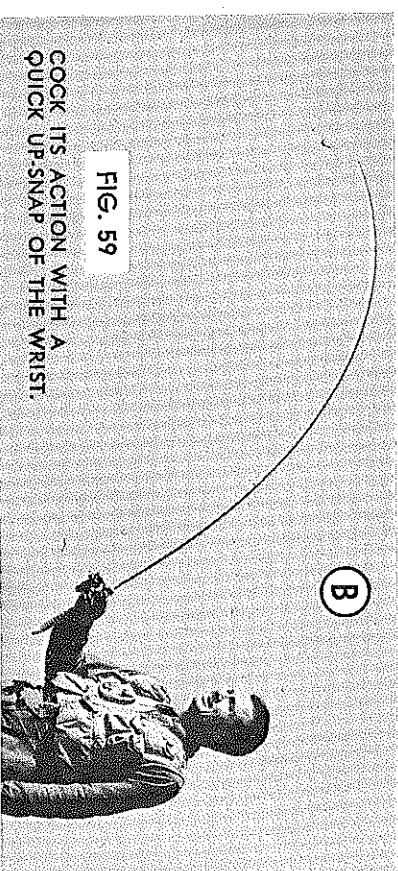
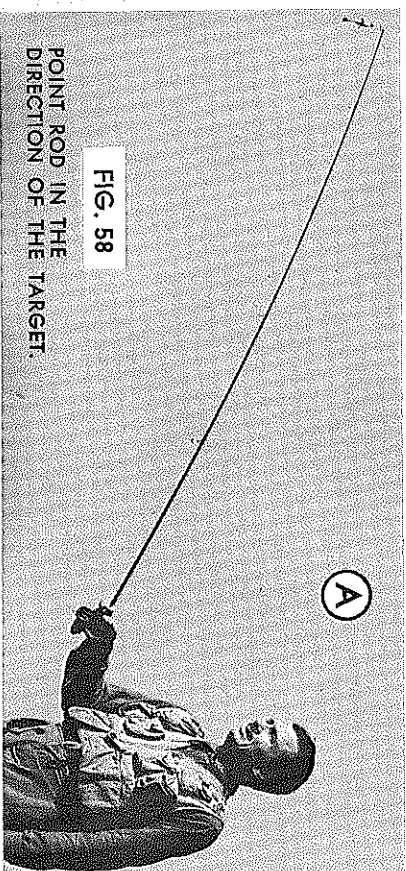
Keep your elbow at your side. Never extend your arm forward when pointing the rod, as this adds to it the additional leverage weight of your arm's extension, and is the equivalent of using a much longer rod - *too long for good casting.*

The "point" should not be misconstrued as aiming, because it isn't. Your accuracy depends on how well you aim the "directional" (or down-snap). Pointing your rod straight at the target just prevents it from having to bend on a diagonal plane when the "directional" snap is applied.

## - THE COCK -

Try to make the cock (or up-twitch) of your cast just as small as possible, because the length of this movement determines the depth of the rod's bend. Deep bends are undesirable, because their vibrations continue to bend and counter-bend the rod after the line has been released. Line will not shoot as fast, as accurately, nor as far, from a bending rod as it will from a straightened rod. Shallow bends are most desirable, because they almost straighten themselves by the time the line is released, and consequently, shoot longer and straighter lines. See (Fig. 59)

## - OVERHEAD CAST - THE COCK -



## - OVERHEAD CAST - THE DIRECTIONAL -

The "directional" (or down-snap) is applied immediately after the rod has been activated by the "cock" - *don't wait until the rod starts to uncurl*. When making the down-snap try to hit the target with the tip of your rod (not literally, but optically). This, coupled with a perfectly timed line release, will eventually make you a very accurate caster. See (Fig. 62).

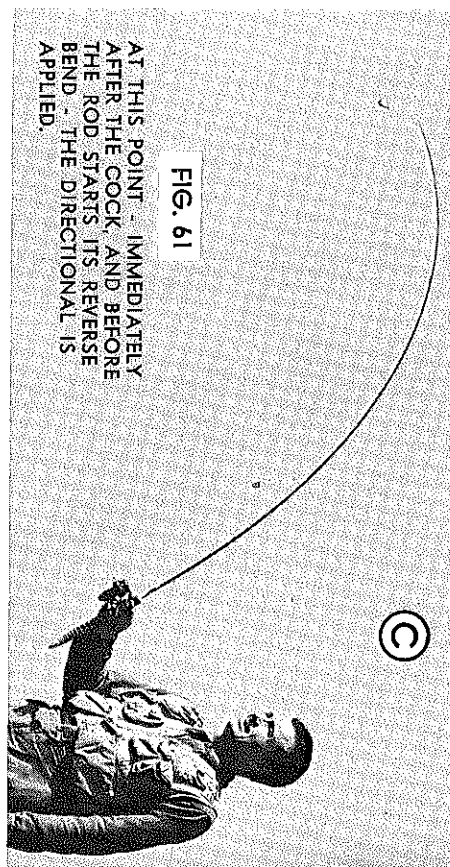


FIG. 61  
AT THIS POINT - IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COCK, AND BEFORE THE ROD STARTS ITS REVERSE BEND - THE DIRECTIONAL IS APPLIED.

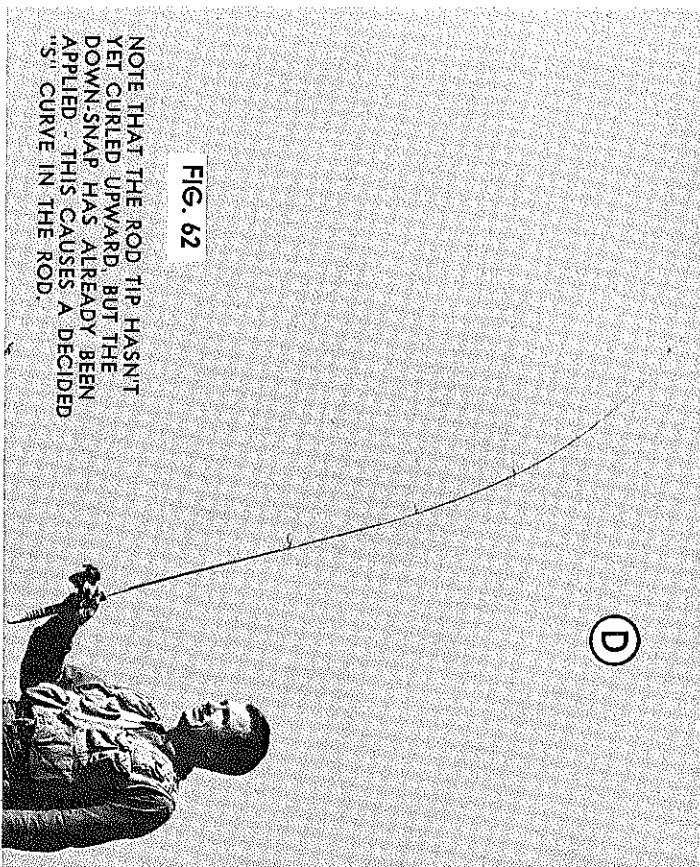


FIG. 62  
NOTE THAT THE ROD TIP HASN'T YET CURLED UPWARD, BUT THE DOWN-SNAP HAS ALREADY BEEN APPLIED - THIS CAUSES A DECIDED "S" CURVE IN THE ROD.

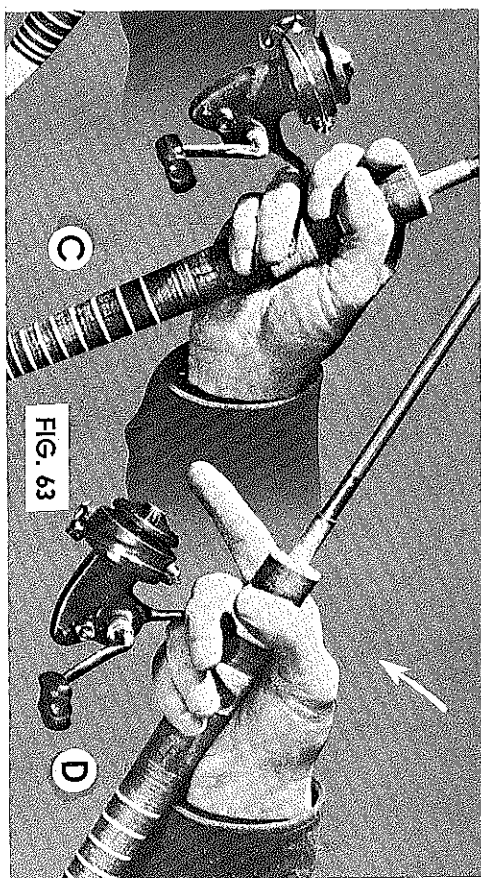


FIG. 63

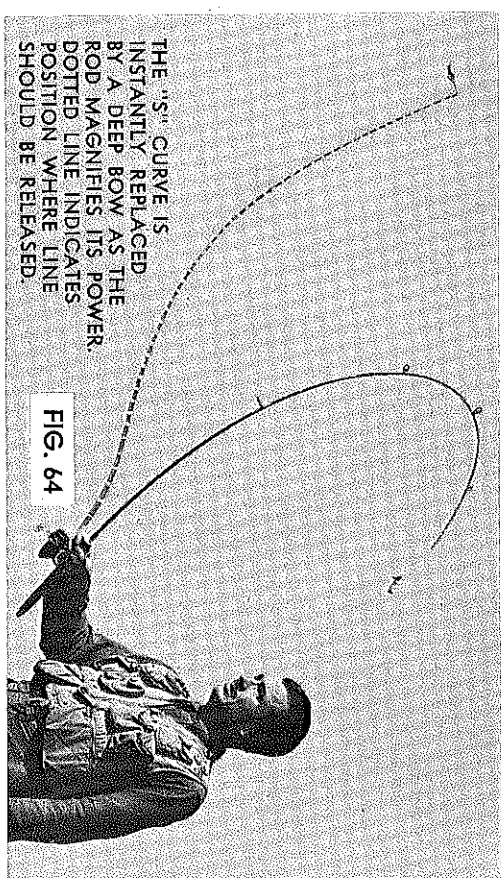


FIG. 64  
THE "S" CURVE IS INSTANTLY REPLACED BY A DEEP BOW AS THE ROD MAGNIFIES ITS POWER. DOTTED LINE INDICATES POSITION WHERE LINE SHOULD BE RELEASED.

## - THE LINE RELEASE -

The line release is the most important part of the cast, and it is also the most difficult to master. The accuracy, trajectory, and even the distance of your cast, is dependent on its correct timing. If one wishes to utilize all of the energy of which his rod is capable, the release must be timed at the exact instant at which the rod's reflex energy has reached its maximum peak of power. See (Fig. 64).

The development of that sensory ability which enables one to "feel" the pulse of the cast, and to correctly time its every movement, is what separates the expert caster from the "lobbers". Everyone possesses a sense of timing, but few casters develop it adequately. Only by exercising this faculty often, during regular sessions of casting practice, can we make it responsive.



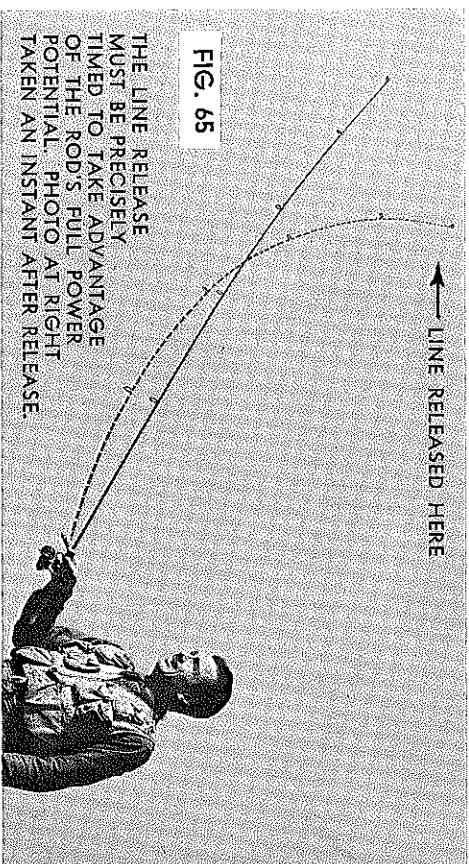


FIG. 65

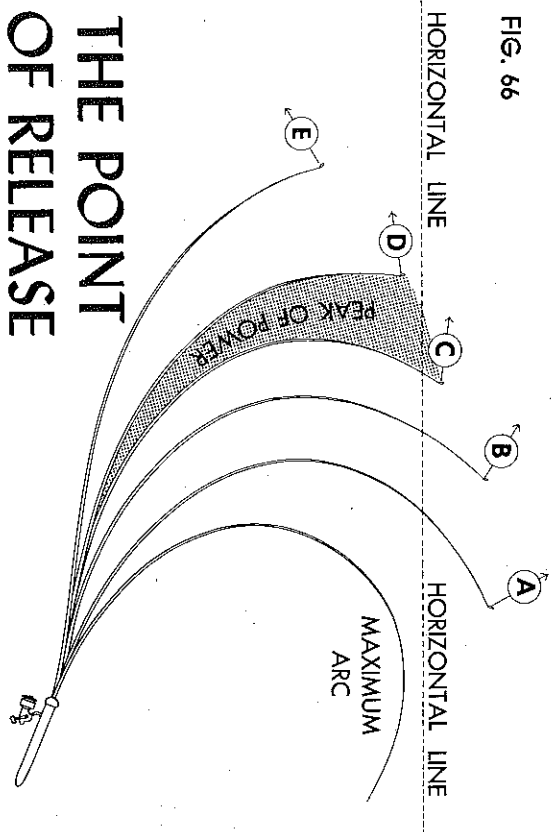


FIG. 66

## THE POINT OF RELEASE

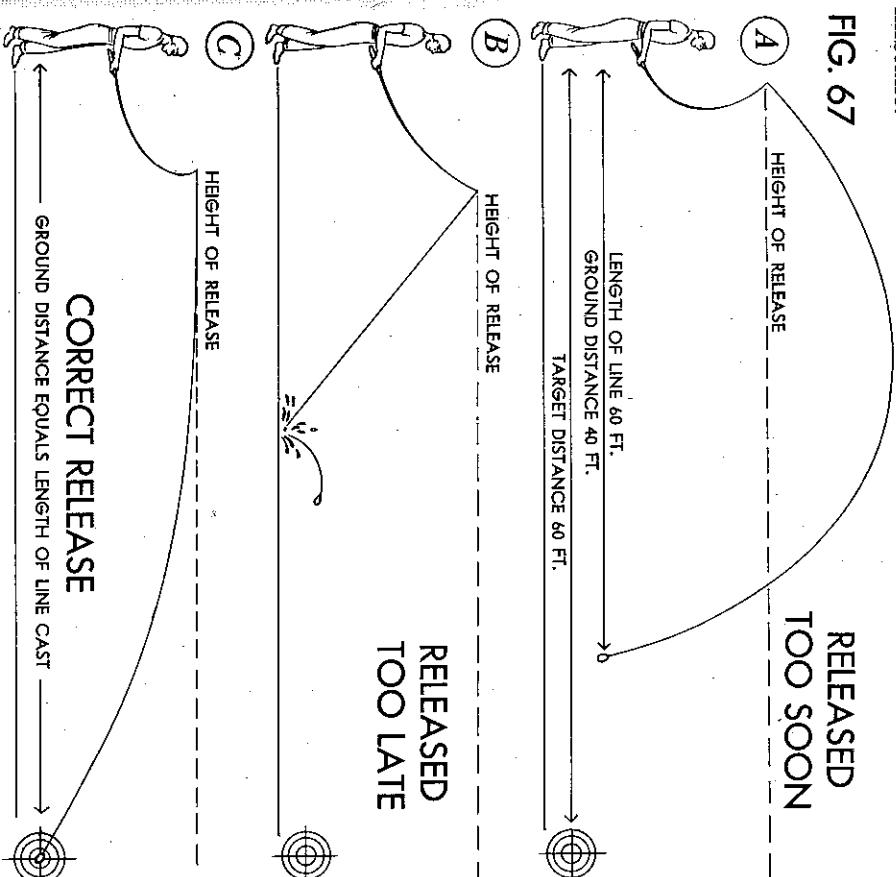
POSITION A: Rod has just begun to uncoil and has not gathered enough speed to create power. When the line is released at this point the lure travels very high (as indicated by arrow).

POSITION B: Here the speed of the unbending rod is faster than position "A" but it has not reached its maximum speed, and thus, its power peak. The arrow indicates the high "lobbing" cast which would result from a release at this point. THE MAXIMUM PEAK OF POWER is reached at position "C" and continues through position "D". A release at "C" will throw the lure slightly above the horizontal and release at position "D" will throw it slightly below the horizontal.

POSITION E: After the rod has passed position "D" it begins to lose its speed and power. A release at position "E" is much too late, as it will throw the lure directly at the water near your feet.

The trajectory of the cast offers a reliable gauge by which one can correct his timing. If the cast goes high, the caster has released the line too soon - if it hits the ground or water near him, the release is executed too late. A perfectly timed cast travels in a straight line from the rod to the target. See (Fig. 67-C). When excessive force is applied to the "directional", or down-snap, it will suddenly push the weight of the rod against the index finger and cause it to release the line too late. Avoid this common mistake.

FIG. 67



RELEASED TOO SOON

RELEASED TOO LATE

CORRECT RELEASE

A cast shouldn't travel any higher than the height of release. High casts, such as pictured in Fig. "A", waste their energy, distance, and accuracy, in the direction of the sky. Even though they may cast just as much line as Fig. "C" their ground distance is much less, due to their high arc. A high cast is very inaccurate because it is shot at the sky - **not at the target**. The high arching line will fall slack on the water, making it impossible to hook fish securely.

Fig. "C": Here no energy is wasted, the ground distance equals the line distance and the cast is shot **at the target**. This cast will alight on the water with the minimum of slack.

## - FEATHERING AND STOPPING THE CAST -

Even though one's timing may be correct, he hasn't completely mastered the cast until he has learned how to control the line in flight. Unless a lure is slowed, and stopped when it reaches its target, it will travel on beyond and into the bushes. See "Line Control" - Chapter Four.

## - THE SHORTY -

Of all of the casts which I have devised, the "Shorty" tops them all. It is extremely practical and there is much beauty in the symmetry of its movement. I use this cast exclusively (in its briefest form) for my fishing and exhibition casting.

Because of its versatility, the "Shorty" is the beginning and the end of all scientific spin-casting. It can be done simply, as described in Figs. 68 through 76, or in its more intricate and briefier form, which is described later under the "Per-de-lance". Its possibilities are boundless - its only limitations are the experience and the imagination of the caster. Most of the flip-type casts, done by other casters, owe their origin to my "Shorty".

One of the great advantages of this cast is that the rod is out front throughout the whole action and in full sight of the caster. This helps the caster to aim more accurately, keeps the rod action low and out of the sight of fish, and best of all, it prevents the lure from snagging on bushes in back of him.

When you have thoroughly mastered the overhead snap-cast you are ready to begin practicing the "Shorty". If you do so before, you will lessen your chances of ever becoming an expert caster.

The "Shorty" starts from a nearly horizontal rod position making its timing much faster than the overhead, because its movements are so much shorter. It is best to lower the rod gradually from the overhead position, a degree at a time, and not at first to try to assume a rod position quite so low as that shown in Fig. 68. Train your reflexes correctly, a little at a time. You'll be a better caster if you do. When one's reflexes are suddenly called upon for more speed than they are trained to deliver the whole body will go tense, and the resultant movement will not be a true one. I can't emphasize enough, the importance of doing each movement precisely right when learning casting. It is so easy to pick up bad habits and movements which are not quite true, and to commit them to our subconscious as part of the thing that we are trying to learn. It's much easier to do it right at first, than to try later to rid our subconscious of these faults.

## - "SHORTY" — THE COCK -

ROD IS HELD SLIGHTLY ABOVE THE HORIZONTAL AND POINTED TOWARD THE TARGET. SIGHT YOUR TARGET OVER ITS TIP.

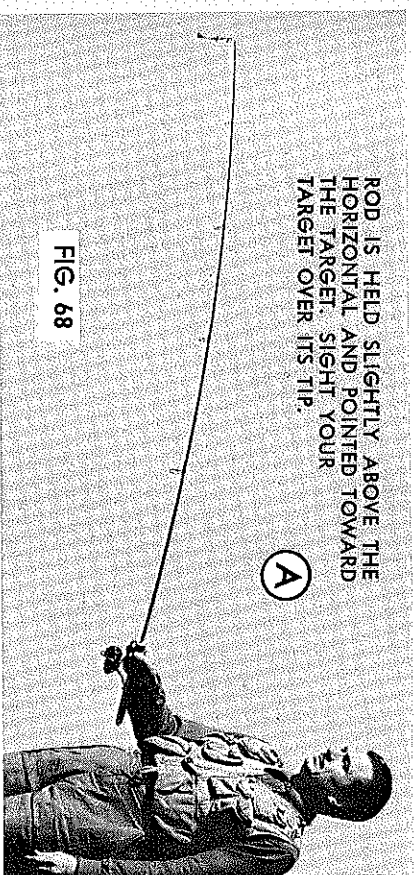


FIG. 68

FIG. 69

THE UP SNAP BY WHICH THE ROD IS COCKED FOR THE "SHORTY" MUST BE SMALLER AND FASTER THAN THE OVERHEAD COCK.

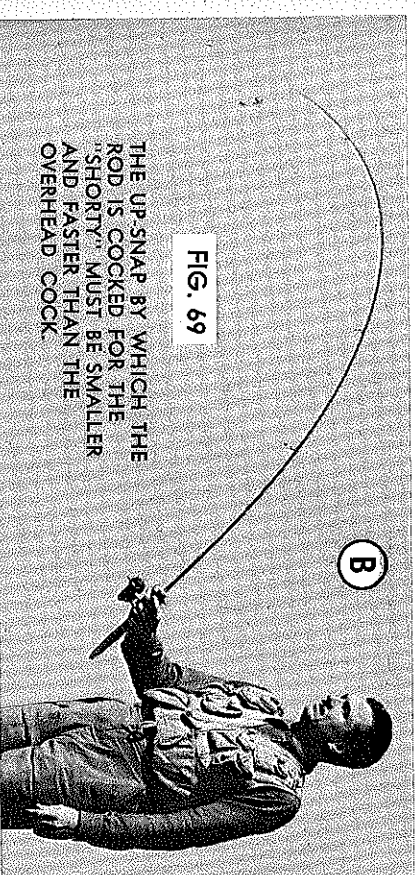
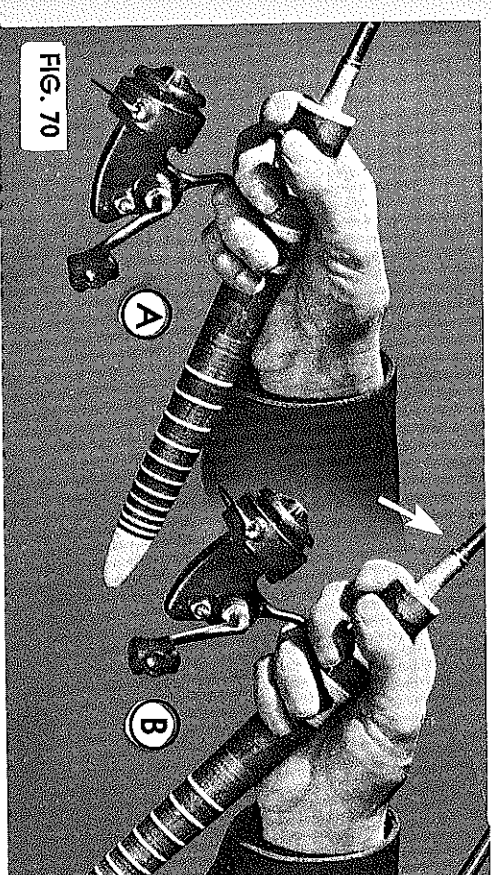


FIG. 70



## - "SHORTY" — THE DIRECTIONAL -

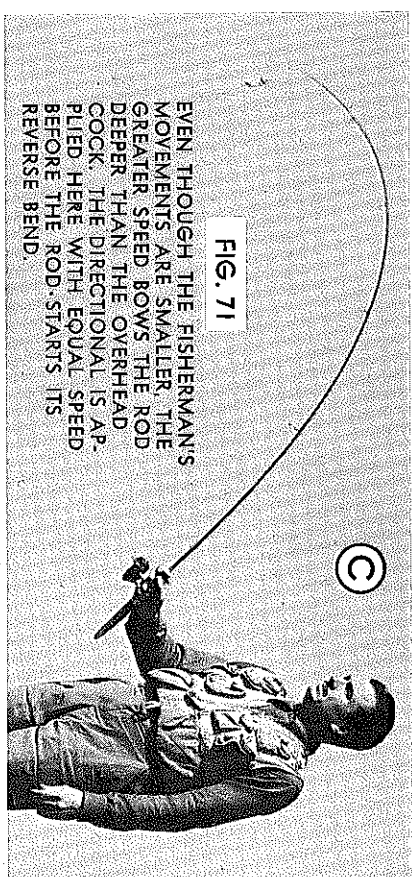


FIG. 71

EVEN THOUGH THE FISHERMAN'S MOVEMENTS ARE SMALLER, THE GREATER SPEED BOWS THE ROD DEEPER THAN THE OVERHEAD COCK. THE DIRECTIONAL IS APPLIED HERE WITH EQUAL SPEED BEFORE THE ROD STARTS ITS REVERSE BEND.

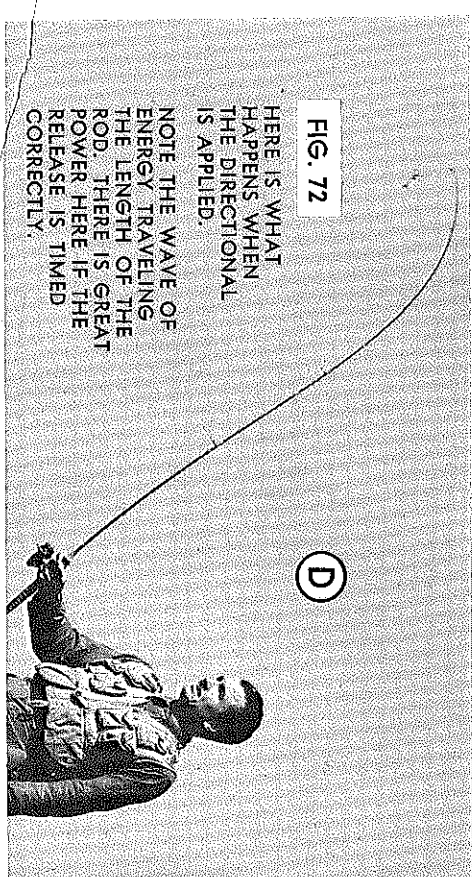


FIG. 72

HERE IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE DIRECTIONAL IS APPLIED.

NOTE THE WAVE OF ENERGY TRAVELING THE LENGTH OF THE ROD. THERE IS GREAT POWER HERE IF THE RELEASE IS TIMED CORRECTLY.

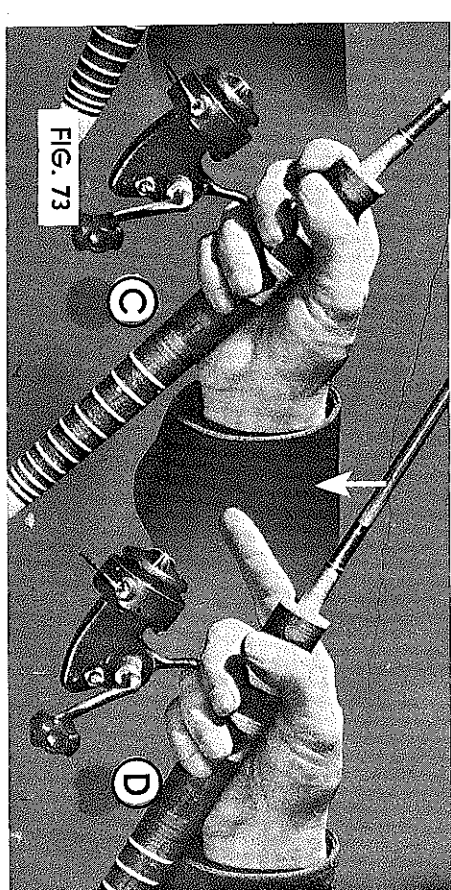


FIG. 73

## - "SHORTY" — THE DIRECTIONAL -

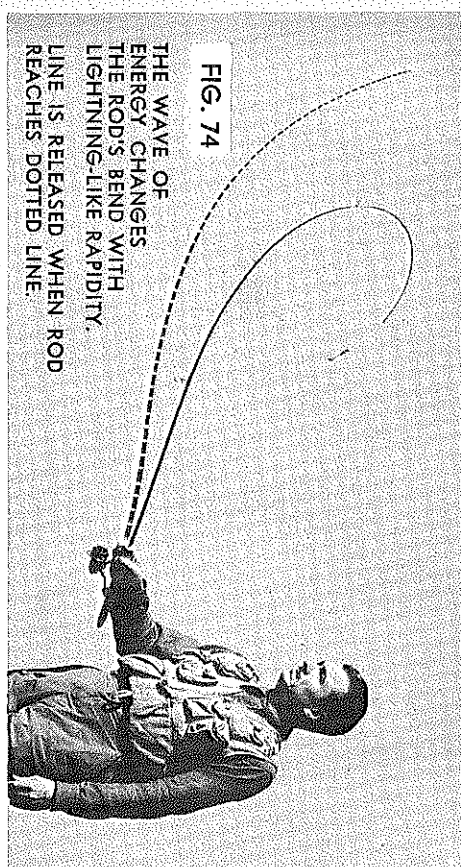


FIG. 74

THE WAVE OF ENERGY CHANGES THE ROD'S BEND WITH LIGHTNING-LIKE RAPIDITY. LINE IS RELEASED WHEN ROD REACHES DOTTED LINE.

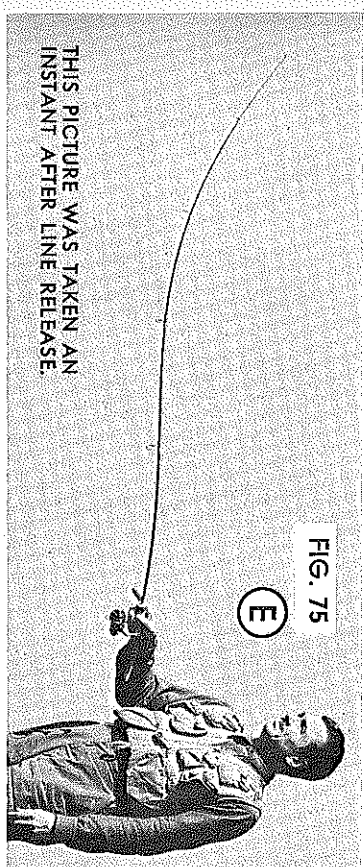
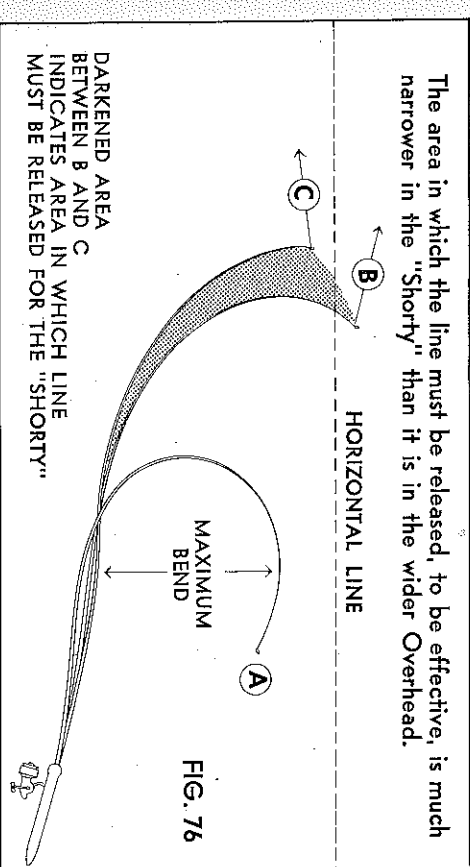


FIG. 75

THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN AN INSTANT AFTER LINE RELEASE.



The area in which the line must be released, to be effective, is much narrower in the "Shorty" than it is in the wider Overhead.

DARKENED AREA BETWEEN B AND C INDICATES AREA IN WHICH LINE MUST BE RELEASED FOR THE "SHORTY"



## - ROD DRIFT -

The momentum of a forceful cast will always carry the caster's hand past the point of release before it can be stopped. That is the reason why forceful casting defeats its own purpose. When the forward thrust of any cast isn't stopped, the instant the line is released, the rod tip will continue its forward bend while the line is shooting. This will retard the forward movement of the line and greatly reduce the distance of the cast. A line can't run freely when it is bent in a hight - which is the case if the rod isn't horizontal during the shoot.

THE GREATER THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THESE TWO POINTS THE LESS SHOOTING ABILITY A CAST WILL HAVE. A HIGH TRAJECTORY CAST INCREASES THIS DISTANCE.

RELEASE  
POINT

HORIZONTAL LINE

FIG. 77

ROD  
DRIFT

ROD DRIFT IS THE NEMESIS OF GOOD CASTING, BECAUSE IT FORCES THE LINE TO SHOOT AROUND A BIGHT. "FOLLOW THROUGH" IS FOR GOLF - NOT FOR CASTING.

HORIZONTAL LINE

THE IDEAL CAST IS ONE OF SMALL MOVEMENT WHICH RELEASES THE LINE LOW AND STOPS THE ROD DEAD STILL WHEN IT REACHES THE HORIZONTAL

## - THE FER-DE-LANCE -

There are three methods by which a cast can be powered: leverage; spring-power; and wave impulse energy. Because leverage is the simplest of these forces it is the one most often adopted by the inexpert caster. A cast made by leverage alone is slow and uncontrollable, because it requires too much manpower to activate it. Leverage must be combined with one of the other two forces to make it practical for scientific casting. A good example of this is the overhead snap-cast. Here leverage is combined with spring-power to make that cast thoroughly controllable.

Full spring-power is exemplified here by the "Shorty". When done correctly this cast is completely dependent on the reflex energy of the rod for its impetus. Spring-power is an excellent propelling force for scientific casting, and few casters have the time or patience to progress further - or for that matter, any need to do so. However, there are a few extremists, like myself, who are not satisfied until they have explored a thing to its limit. For these adventurous ones I present my "Fer-de-lance", a cast as beautiful as a rainbow, and as elusive as a prudish virgin.

I call it the "Fer-de-lance" after the snake of the same name, which is reputed to have a lightning-like strike. The action of the cast is reminiscent of a striking snake, and it is certainly lightning-fast, for it derives its power from wave impulse energy.

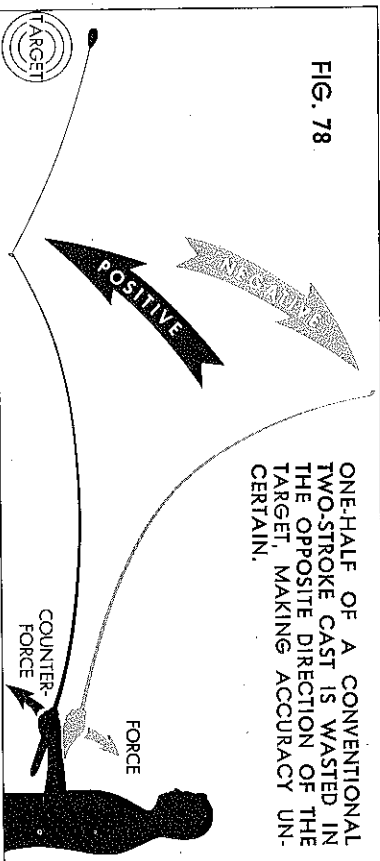
When a full-bow action rod is suddenly nudged downward a wave travels its length and breaks from its tip with an astonishing rate of speed. It took me years to devise a way to utilize this source of energy in my casting. It is all a matter of precise timing. The wave is made in the rod, enlarged, and literally pushed out of its tip by a tiny synchronized movement of the hand. The line is then released at the exact instant the wave breaks from the tip. The lure is thrown by the breaking wave, not unlike the way a surfboard rider is hurled forward on the crest of an ocean wave.

All conventional casts have two strokes, the up or cocking motion, and the down or propelling motion, by which the lure is thrown at the target. When we raise the rod to cock its action we are actually throwing the lure in the opposite direction to which we wish it to eventually travel. In other words, one stroke is positive and one is negative. Many deviations of the rod tip's course can occur in that instant between the appliance of force and counterforce - making accuracy uncertain. The longer the stroke of the cast, the more uncertain the accuracy becomes, because the rod tip must hold a true course for a longer period of time. Even a tiny muscle twitch, while a conventional cast is being made, is enough to throw it off target a foot or two, and a windy day spells real trouble. The "Shorty" was designed to lessen this danger, but being a two stroke cast it doesn't eliminate it.

My "Fer-de-lance" has but one stroke and its full movement is directed *at* the target, making it fully positive. The cast is cocked and triggered by this one continuous, but extremely short movement. I devised this cast for pinpoint accuracy and it is indeed the world's most accurate cast. Even in a brisk cross wind it is effectively accurate, because of its speed and flat trajectory.

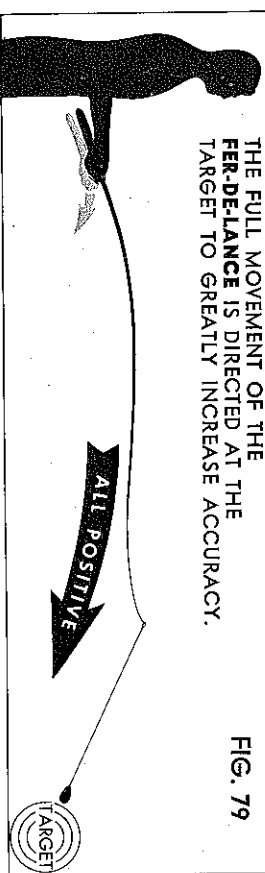
FIG. 78

ONE-HALF OF A CONVENTIONAL TWO-STROKE CAST IS WASTED IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION OF THE TARGET, MAKING ACCURACY UNCERTAIN.



THE FULL MOVEMENT OF THE FER-DE-LANCE IS DIRECTED AT THE TARGET TO GREATLY INCREASE ACCURACY.

FIG. 79



One must be exceptionally proficient in the science of casting, and have complete control over his line, before he has an even chance of grasping the intricacies of the "Fer-de-lance". Don't make the mistake of thinking otherwise, for there is no in between way of doing this cast. You either do it correctly, or not at all - there is no tolerance in its movements or its timing.

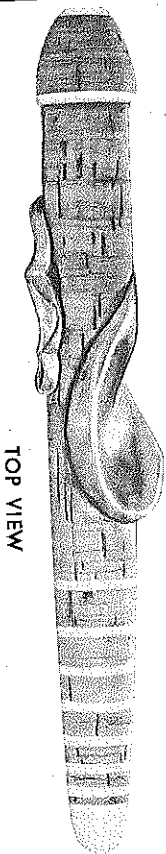
#### - TACKLE IS IMPORTANT -

It is imperative to select the correct tackle for this highly advanced type of work. I sincerely recommend the procurement of the following tackle items before an attempt is made to learn wave-impulse casting. These tools are vital to the successful performance of the cast.

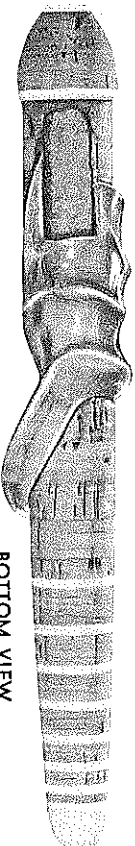
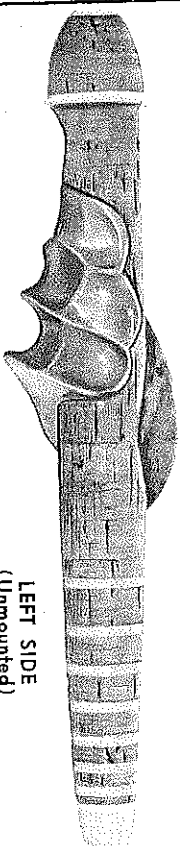
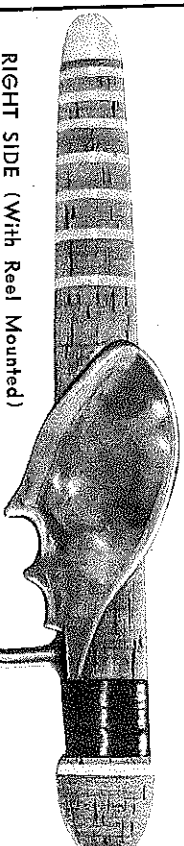
A six to seven-foot full-bow action rod, made of tubular glass, is the most necessary item on the list. Without it one can't generate enough wave energy to power the cast. I use a 6-ft. rod because its leverage doesn't tire me as much as a longer one would.

The rod's handle should be from 10 to 11 inches long, with ample diameter to comfortably fill the relaxed fist. A skinny handle is unsuitable for critically accurate work. Even though I have short fingers, my rod handle is one and one-eighth inch in diameter and I make it a bit thicker with my molded "hand-saddle".

#### MY HAND SADDLE



TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW  
(Unmounted)LEFT SIDE  
(Unmounted)

RIGHT SIDE (With Reel Mounted)

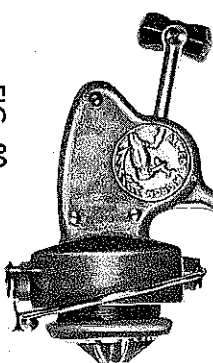


FIG. 80

NOT UNTIL A CASTER HAS BECOME EXPERT, AND IS CERTAIN THAT THE WAY HE HOLDS HIS ROD IS CORRECT IN EVERY DETAIL, CAN HE SAFELY MOLD A "HAND-SADDLE" INTO ITS GRIP. THE SADDLE IS MADE OF PLASTIC WOOD.



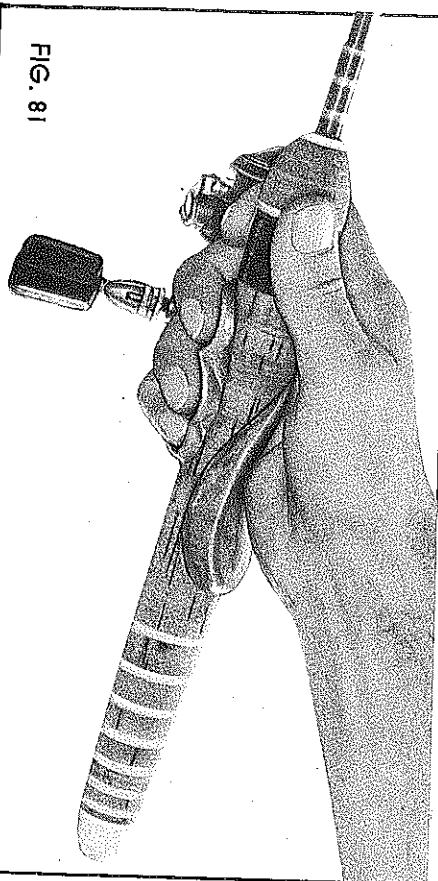


FIG. 81

My hand is automatically correctly positioned each time I cast by the hand-saddle. This kind of consistency aids materially in precision casting. It is designed to transfer the leverage pull of the reel from the fingers to the inactive heel of the hand, where it can't interfere with accuracy. All-in-all, the hand-saddle is a snug and comfortable grip which relaxes my casting hand and never allows it to tire or cramp.

The reel used for precision casting must be a tiny one, and light in weight. A large or heavy reel acts like a pendulum to slow a caster's movements. I personally use the Alcedo Micron (pictured in illustrations) and recommend it highly for this advanced work.

It makes little difference to the performance of the cast what kind of line is used - just so that it is monofilament, and tests under five pounds. I use 4-lb. test Nylon, because I do all of my fishing with the same line that I use for exhibition work. It makes no difference whether I'm fishing for pan fish or the tackle busting king salmon, I never change my line test. Everytime a line test is changed the caster must alter his timing to compensate for the difference in its shooting ability. It goes without saying, that one can never become consistent in his timing if that timing is changed too often.

The lures used in making the "Fer-de-lance" should not exceed one-fifth of an ounce, or be lighter than one-tenth of an ounce in weight - giving the caster a tolerance of only one-tenth of an ounce in his choice. If you must use lures heavier than one-fifth ounce, use the overhead or "Shorty" to cast them.

I use a one-eighth of an ounce lure for everything - big or little. You'd be surprised how this consistency has improved my catches - to say nothing of my casting. Large, or heavy lures repel many more fish than they attract, and their greater gravitational pull destroys the sensitive touch of the fisherman using them.

## - MAKING THE FER-DE-LANCE -

Grip the rod handle firmly, but not so tight as to stiffen or slow the movement of the wrist. Stand with the front edge of the right hipbone facing the target, and let your casting arm hang relaxed by your side. Now lift the forearm until the butt of the rod's handle is touching the hipbone. Tilt the rod up until its tip optically covers the target. Then slowly lower it until it appears to be pointing at, but not quite touching, the near side of the target. The cast should be made just as soon as the rod has reached this position. Presuming of course, that the caster hasn't altered the position of his upper arm, which should be hanging vertically against the side of his body. As the foregoing would indicate, the angle at which the rod is held, preparatory to casting, varies according to the distance of the target.

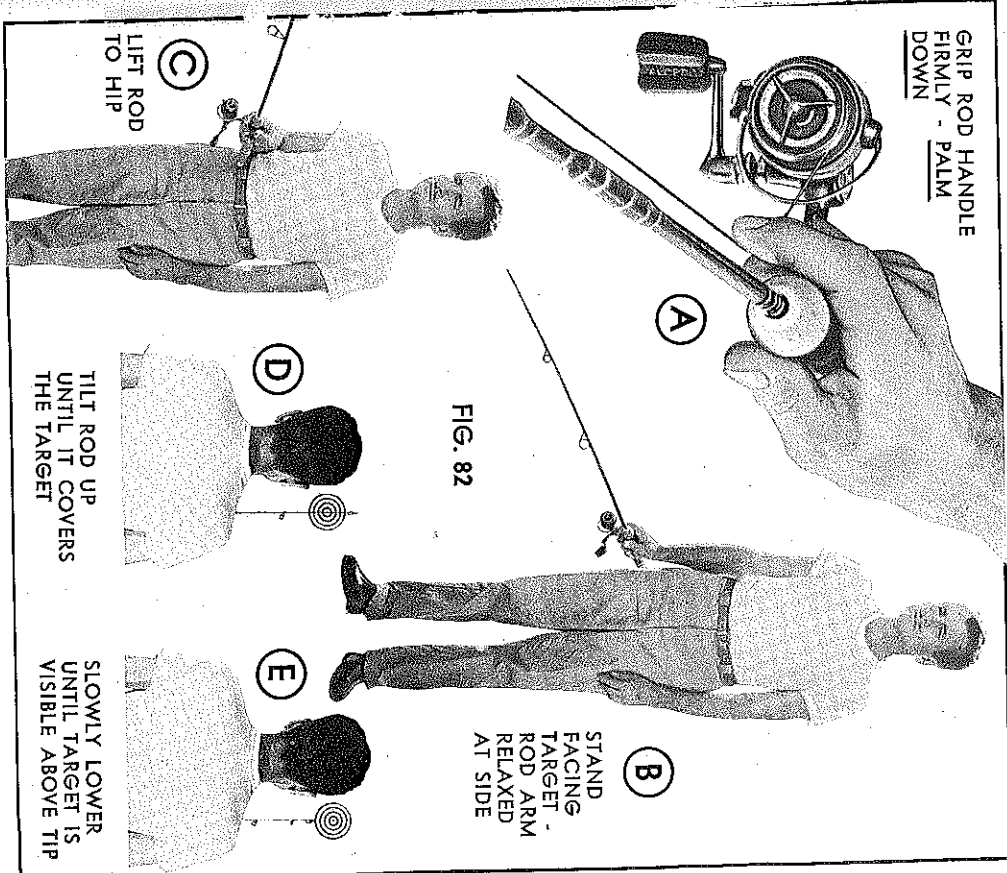


FIG. 82

## - ACTIVATING THE WAVE -

The "Fer-de-lance" is a one stroke cast, but the one stroke has two parts. The success or failure of the cast depends on the caster's ability to synchronize the two parts into one smooth continuous movement. We don't cock the rod, (as is done in conventional casting) by a negative upstroke. We do, however, have to activate its wave action. This is accomplished with a "out", I mean just an impulsive nudge in that direction. The elbow should never leave your side, or else the movement would take on the appearance of an amateurish "shovel-cast" and fail in its purpose. The whole activating movement is just an impulsive nudge of the hand and forearm. Don't put any force into the action.

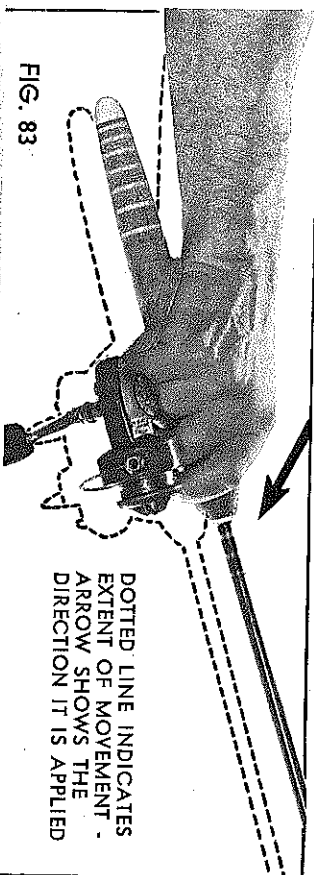
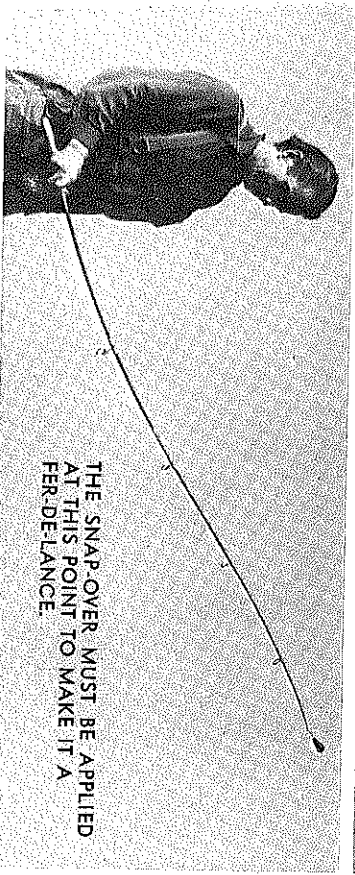
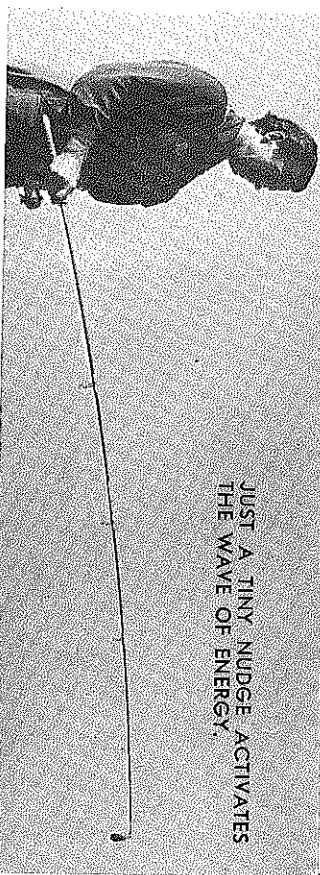


FIG. 83



## - THE SNAP-OVER -

Before the forward nudge is completed the wrist is snapped down, as if making an attempt to hit the target with the tip of the rod. This movement is also very small and without force. Even though the emphasis of the cast is centered on this down snap of the wrist, it must not be overemphasized, or continued too long. It should appear to be no more than a short peck at the target and a continuation of the very short forward nudge.

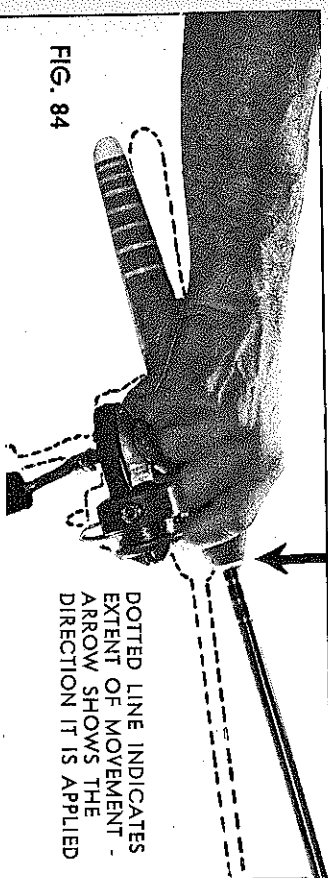
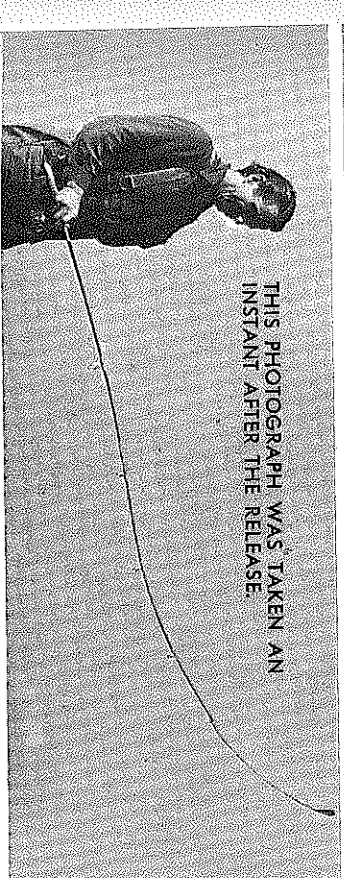
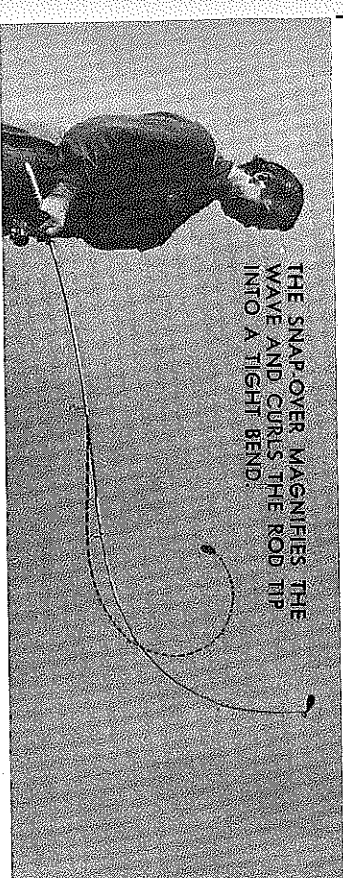


FIG. 84

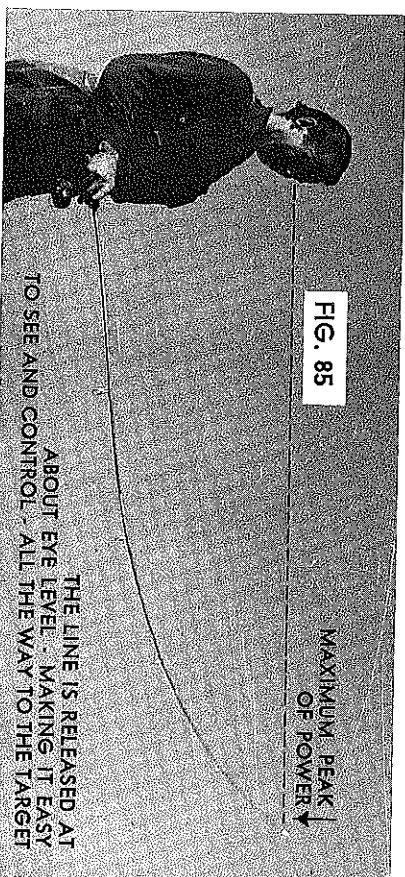


NOTE: FIG. 84 and FIG. 85 ARE DONE AS ONE CONTINUOUS STROKE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE TARGET. THE WHOLE MOVEMENT DOESN'T MOVE THE HAND A FULL INCH IN ANY DIRECTION. THE CAST IS COMPLETED AND THE LURE HAS TRAVELED FIFTY FEET IN THE TIME IT TAKES ONE TO MAKE THE TWO STROKES OF A CONVENTIONAL CAST.



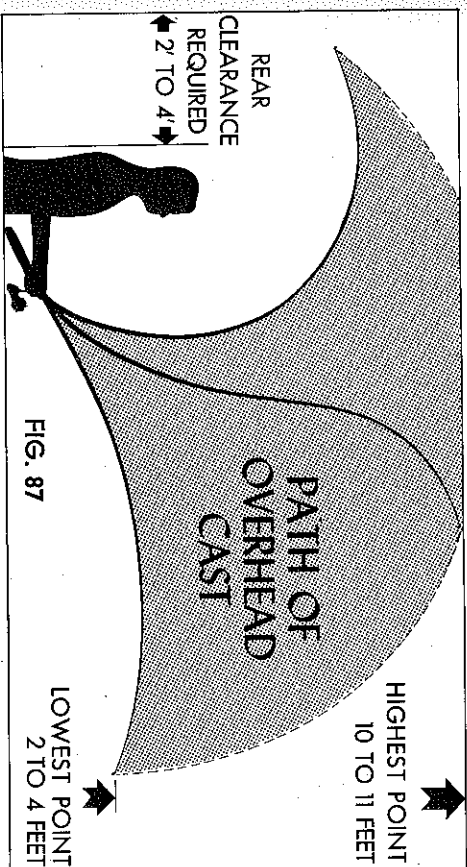
## - THE RELEASE -

If the whole relay movement has been done correctly, the maximum peak of power develops at about eye level. Release at this point and you will have a cast which is beautiful to see and a pleasure to use. Its low release point and flat trajectory will place your lure accurately into places where any other cast would find nothing but trouble.



## - CLEARANCE ROOM -

The less clearance room a fisherman has to have to make an accurate, controlled cast, the better are his chances for catching fish. With the exception of boat fishing, and the open stretches of large shallow streams, an angler must continuously cast with bushes to his back, above his head, or at his feet. He must learn a cast with which he can invade this bushy domain, or else pass up its most productive water.



The path of the rod during the Overhead cast is traced in (Fig. 87). The height of this cast, plus its deep bend, makes it undesirable for tight places. The fisherman using it needs plenty of clearance room above his head and to his back.

A caster can stand with his back in the bushes and make a "Shorty", because of its shallow bend, but he must be vigilant when overhead bushes are present. See (Fig. 88). One should learn to do this cast in its shortest form.

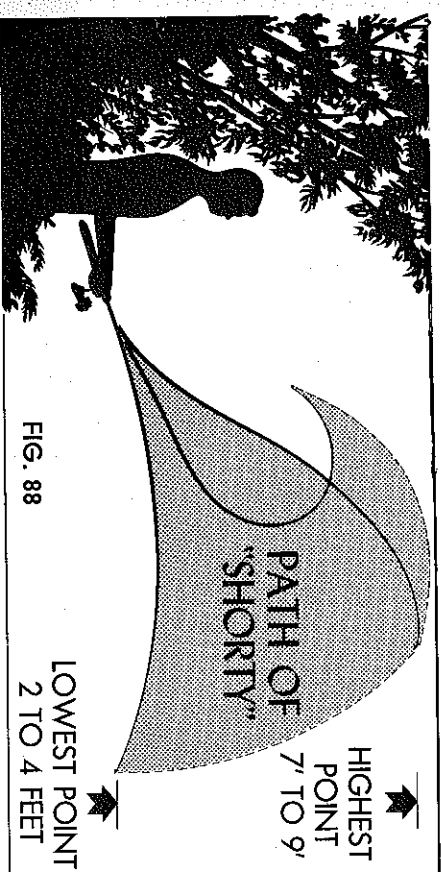
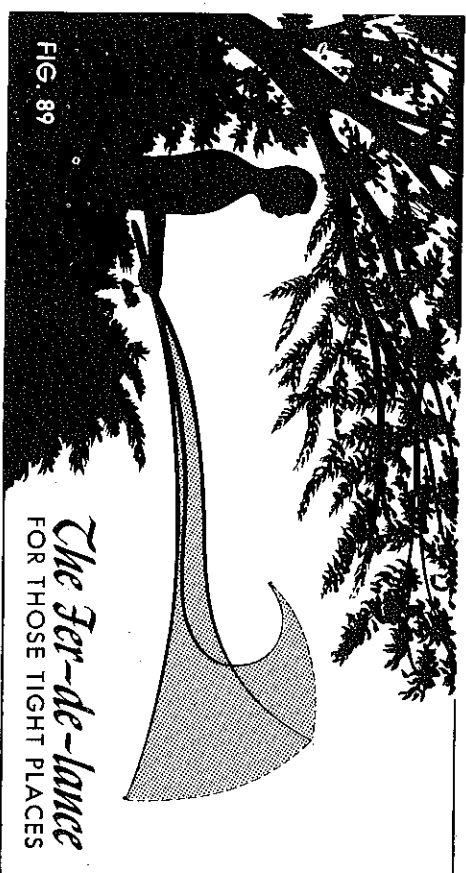


FIG. 86 THE FER-DE-LANCE IN ACTION. NO SITUATION IS TOO TIGHT FOR THIS CAST TO PENETRATE





From any spot one can walk, stand, squat, sit, or kneel, one can successfully do the "Fer-de-lance". All the clearance room that is needed to perform this cast is a space from the top of your head to your elbow. See (Fig. 89).

Whether you elect to use the Overhead, the "Shorty", or the "Fer-de-lance", learn to do the cast correctly. Shoot each cast at a target, even though it be nothing but an imaginary spot on the open water. Nothing is so destructive to good casting as shooting at empty space. Learning line control will aid your casting and make your fishing hours more enjoyable.

#### - THE "SPECIAL PURPOSE" CAST -

There are many so-called special purpose casts which entrap the imaginations of fishermen, because of their novelty, but a serious caster is foolish to waste his practice time on them. It is wiser to use the time in perfecting the "Shorty", or in trying to master the "Fer-de-lance". There is absolutely nothing anyone can do with any other cast which can't be done better with these two casts - and with a hell-of-a-lot less exertion.

Most of the "special-purpose" casts were devised by "show-offs", who are not good enough casters to attract the attention of their fellow fishermen by any other method. Such casters remind me of the country fiddler who tries to compensate for his lack of musical talent by playing his fiddle while standing on his head. I know, because I was one of the "show-offs" who devised many of the trick casts which are now being used by the "tackle peddlers". It took me a long time to get wise to myself.

In my opinion, any exhibition of casting which doesn't feature accuracy is a waste of time. Wrapping a line around someone's hand or cigar is child's play. We certainly don't have to see an exhibition to learn that if we miss our target with the lure the line will wrap itself around some tree limb.

## LINE CONTROL

If the time wasted by spin-fishermen in untangling snarled lines, was used instead for fishing, we wouldn't have a fish left in our lakes and streams. They could all be caught in the added angling time this would allow each angler - and then, they could fry and serve their catch in the time usually wasted in cursing the line and reel, on which they wrongly blame their boboos.

If a man who didn't know how to apply the brakes on the automobile he was driving was involved in an accident, no one could blame the car's mechanical design for his stupidity. It would be ridiculous for the makers to try to redesign the car to do for him mechanically, what he had so obviously failed to do for himself. If they did, all of the good drivers would have to pay for a mechanical innovation for which they would have no use - and the stupid driver would be no less stupid in the operation of the new controls.

My point is this: You can't design away unskillfulness by changing models, because invention is no substitute for "know-how". However, there are just a hell-of-a-lot of spin-fishermen who think that it is, and believe that they can prevent their lines from tangling and fouling by simply changing the reel's design, or the line's texture. They can't of course, because line tangles are not caused by mechanical deficiencies - but by manual deficiencies. One can't cure their line troubles until they have learned line control - in other words, *how to apply the brakes*.

#### - THREADING THE ROD -

Line control should begin the instant that the rubber band (or clip made for the purpose) is removed from the reel spool, and should continue until it is replaced at the end of the fishing day. That is why I must start this with the rod threading operation, for it is here where line tangles begin.

The importance of keeping the reel locked into anti-reverse, when not casting or holding the reel handle, was covered in an earlier chapter, so we shall assume that this advice is being followed.

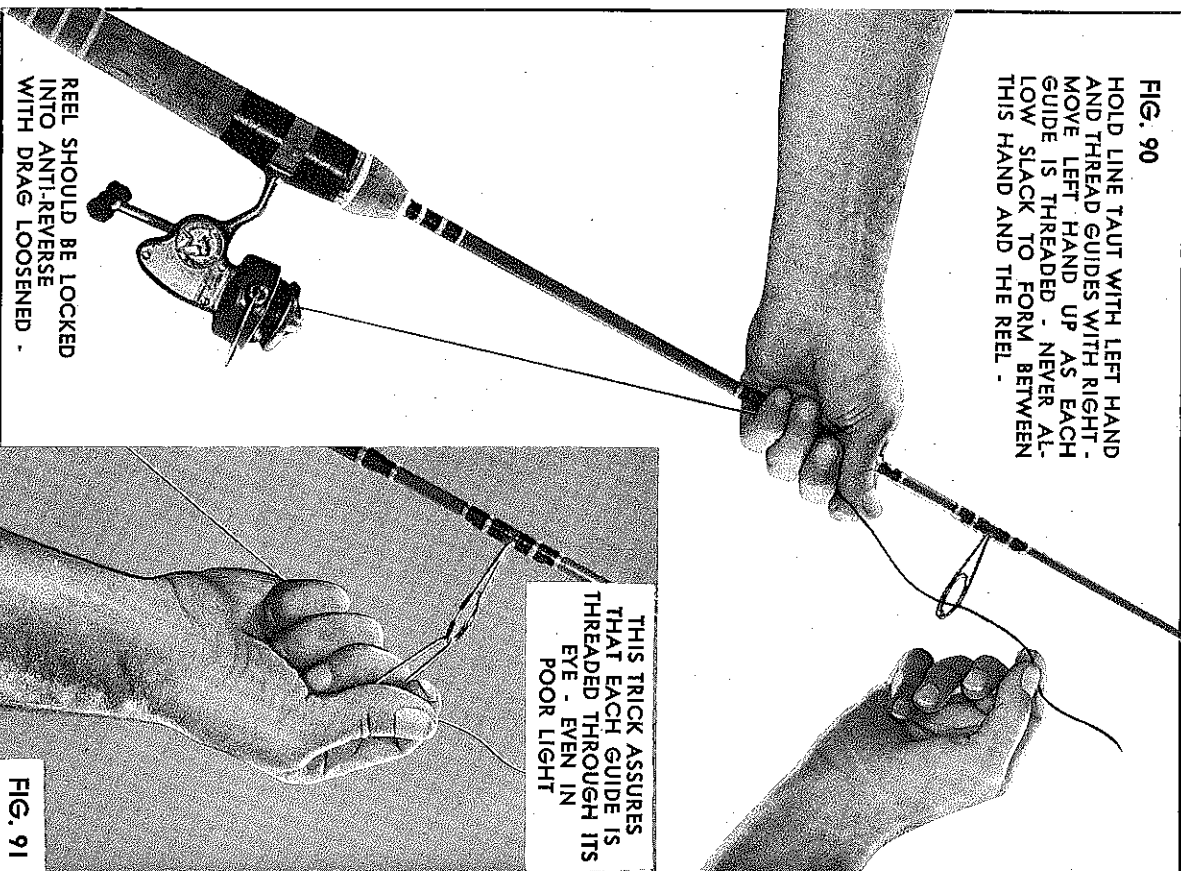
After the reel is mounted on the rod handle loosen its drag until there is very little line resistance. Open the bail until it locks itself and remove the rubber band (or line clip) from the line spool. Pull two or three feet of line from the side of the spool and close the bail.

## LINE CONTROL

The line should now be under the bail. Hold the loose line taut with your left hand while threading the guides with your right hand, as shown in (Fig. 90). The line should never be allowed to slacken between the left hand and the bail. The object of the above is to prevent the spooled line from loosening itself and casting off of the reel in bunches. If this ever happens, pull all of the line off the reel and respool it with an even tension.

FIG. 90

HOLD LINE TAUT WITH LEFT HAND AND THREAD GUIDES WITH RIGHT - MOVE LEFT HAND UP AS EACH GUIDE IS THREADED - NEVER ALLOW SLACK TO FORM BETWEEN THIS HAND AND THE REEL -



THIS TRICK ASSURES THAT EACH GUIDE IS THREADED THROUGH ITS EYE - EVEN IN POOR LIGHT

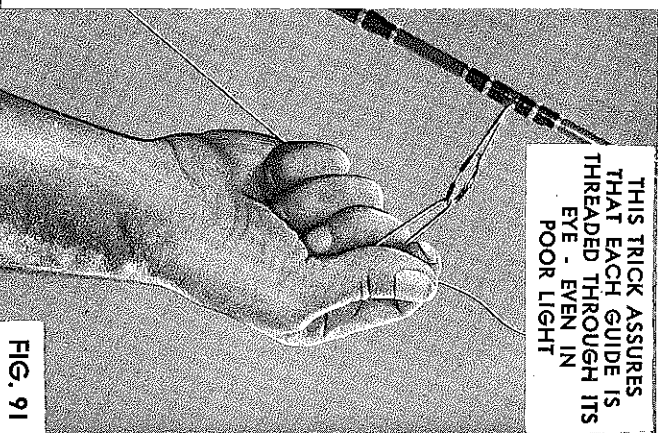


FIG. 91

REEL SHOULD BE LOCKED INTO ANTI-REVERSE WITH DRAG LOOSENED -

## LINE CONTROL

Sometimes lighting conditions make it difficult to properly see and determine whether the fine line is correctly threaded through the ring of the guide. To make certain each guide is properly threaded, always double and pull the line after it has been threaded through each guide, as shown in (Fig. 91).

When the line has been threaded through all of the guides and secured to a lure, reset the drag to its original position - slightly under the breaking strength of the line.

### - CONTROLLING THE CAST -

A caster can't be blamed for occasionally making a bad cast - we all do - but when one is made it should be immediately stopped in the air. Fishing companions soon grow to hate the caster who lets the bad ones fly on into the trees.

Every cast, good or bad, should be stopped in the air just before the lure touches the water. Otherwise, the weight of the air-borne line will continue to pull coils of line from the reel after the lure has hit the water. This creates a serious slack problem and makes it difficult, if not impossible, to securely hook fish, until the slack has been retrieved.

The act of suddenly stopping the speeding lure will cause it to jerk back, and create a slack problem of its own, unless some control is exercised over the line throughout the cast. This type of control is called "feathering the cast", and if it is applied properly one can gradually slow the cast to a gentle stop without sacrificing any of its distance. This makes for better fishing, because the line is always straight and slack free, the lure is never fouled, and fish are not frightened by excessive splash.

My method of feathering the cast is shown in the following illustrations. You will note that my forefinger never really leaves the line completely free of control. I start the cast and stop the cast with the line on that finger, and in the interim, the same finger is used to gradually brake the line's forward speed before it is stopped on target.

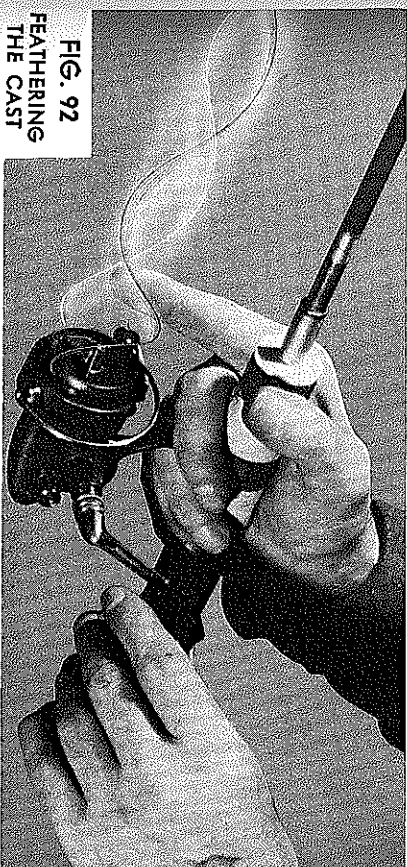
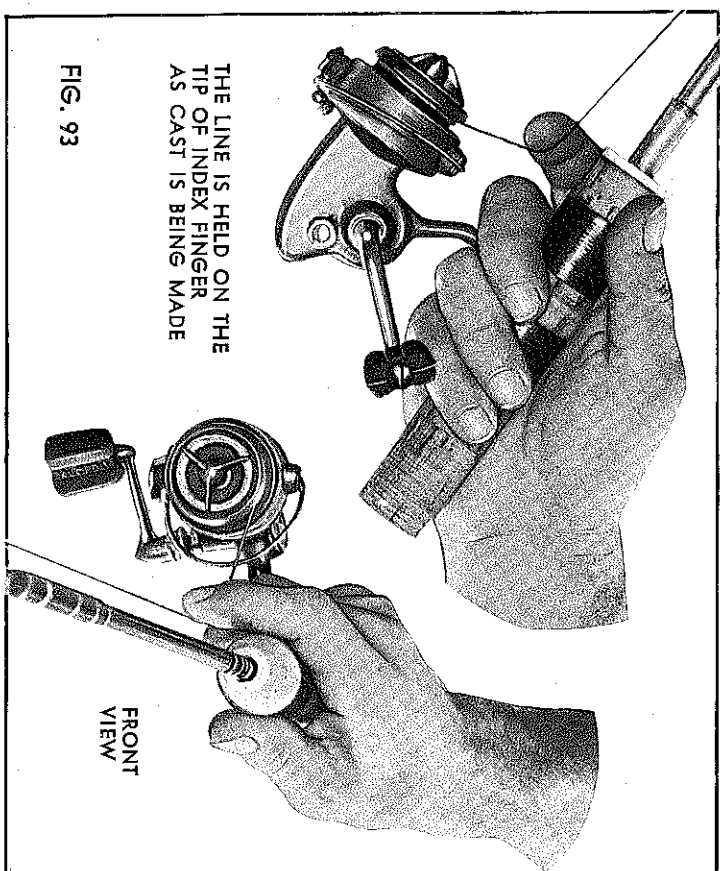


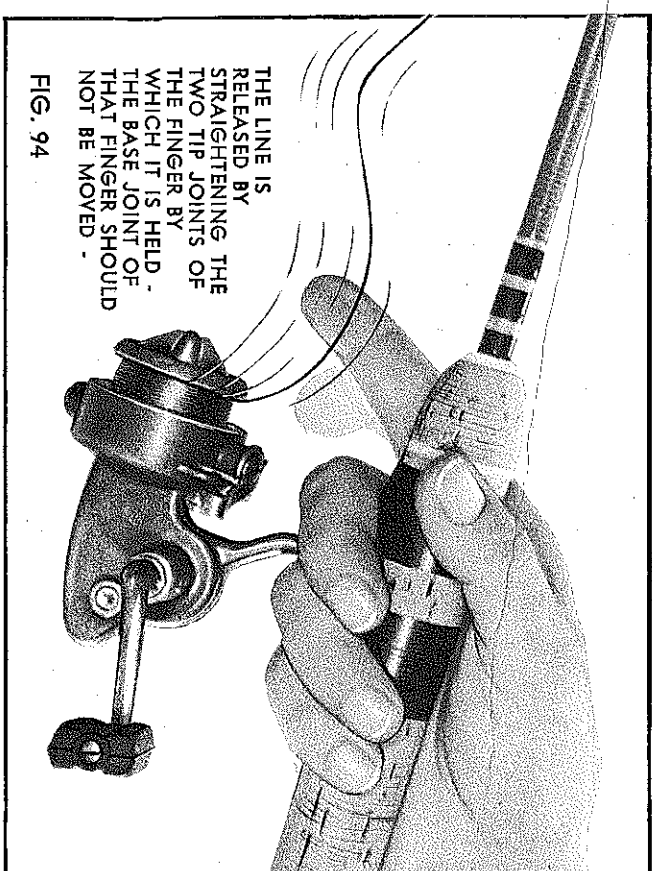
FIG. 92  
FEATHERING  
THE CAST





THE LINE IS HELD ON THE TIP OF INDEX FINGER AS CAST IS BEING MADE

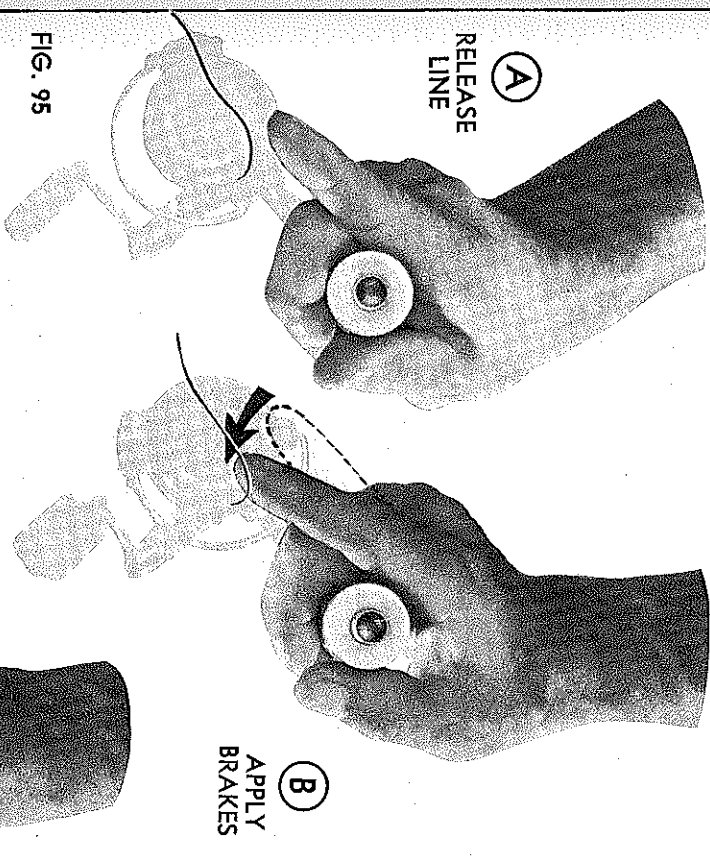
FIG. 93



THE LINE IS RELEASED BY STRAIGHTENING THE TWO TIP JOINTS OF THE FINGER BY WHICH IT IS HELD - THE BASE JOINT OF THAT FINGER SHOULD NOT BE MOVED -

FIG. 94

THE BASIC A-B-Cs OF LINE CONTROL ARE JUST AS SIMPLE AS THE CROOKING OF A SINGLE FINGER - IN FACT, THAT IS ABOUT ALL THERE IS TO IT -



A: At the instant of release the index finger relinquishes its contact with the line for the first and last time during the whole process of casting and retrieving.

B: Immediately after the line is released the finger re-establishes its control by moving in toward the core of the shooting line. Touch the outgoing line lightly at first; then, as the lure nears the target, progressively, but smoothly, apply more pressure, until its forward movement is slowed to nearly a stop.

C: The lure is then stopped neatly on the target area by sweeping the controlling finger all the way to the rod handle, picking up the line in the process. You start the cast with the line across your index finger and you finish with the line in the same position. Only for the split second, when the line is first released, is the line not under your complete control.

FIG. 95

## - THE EFFECTIVE USE OF LINE CONTROL -

As the illustrations on the preceding page would indicate, there is nothing even remotely complicated about my system of line control. It requires some getting used to, but once it has been successfully incorporated into your fishing, it will make the days you spend on stream or lake decidedly more enjoyable - and your catches much larger. The following shows some of the practical uses of line control and how to put each into effect.

Earlier in this book I briefly covered the subject of trajectory, and by now you know that it is most desirable to cast a low flat line. Releasing the line at the proper station will shoot your lure low and flat, but unless some control is exercised over its forward impetus it will hit the water hard enough to scare all of the fish within a radius of 50 ft.

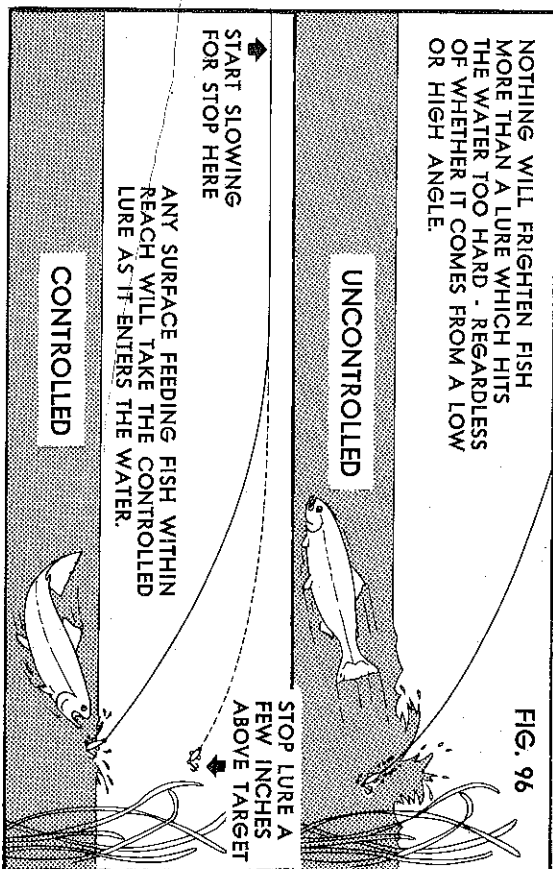


FIG. 96

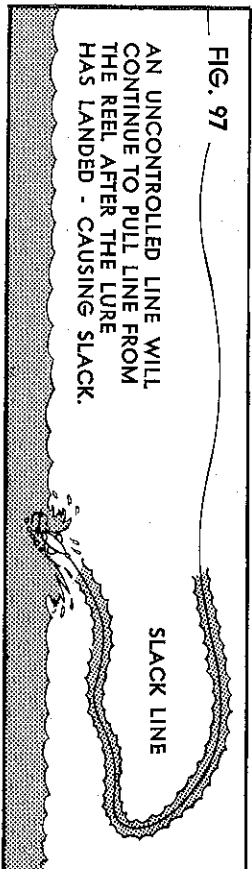


FIG. 97

The centrifugal weight of a shooting line will continue to pull more line from the reel after the forward movement of the lure has ceased. The excess line, pulled off the reel in this manner, falls on the water as undesirable slack. Every fisherman, worthy of the name, knows that slack line will prevent him from securely hooking any fish which are attracted to his lures.

If you want to hook fish securely, the line must be kept free of slack in any form. Those fish which strike a lure soon after it enters the water are lost to the fisherman who allows his line to alight on the water slack. Even a kinky line will allow too much stretch to hook fish properly.

The spinning line can be kept as straight as a plumb line, both in the air and on the water, by the simple process of feathering the outgoing line, *all the way to the target*.

Test your casting for excessive slack in this manner: Cast a surface lure upon the water, point the rod tip at the lure, and without moving the rod in any way, turn the reel handle one revolution. If the one turn of the reel's handle doesn't move your lure, at least one foot, you are throwing too much slack to solidly hook quick striking fish. Incidentally, the quick strikers are usually the largest fish.

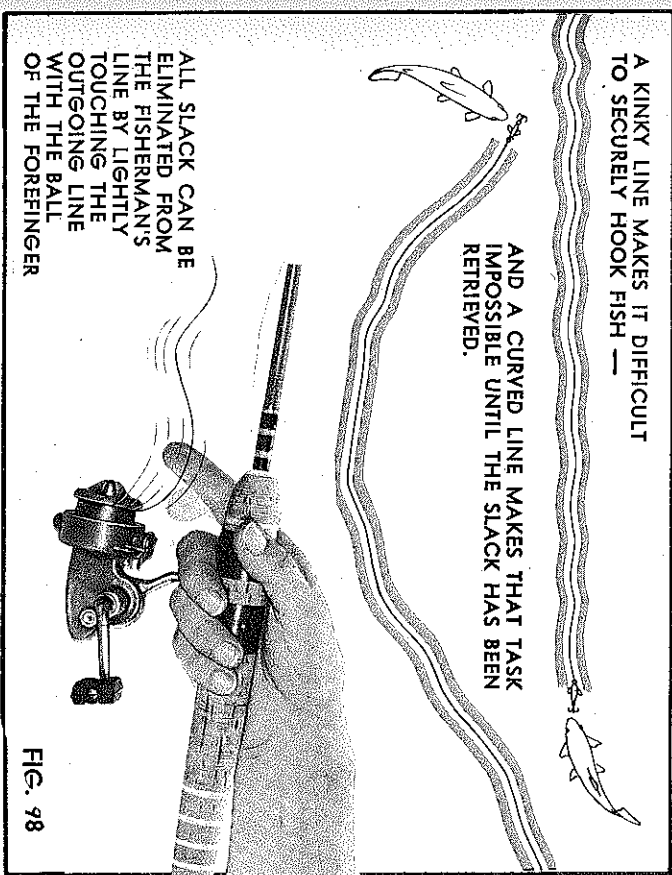


FIG. 98

ALL SLACK CAN BE ELIMINATED FROM THE FISHERMAN'S LINE BY LIGHTLY TOUCHING THE OUTGOING LINE WITH THE BALL OF THE FOREFINGER

Slack, in one form or another, is responsible for most of the ills which beset a "spangler" in the pursuit of his sport, for it is a certainty that straight lines don't kink or tangle. The one element most destructive to the enjoyment of spinning is the wind, because wind creates the most serious slack problems.

There are few occasions afield on which the spin-fisherman doesn't have to combat some sort of wind problem. This is due to his gossamer-like line and the spinning reel's inability to offer any resistance to its outward flow.

## LINE CONTROL

It requires but a light breeze to pull an excessive amount of line from the reel - and excess line can end up only as undesirable slack.

I have seen many fishermen who could place their lure accurately in the wind, but few who could accurately place both lure *and* line. This must be done to stay out of trouble. The accurate placement of the line is every bit as important as that of the lure - even more so, because where the line goes, eventually the lure will have to follow. A flat trajectory cast, coupled with the finger's pressure on the outgoing line, prevents normal wind from pulling excess line off the spool, but it requires a special technique of control to successfully combat the strong "canyon type" winds, which are encountered on some of our finest streams.

WIND WILL BELLY THE UNCONTROLLED LINE - DESPITE ONE'S ACCURACY

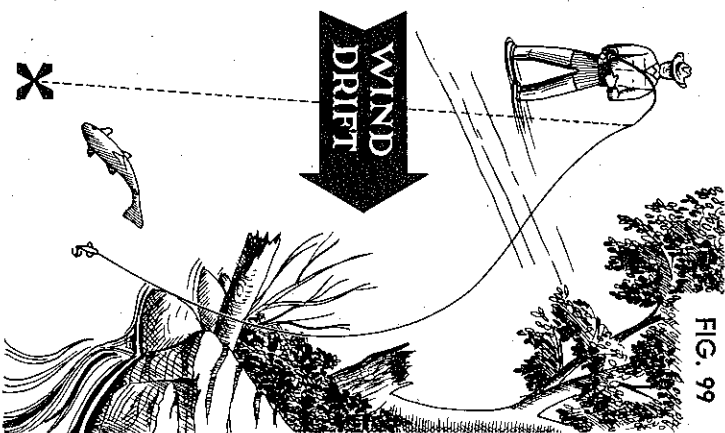


FIG. 99

## - HOW TO MAKE A WIND CAST -

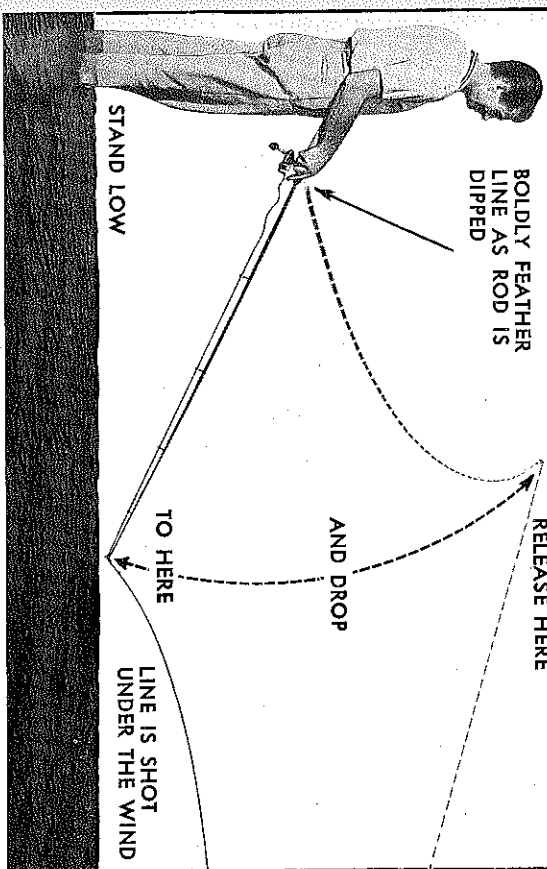
Make your cast with as small a movement as your experience will permit - (DON'T USE MORE FORCE). Speed is the only successful way to combat the gale-like winds. The more forceful the cast the slower is its movement. Fish only from low places when not wading. Release as low as possible, and as you release dip your rod tip to (but clearing) the ground or water, whichever the case may be. As you dip the rod boldly feather the line. With this technique I can cast accurately across a wind storm, and with little loss of distance. It takes a bit of practice, but it's well worth the effort. It will make your enjoyment of spinning impervious to the wind.

Everytime a fisherman snags his lure he reduces his effective fishing water by fifty feet. While retrieving the snagged lure he will frighten away all the fish, which he may have caught, in a radius of twenty-five feet. Being an accurate caster helps, but it isn't enough to prevent habitual snagging, unless one has the ability to stop his lure before it gets into trouble. Casting a low lure will help you to better gauge distance.

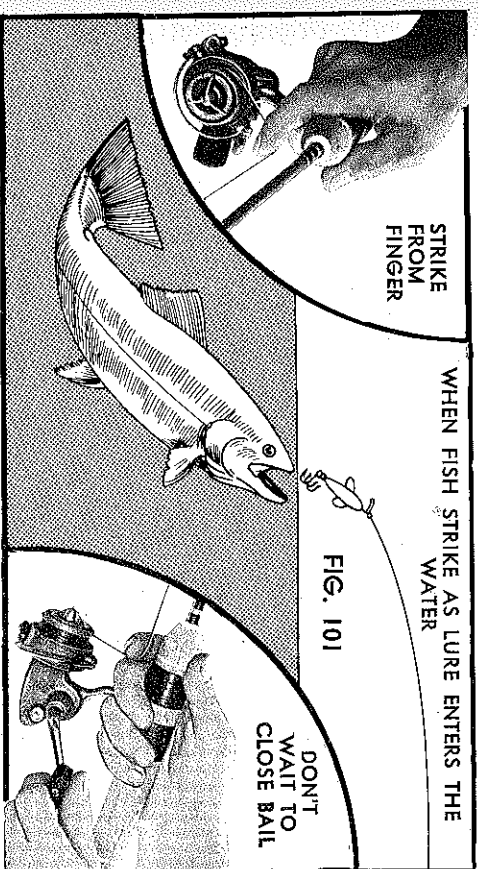
## LINE CONTROL

### MAKING A WIND CAST

FIG. 100



It is quite important to learn how to stop the line on your forefinger, as pictured on page 71, (Fig. 95). For one reason, the next and final step of line control is dependent on the line terminating on that finger, but more important, it is the only positive way of hooking the fish which strike a lure as it enters the water. In such instances, and there are many, there isn't nearly enough time to trip the bail and grab the handle of the reel before striking - so the fish must be struck first, and then, after the fish is hooked, the bail is tripped. Unless the line is across your index finger at the instant the lure enters the water, this isn't possible.





## - THE RETRIEVE -

Your control over the line shouldn't end when the cast is completed, but should continue on through the retrieve. The small water resistance afforded by spinning lures isn't enough to keep the line tightly and evenly spooled, unless one is fishing downstream in fast water. When the line is put on the spool loosely, or with varied tension, one is plagued with tangling lines.

I supply my own tension on the retrieve by gripping the rod handle above the reel and letting the incoming line run between my thumb and forefinger. This retrieve spools the line at an even tension and assures me against line troubles. It also cleans my line of any foreign substance, but best of all, it imparts a tantalizing action to my lures which is most attractive to fish.

As my whole system of after-cast control is just one smooth fluid movement, consisting of several parts, of which only one is the tension retrieve, I must describe the whole movement from its beginning. We will begin at the instant the lure has landed. The line is on the index finger and the reel's bail is open. We must change our grip to the tension retrieve position, close the bail, and begin recovering the line before our lure sinks to the bottom. When these movements are done correctly an underwater lure doesn't sink an inch before the retrieve has begun.

## - AFTER CAST CONTROL -

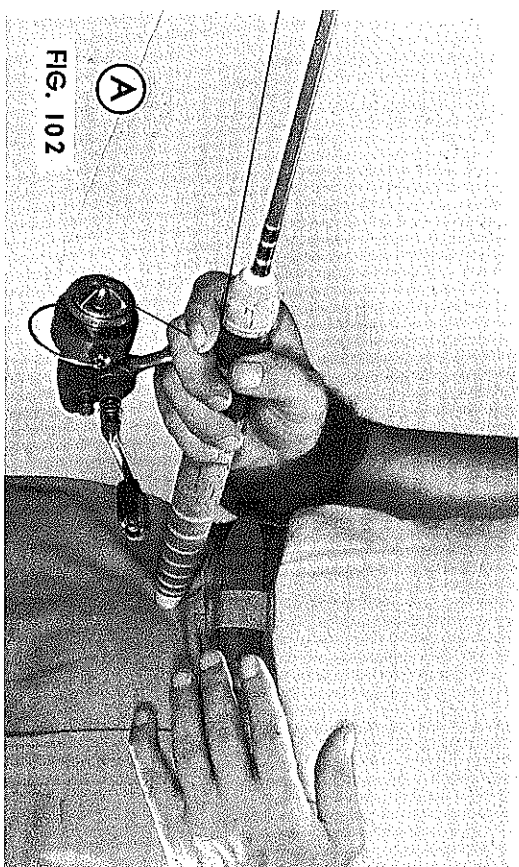
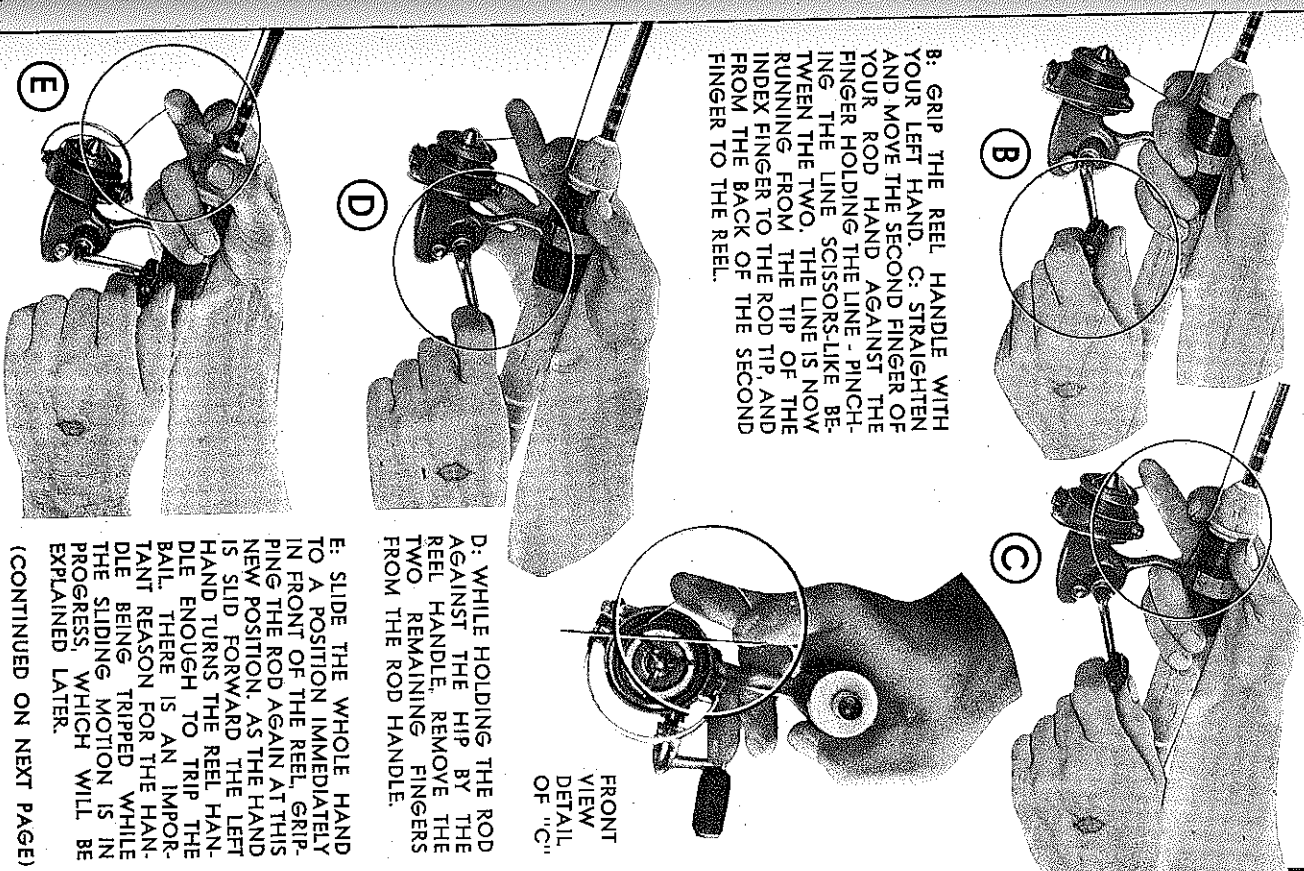


FIG. 102

A: As soon as the lure has landed push the rod's handle into the right hip or groin. Here the rod remains throughout the retrieve - and also during fish fighting. This relieves your casting arm from the tiring leverage weight of the extended rod. The left hand should never be more than a few inches from the butt of the rod. I have extended this distance here to better show the butt of the rod.

## - AFTER CAST CONTROL -

FIG. 102 CONTINUED FROM PRECEDING PAGE



B: GRIP THE REEL HANDLE WITH YOUR LEFT HAND. C: STRAIGHTEN AND MOVE THE SECOND FINGER OF YOUR ROD HAND AGAINST THE FINGER HOLDING THE LINE - PINCHING THE LINE SCISSORS-LIKE BETWEEN THE TWO. THE LINE IS NOW RUNNING FROM THE TIP OF THE INDEX FINGER TO THE ROD TIP, AND FROM THE BACK OF THE SECOND FINGER TO THE REEL.

FRONT  
VIEW  
DETAIL  
OF "C"

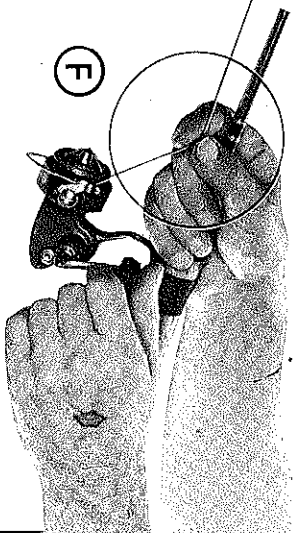
D: WHILE HOLDING THE ROD AGAINST THE HIP BY THE REEL HANDLE, REMOVE THE TWO REMAINING FINGERS FROM THE ROD HANDLE.

E: SLIDE THE WHOLE HAND TO A POSITION IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT OF THE REEL, GRIPPING THE ROD AGAIN AT THIS NEW POSITION, AS THE HAND IS SLID FORWARD THE LEFT HAND TURNS THE REEL HANDLE ENOUGH TO TRIP THE BAIL. THERE IS AN IMPORTANT REASON FOR THE HANDLE BEING TRIPPED WHILE THE SLIDING MOTION IS IN PROGRESS, WHICH WILL BE EXPLAINED LATER.

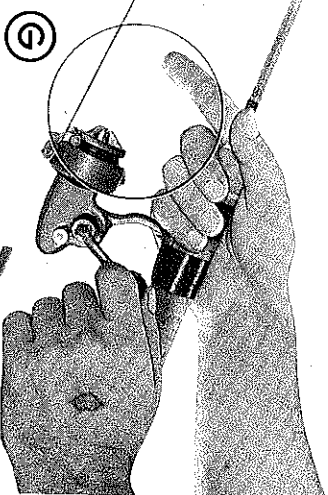
(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

FIG. 102 CONTINUED FROM PRECEDING PAGE

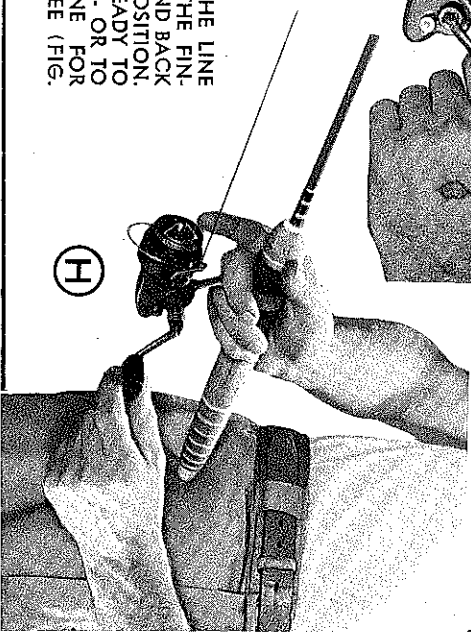
F: PINCH THE LINE BETWEEN THE THUMB AND FOREFINGER AND RETRIEVE. THE PURPOSE OF THIS IS TO SUPPLY AN EVEN TENSION TO THE SPOOLING LINE. THE RESISTANCE OF THE LINE SHOULD GOVERN THE PRESSURE OF THE FINGERS.



G: WHEN THE LURE HAS BEEN RETRIEVED TO THE ROD'S TIP DROP THE LINE OFF OF YOUR FINGER. THIS IS ALSO DONE WHEN BIG FISH ARE HOOKED.



H: AS SOON AS THE LINE IS DROPPED OFF THE FINGER SLIDE THE HAND BACK INTO CASTING POSITION. YOU ARE NOW READY TO FIGHT A BIG FISH - OR TO PICK UP THE LINE FOR ANOTHER CAST. SEE (FIG. 54).



Whenever and wherever slack is allowed to form in a spinning line, tangles, loops, or reel fouling is sure to follow. The fore-going will eliminate this nuisance for those who follow it closely. You'll be surprised how fast your subconscious will pick up this whole system of control, and amazed at the added pleasure you will get from spinning when it does.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: The reason why the bail is tripped shut while the rod hand is sliding up into the tension retrieve position, is to eliminate any slack which may have accumulated between the pickup finger and the reel. If there is slack here it will wrap itself around the reel, foul the bail, or entangle itself under the spool.

## ATTRACTING AND TAKING FISH

Dispel the thought from your mind that fishing is just luck. Luck is a very small factor in scientific angling. If you call it luck when you go to someone's home and find them in, then scientific angling is luck to the same degree. The caller must first know the address of the people upon whom he calls, and the angler must first know where to find fish before casting for them.

More than fifty percent of all of the fish that I have caught in the past fifteen years have taken my lure at the instant it entered the water - proving that, if it hadn't been accurately placed where fish were lurking, not nearly so many would have been attracted to it. There is no questioning the fact that accurate casting will take many times more fish than haphazard casting, but to be accurate one must have a target, and if one's objective is the taking of fish, that target must be the "hang-out" of fish. The most accurate cast, placed in an area devoid of fish, will attract nothing but praise from your fishing companions. Knowing where fish are, placing your lure within their easy reach, and moving it in a manner to make their curiosity overcome their wariness, is what it takes to become a consistent fish catcher.

Until one has a workable knowledge of lake and stream craft they can't hope to become a consistently successful angler. This is not acquired by reading instruction books, such as this, but by closely observing fish, their habits, and their environment, over a period of years, and by applying the knowledge, so gained, in fishing for them. Everything that touches water, or even comes within sight of it, affects the fish and the fishing therein. The more one knows about how each thing affects fish the better he is qualified to take them.

Learn the feeding habits of the fish you stalk, study every water disturbance, and try to learn what made it - and why. The little things which we take for granted, like minnows scurrying across the surface, or a sudden movement of a lily pad, are the footprints by which we track our finny quarry. Every movement on the surface of the water sends a message to the observant angler, of what lies below.



## ATTRACTING AND TAKING FISH

No one can teach another how to take fish by word alone - that can be done only while fishing side by side. All that I can do here is to give you a few scientific facts which should help you to correctly interpret what you observe on stream and lake.

### - INTRODUCTION TO LAKE AND STREAM CRAFT -

The one thing in this changing world which hasn't changed, since the beginning of time, is the feeding habits of fish. The minnows still eat minnows today, in the same way, and from the same places, as their forebearers did when Sitting Bull was known as Standing Calf.

Like all animals, fish are consistent in their habits, and their pattern of behavior is as predictable as that of a dairy cow. There is a scientific fact to explain their every action, or lack of action. Don't theorize, theory is not fact, but just someone's unsupported guess. Successful anglers need no theoretical alibis.

To be content, all fish require these things: Food in abundance; protective cover; shade from the sun's rays; and unpolluted water of the correct temperature for the species. Find all of these things and you will find your fish.

Fish must eat almost constantly during their more active season, and they never go off feed for more than an hour or two at a time - if the water in which they reside is at the correct temperature for the species. The only exception being, when they become ill from disease, parasites, or water pollution. When a whole lake or stream becomes infected in this manner, fishing is lousy in that body of water.

Fish will not remain long in water of the wrong temperature, if they can help it. They can't stand sudden changes and will avoid them whenever possible. They prefer to gradually accustom themselves to the various depths, because of the difference in temperature at each level. For this reason, a fish won't chase a bait to another depth level, unless the water temperature is uniform in the area. Learn the temperature each species prefers and you can find them with a thermometer.

Fish take artificial lures because they mistakenly believe them to be some form of natural food. How completely they are fooled by these bits of metal, wood, or plastic, depends on how naturally the fisherman presents them to the feeding fish - not on the kind, or type of lure presented.

The urge for food is so prevalent in all species of fish, and the competition so great among their kind, for that which is available, that everything of the right size must be considered by them as a possible meal - until an investigation proves it to be a fake. If the thing in question doesn't arouse their suspicion by its unnatural behavior their investigation will include mouthing it. It is in this split second, before they reject the lure from their mouth as something inedible, when fish are hooked - or lost.

## ATTRACTING AND TAKING FISH

How often a fisherman hooks fish depends on his awareness of when they mouth his bait. Only a very small percentage of mouthings are felt by the fisherman - especially in fast water. It is only those fish which partially hook themselves, when rejecting the lure, that are felt through the rod. The ability to know when a fish is mouthing the lure, and to strike at the right instant, is what separates the consistent fish taker from the "sometimes fisherman". Many fine lures are condemned by amateur fishermen who lack this ability.

All of our senses must be alerted and attuned to the incoming lure if we are to hook those fish which do not hook themselves. The line must be taut at all times, and of modest length. Many more fish can be taken on short casts, which are carefully placed, than can be taken on long casts. The expert angler strikes his fish by sight, as well as by feel, so his casts must be limited to fifty feet or less. The short line gives him instant control over his lure and makes it possible for him to carefully study the water where it is working.

Contrary to popular opinion, fish never rush up and grab a thing to be eaten, as it sometimes appears. They can't for the water pushed before them by such an action would repel the object they were trying to capture. Every fisherman has had this repelling force of water demonstrated to him, when he has attempted to grab something under its surface.

When a bait fish ventures near, the game fish has but to suddenly open its sizeable mouth, and the unwary minnow literally jumps into the yawning cavity - as if by magic. The sudden opening of its large empty mouth creates a vacuum which is instantly filled by the water directly in front of the fish. When the water rushes in to fill the void it takes everything with it, including any hapless creature which is near enough to be caught in its tide.

The larger the mouth, the greater the water displacement, and thus, the vacuum. A mature big mouth bass can suck a minnow into its mouth from a distance of eight inches or more, without moving a fin. A big pike can do even better; while a medium-sized trout can only manage to suck in those which are two or three inches from its nose.

Seldom, if ever, does a fish follow a lure without making a genuine effort to take it - *unless it is frightened off by the sight of a careless fisherman*. Those that follow close behind the lure are trying to vacuum it into their mouths, but the taut fishing line won't allow it to be sucked back. Because of the line, only those fish which approach from the side, or in front of a lure, can successfully suck it into their mouths - unless the following trick is employed.

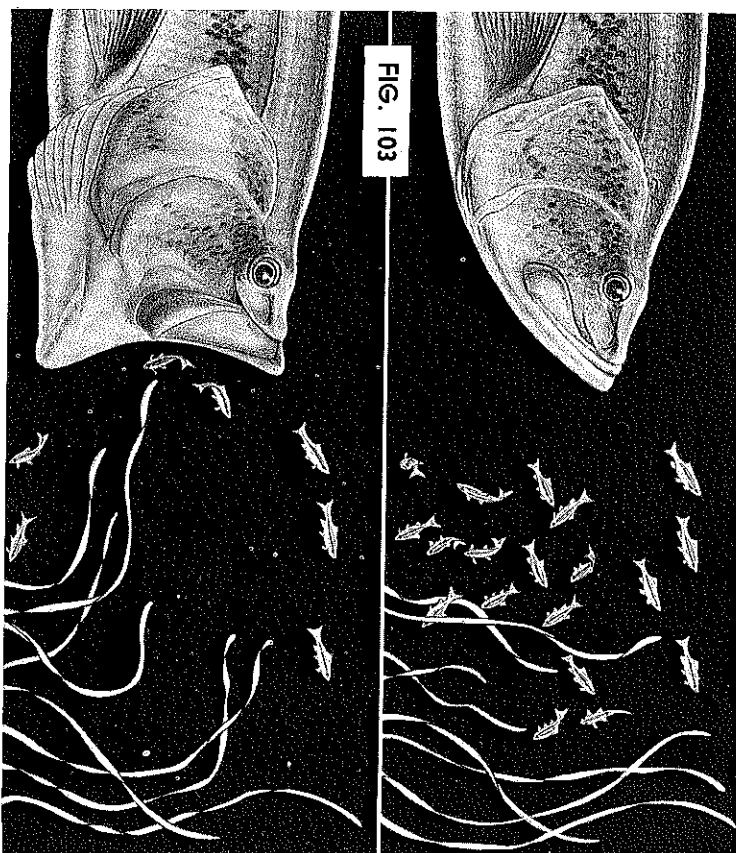


FIG. 103

NATURE'S VACUUM . . . WHEN A SCHOOL OF MINNOWS COMES WITHIN RANGE, THE BASS HAS BUT TO SUDDENLY OPEN ITS SIZEABLE MOUTH TO CAPTURE DINNER.

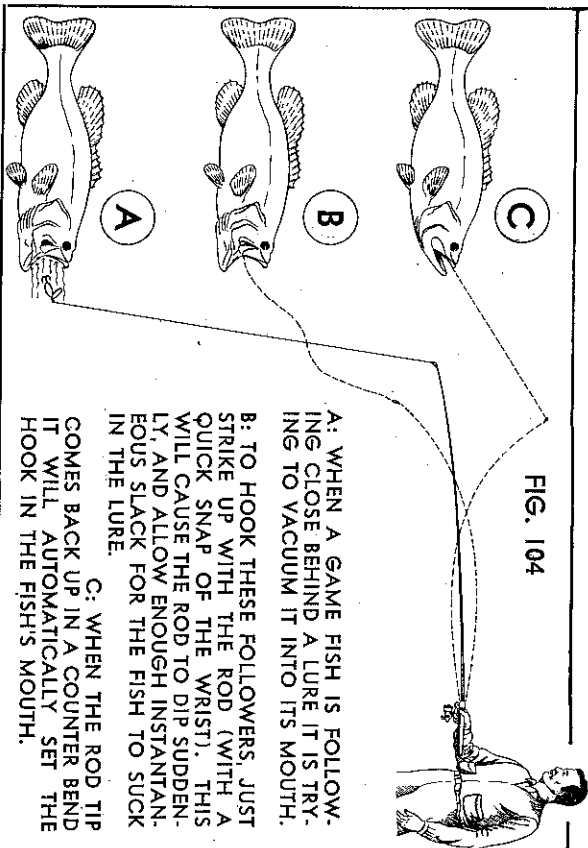


FIG. 104

A: WHEN A GAME FISH IS FOLLOWING CLOSE BEHIND A LURE IT IS TRYING TO VACUUM IT INTO ITS MOUTH.

B: TO HOOK THESE FOLLOWERS, JUST STRIKE UP WITH THE ROD (WITH A QUICK SNAP OF THE WRIST). THIS WILL CAUSE THE ROD TO DIP SUDDENLY, AND ALLOW ENOUGH INSTANTANEOUS SLACK FOR THE FISH TO SUCK IN THE LURE.

C: WHEN THE ROD TIP COMES BACK UP IN A COUNTER BEND IT WILL AUTOMATICALLY SET THE HOOK IN THE FISH'S MOUTH.

Fish move slower in deep water than they do in shallow water, because of the added water pressure, so retrieve your lures accordingly. The speed of the retrieve should be varied to conform to the depth at which one is fishing. Always start your retrieve slow and gradually speed up as the lure nears you - *never slow down*.

Game fish will chase a whole school of minnows, for they have a better than even chance of catching some of the panic stricken many; but they learn early in life that they can't catch a single minnow by chasing it, and cease to try. However, they will immediately rush after a single *wounded* minnow which appears to be helpless, for they know by its feeble action that it will not be able to escape them.

Most spinning lures are designed to imitate a single minnow, and therefore, should not possess too much action. The most effective lures are those which have just enough action to make them appear alive - and no more.

Don't use your rod tip to impart added action to your lures. The spinning rod is much too active, and the fine diameter line too yielding, to imitate this strictly fly rod technique. Even the tiniest twitch of the spin-rod will jerk your lure several inches - and who ever saw an insect or minnow jump through the water with such strides? In an earlier chapter, I mentioned the tantalizing action imparted to my lures by the "tension retrieve" - substitute this for the rod twitching method and your lures will appear more natural to the fish.

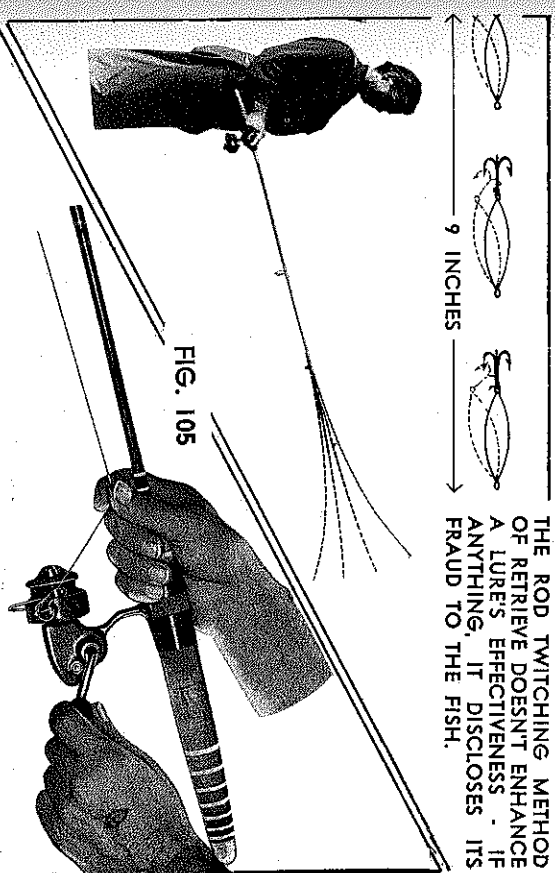
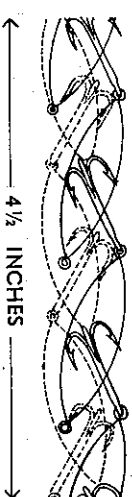


FIG. 105

THE ROD TWITCHING METHOD OF RETRIEVE DOESN'T ENHANCE A LURE'S EFFECTIVENESS - IF ANYTHING, IT DISCLOSES ITS FRAUD TO THE FISH.

9 INCHES

THE LURE CHOSEN FOR THESE DEMONSTRATIONS HAD NO ACTION OF ITS OWN, BUT MY TENSION RETRIEVE MAKES IT APPEAR TO BE A WIGGLER.



4 1/2 INCHES

## ATTRACTING AND TAKING FISH

When in shallow water, fish can see an angler from a much greater distance than they can when they are in deep water. Remember this when you approach a shallow area on a stream or lake, and keep as low as possible. The added caution will pay off for you in more fish. Fish are easier to catch in shallow water, but not if they are frightened by the sight of the angler. Always use stealth when approaching an area to be fished, regardless of its depth.

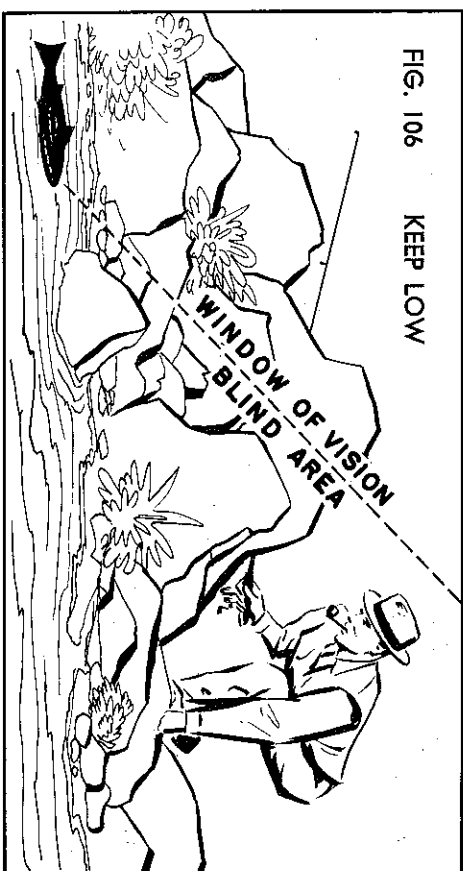


FIG. 106 KEEP LOW

Although fish seek spots which are shaded from the sun's rays, they are frantically frightened by moving shadows. Never let your shadow fall across the area you intend to fish. When possible, fish into, or across the sun's rays. Never fish with a low sun at your back.

Fish are more frightened of dark objects than they are of light colored ones. An angler who is wearing white can approach much closer to a fish than one who is wearing black clothing. The same rule applies to boats - a white boat can come closer to fish than a dark or bright colored one can.

When fish have been planted in an unnatural environment they must necessarily change their natural habits to survive. But for these unfortunate victims of the politically inspired dams, fish are the same the world over, and they can be caught by the same lures and methods.

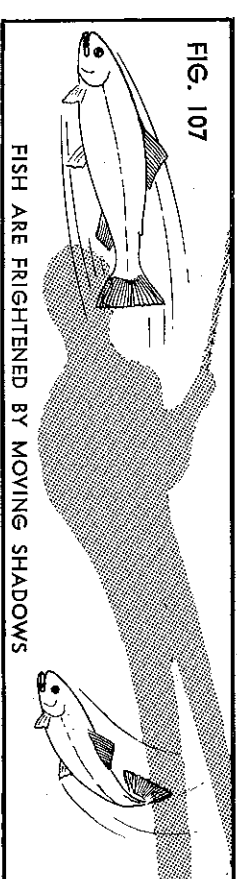


FIG. 107

FISH ARE FRIGHTENED BY MOVING SHADOWS

## STREAM FISHING - ATTRACTING AND TAKING FISH

The funny residents of fast moving streams don't stalk their food, like the fish do which live in still water, but instead, lie in wait for it to be brought *down* to them by the current. They can't take the time to look a bait over before taking it, because the rushing water would sweep it past and out of their reach before such an inspection could be completed. If a stream fish wants to fill his belly he must take everything into his mouth that looks or acts like natural food, and eject that which isn't. For that reason, the spin-fisherman who knows and observes the natural laws of stream craft, finds the fast water fishes much easier to catch than their still water cousins.

The favored feeding places of stream fish are called "feed lines". Learn how to recognize these when you see them, and how to approach each without announcing your presence to the fish.

Expect to find feeding fish where two or more currents converge; where the swirling back eddies leave and re-enter the main channel; in the shallow tails of pools; in the deep runs along undercut banks; in the current washed shadows of a tree lined shore; where the riffles suddenly break off over a deep hole; behind or in front of boulders, or windfalls which intersect the channel; in the deep runs flowing through gravel and sand; and along the edge of rock ledges.

Deep pools are the resting places of large fish, where they lie, when not feeding, to escape their enemies and the rays of the sun. Fish do not sleep as we do, but instead, take many short resting periods. At such times they are inactive and almost indifferent to bait or lures. That is why one can fish in a deep pool for hours without success, and then, suddenly start taking fish. Between resting periods, the big fish of the pools will take any spinning lure that is presented to them correctly - *by a cautious fisherman*. Fish these pools thoroughly before leaving them and again on your return trip.

**NEVER ADD WEIGHT TO SINK YOUR LURE.** Regulate its depth by angling your cast up and across stream.

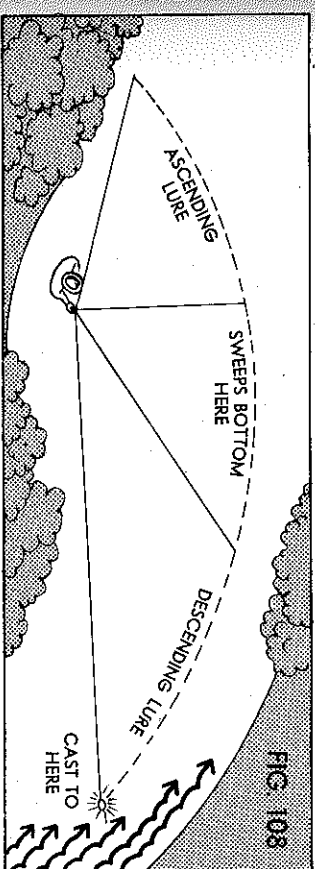


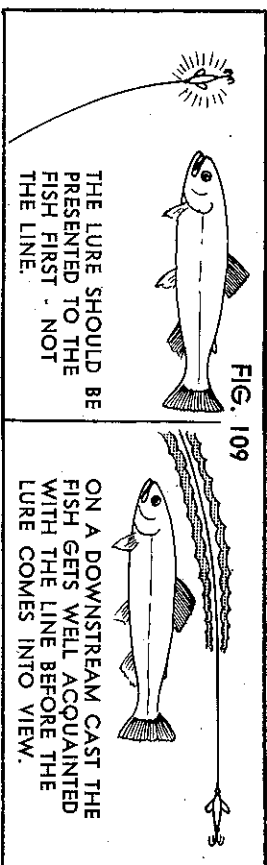
FIG. 108

## ATTRACTING AND TAKING FISH

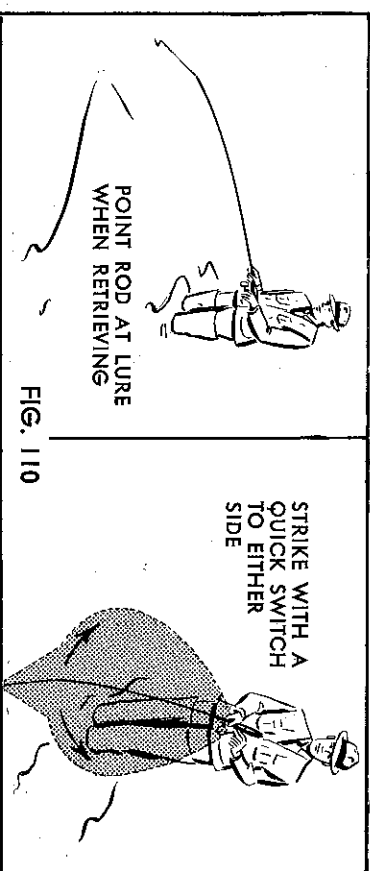
It is to the stream fisherman's advantage to wade the stream he fishes. A wading fisherman is not nearly so frightening to the fish, as is the one who is fishing from the bank. Always wade upstream, so the dirt you kick up won't announce your presence to the fish before you get within casting range.

When bank fishing, stand with your back against a tree or some stationary object, and crouch low when moving from place to place. Never silhouette yourself against the skyline. Remember, every fish you can see, can also see you, and few fish will strike after they have seen the fisherman and connected his presence with the lure.

A fisherman should always travel upstream when fishing, so as to approach the feeding fish from behind. Make your cast *up* and across stream, so that the lure travels *down* to the fish - as their natural food comes to them. Never fish downstream if you can avoid it. Reel only fast enough to keep your lure activated and off of the bottom. For best results, the lure should come downstream sideways, and should reach the fish first, *before the line has been dragged past.*



Make your casts short and accurate, and never allow your line to belly on the current. Point your rod tip at the incoming lure when retrieving. A high rod angle will permit too much slack line for solid hooking. Strike your fish by switching your rod to either side. This is faster than the up strike, but its use is limited to stream fishing. *It is dangerous to the other occupants of a boat.*



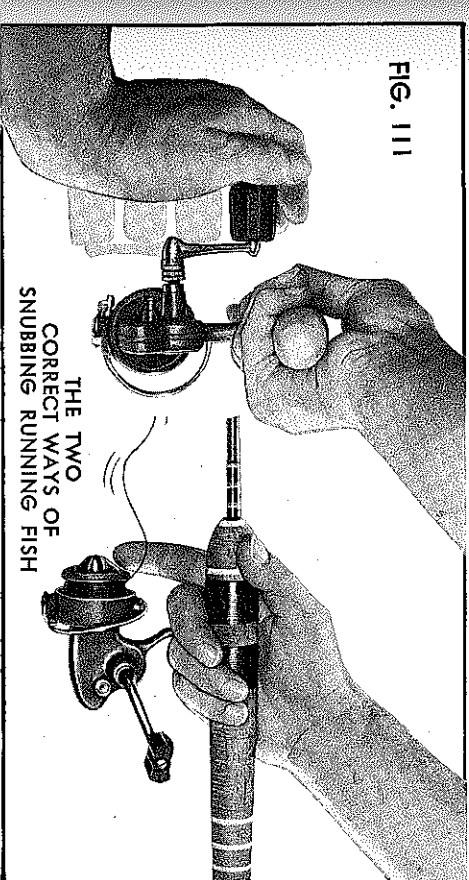
## ATTRACTING AND TAKING FISH

Most of the fish which escape from spinning tackle, and there are many that do, are lost because they have been insecurely hooked. The spinning rod is too flexible, and the spinning line too stretchy, to securely hook a large fish - *if the distance between the fish and the fisherman is too great.* The longer the line, the greater its stretch, and the more feeble its hooking power becomes.

Spinning is a method of precision casting, not a method of distance casting (a bait-casting outfit can cast nearly twice as far). However, there are thousands of beginners who think that it is, and try to prove it with their every cast. These amateurs, who believe that the distance of one's cast is an indication of their manly virility, are the fellows who invented the "big-one-that-got-away" stories, because most of their fish really do escape.

There can be no set of rules for playing fish. Rules are effective only when they deal with a known quantity. A frightened fish, trying frantically to free itself of the hook, is a very unpredictable quantity, to say the least. Each fish, each locale, and each momentary situation, calls for different tactics. In fast water, where the speed and power of the current add so greatly to the fish's fighting ability, the fisherman must play his fish by feel - not by rules. However, there are a few basic operations which must be performed by the spin-fisherman immediately upon hooking a good sized fish in fast water.

When a large fish is hooked, do these things as rapidly as possible: Rest the rod's butt against your body and lift the tip high; loosen the drag control (*no more than two half turns*); step into the edge of the main current channel, and allow the fish to finish its initial downstream run without further interference. If the fish is a large steelhead or salmon, and the current is heavy, allow the reel handle to turn backward during its faster downstream runs. To prevent the reel from overrunning snub the turning handle by lightly touching it with the cupped palm of the left hand.



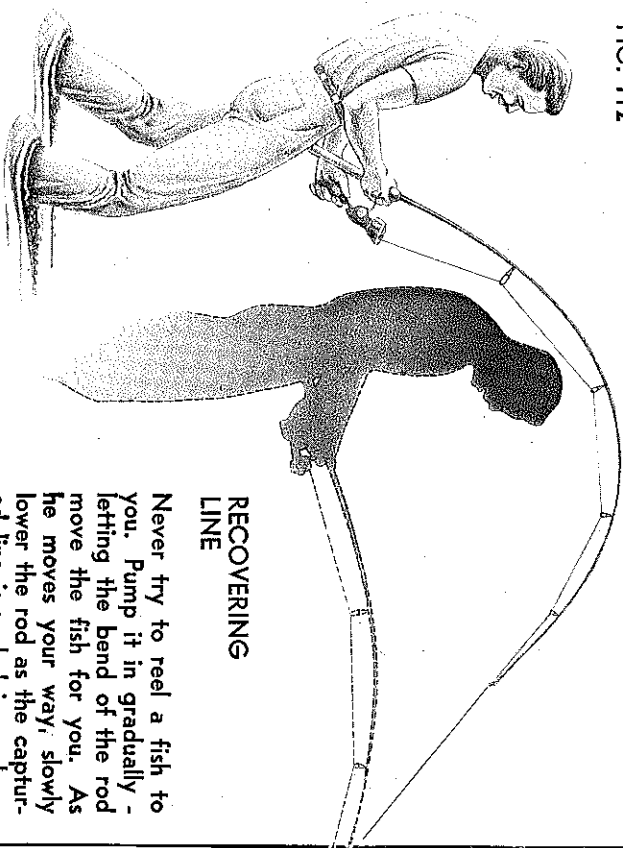


Don't do these things when playing fish: Don't lock your reel into anti-reverse; don't turn the reel handle when the drag is paying out line; don't jerk your fish when it runs downstream or jumps; don't allow your rod to become unbowed, or your line to become slack.

When the fish has reached the end of its downstream run, recover line by walking downstream and retrieving line as you go. Don't try to pull the fish to you. Try to get even with, or slightly below your fish before stopping. Everytime the fish repeats its downstream runs, repeat the foregoing maneuver. The steady pressure of the taut line is all that is necessary, or advisable, to wear down the largest of fish.

When your fish shows definite signs of giving up the fight, tighten your drag to its original position (slightly under the breaking strength of the line) and lead it slowly toward shallow water. Be patient and don't try to hurry this operation. When possible, one should plan the fight so that it will end near a shallow gravel bar. Gently lead the fish into the shallow edge water, and when it has grounded itself, reach down and firmly grasp the fish by the tail (just above the tail fin) and throw it onto shore. Don't miss, grip firmly, lift and throw fast. Otherwise, you will have to fight the fish all over again, and the next time you may not be so lucky.

FIG. 112



### RECOVERING LINE

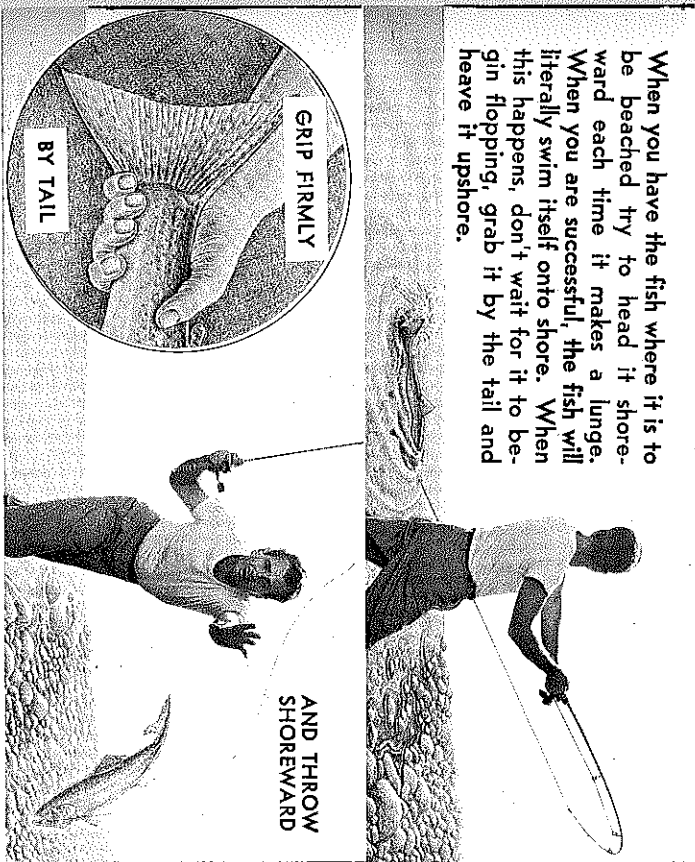
Never try to reel a fish to you. Pump it in gradually - letting the bend of the rod move the fish for you. As he moves your way, slowly lower the rod as the captured line is reeled in, and repeat the pumping action.

FIG. 113

### MY METHOD OF BEACHING LARGE FISH

Maneuver the spent fish until you have it between you and the shore, then slowly lead it with the bent rod toward the beaching place - walking behind the fish.

When you have the fish where it is to be beached try to head it shoreward each time it makes a lunge. When you are successful, the fish will literally swim itself onto shore. When this happens, don't wait for it to begin flopping, grab it by the tail and heave it upshore.



As I have discussed earlier in this book, everytime the pickup of a spin-reel revolves it imparts one full revolution of twist to the line. This is unimportant only because the twist is neutralized by the counter twist imparted to the line when it is unwrapped from the spool. However, when the line's spooling is arrested by a fish or snag, and the drag is loose enough to slip when the reel handle is turned, you would be compounding the twist if you continued to turn the handle. It is possible to twist a new line completely apart in this manner. That is why I never play my fish from the drag. The drag is used only as a safety device. The principle of a star-drag, on a revolving spool reel, is entirely different from that of the spinning reel's drag. Don't confuse the two, or try to use them alike - it just won't work.

## ATTRACTING AND TAKING FISH - LAKE FISHING -

Fish which reside in lakes and ponds have time to leisurely inspect their food before taking it, and for that reason, are much harder to fool than their fast water counterparts. To interest lake fish, beyond the stage of just casual curiosity, a lure should be fished only where its appearance would seem natural to them - *along their "bait-trails"*.

"Bait-trails" are the regular routes taken by minnows in their search for food; where frogs continuously enter and leave the water; or even an area where an overhanging tree sheds a constant rain of insects upon the lake's surface. Any place where there is a regular appearance of fish food, in any form, is a "bait-trail", and fish will be there waiting for it to appear.

During the sunlit hours, the mature members of the bass and pike family conceal themselves in the shade of snags, or aquatic plants which border along the "bait-trails". From these "lays" they strike savagely at anything that passes.

Cast your underwater lures in the "bait-trails" and retrieve them past the deep "lays". Only here will they be accepted unhesitatingly by lake fish. The same lures, fished elsewhere in the lake, would engender in them but a mild and cautious interest. It isn't *what* you are fishing with, but *where* you fish that with which you are fishing, that lures fish into striking.

Aquatic plants are quite important, and very necessary to the well-being of all lake life. During the hot daylight hours they supply fish with food, shaded protection, and much needed oxygen. Each aquatic meadow has its quota of "tackle-busters", and they are much more inclined to strike a lure here, than they would be if encountered in the open areas of the lake. However, only surface lures are practical in the heavy weed growths. Even the so-called weedless variety of underwater lures will catch and disturb the plants - frightening more fish than they attract. I prefer bass bugs for this work.

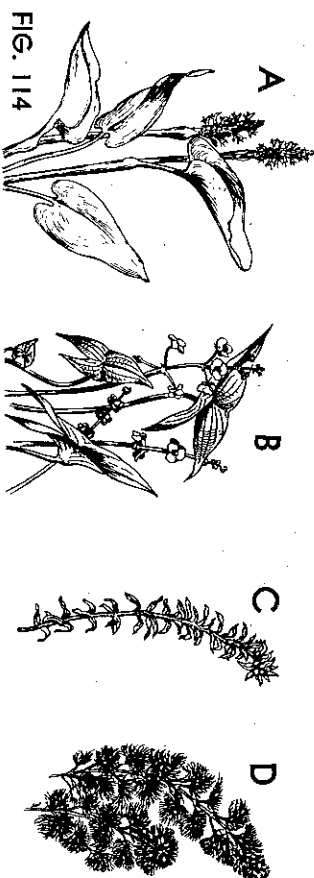


FIG. 114

Lake fish are closely associated with most aquatic and semi-aquatic vegetation. The learning of this association, and the identity of the plants which attract fish, will greatly aid the lake fisherman in finding his fish. Here are only four of the many plants which attract fish life. A: Pickerel weed (semi-aquatic); B: Arrowhead (semi-aquatic); C: Pond weed (aquatic); D: Fanwort (aquatic).

## ATTRACTING AND TAKING FISH

When fishing from a boat, a spin-fisherman's casts should never exceed fifty feet. It is imperative to good lake fishing for the line to lay perfectly straight on the water, and long casts make this impossible.

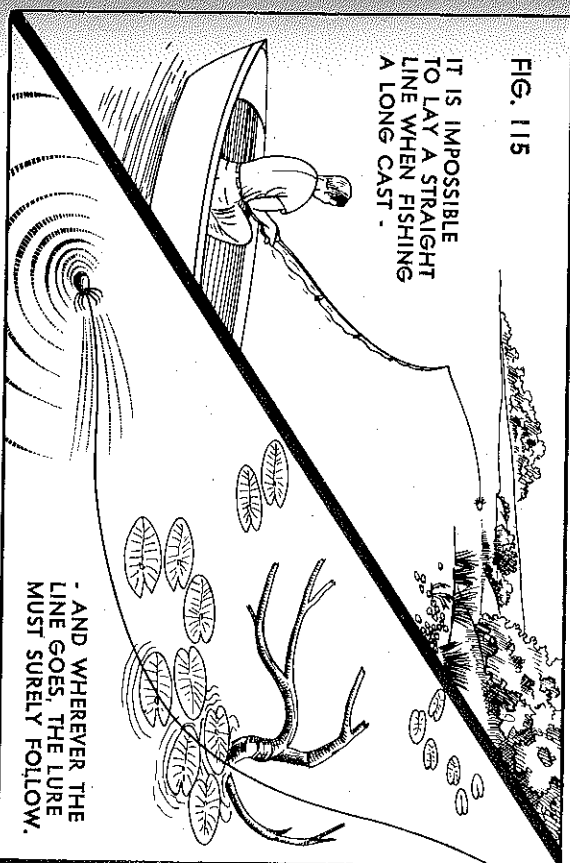
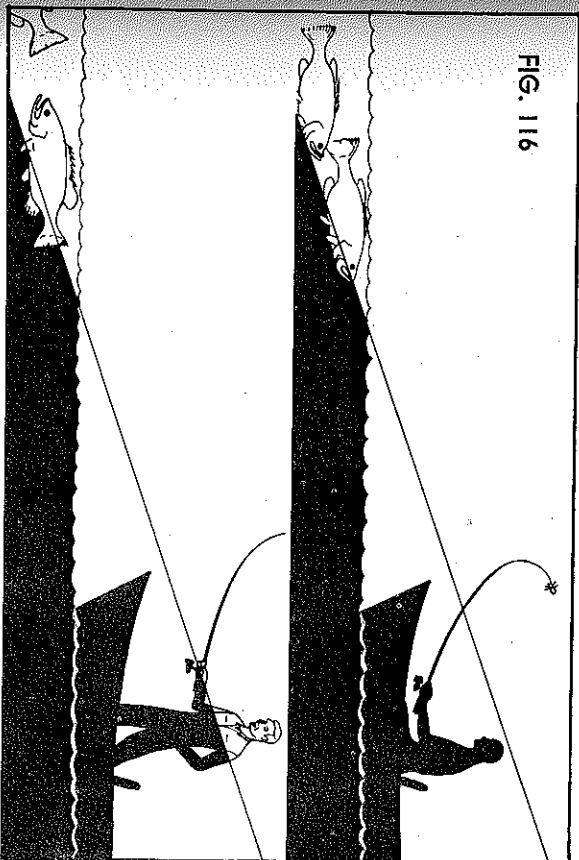


FIG. 115

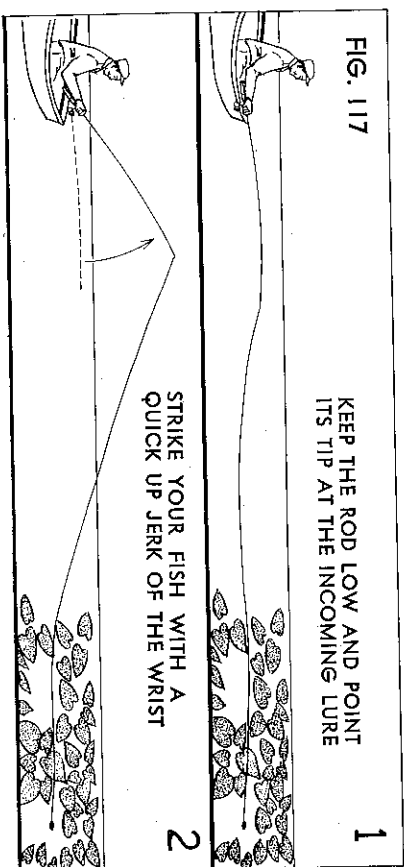
Never stand up in a boat to cast - for it marks you as a rank amateur to other fishermen, and frightens all of the fish within a forty foot radius.

FIG. 116



## ATTRACTING AND TAKING FISH

Always keep your rod low and point its tip at the incoming lure. In still water, lures should be retrieved twice as fast as they are in streams. A slow retrieve will allow lake fish enough time to detect the lure's fakery. Always speed up your retrieve as it nears the boat. This will tease many following fish into striking. Strike your fish with a quick up-flip of the wrist (unless it is necessary to drag them from threatening cover).



Before a cast is made, in a tight or snag infested spot, mentally map out a plan to evacuate the anticipated fish from its protective cover. There is no time to do this after the fish is hooked.

By applying the elevation principle of the "lift", used by ballet dancers, a fisherman can take large fish from what appears to be impossible situations. The "lift" is effective only when fishing on the surface or with shallow running lures.

A very unmuscular ballet dancer can lift a girl as heavy as himself by simply applying leverage at the instant his female partner elevates her weight. At the instant of strike the fish is also, in a state of elevation, and if at that instant, the fisherman applies the proper amount of leverage, he can successfully lead his fish away from any threatening water by its own power.

The "lift" is effective only at that instant when the fish rushes toward the surface - before it has turned back down. If at the time of strike, the rod is lifted high and the rod arm is swung back and to the right side, in one smooth continuous movement, the fish will slide across the surface like a bunch of weeds, regardless of its size. However, this weedlike behavior doesn't last for long, so apply enough leverage to move your fish into the open water in the one try, as you will not get another. With practice, one can slide a big fish about twelve feet by this method. If one waits until the fish has turned before applying the "lift", he's dead, and the fish will go where he damn well pleases.

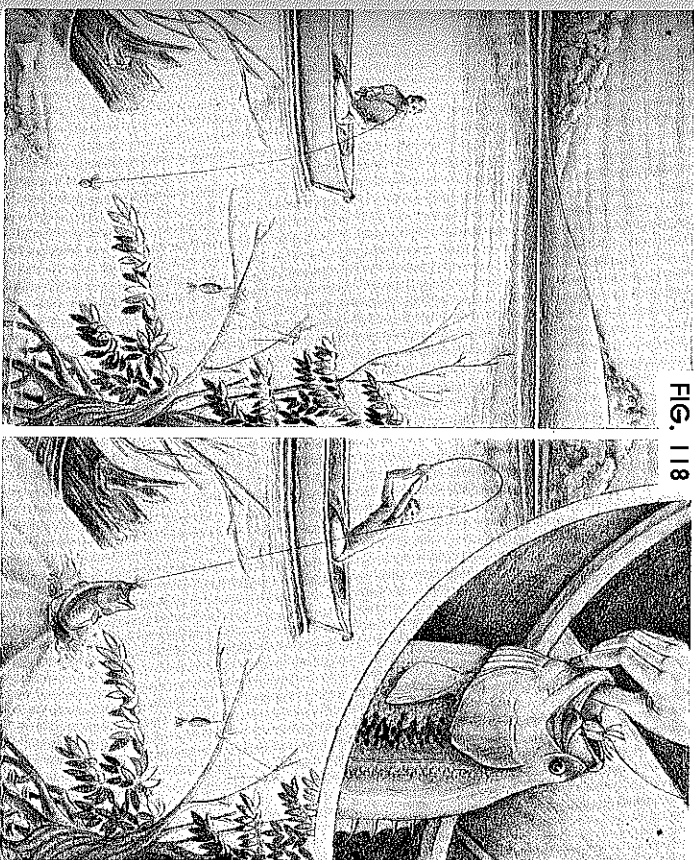
## ATTRACTING AND TAKING FISH

After the fish has turned and begun to fight, it requires little more than a steady firm pressure to play it to exhaustion. Lake fish have no current to speed and help their flight, so their runs are short and slow compared to fast water fish of the same size and species. Play your lake fish from the reel handle - *not by the drag*. Let the reel handle spin backward if forced to give line. A loose drag will allow the fish to wind your line around every snag in the area.

Keep your fish running in a wide circle around the boat, and don't bring it closer than fifteen feet until it shows definite signs of giving up the fight. Most of the lake fish which are lost, escape because the fisherman brings them alongside too quickly.

Keep your rod bowed, and bring the beaten fish to the boat with a slow steady pressure. Make no sudden or wide movement to frighten the fish to renewed frenzy.

No net or gaff is necessary to lift a bass into the boat. When the bass is alongside, just grip its lower lip between the thumb and forefinger of your left hand and lift. The fish will not move, wiggle, or flap, so long as this grip is maintained.



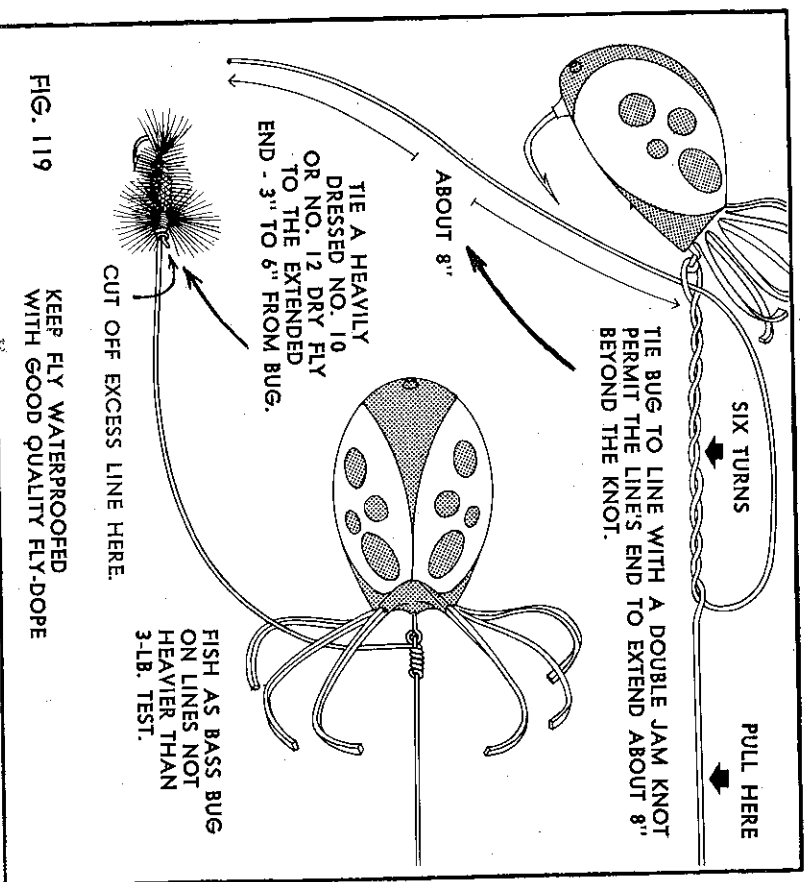
AQUATIC BRUSH PILES HARBOR MANY BIG FISH, BUT IT TAKES AN ACCURATE CASTER TO PLACE HIS LURE IN THESE TIGHT PLACES. WHEN FISH ARE HOOKED IN DENSE COVER ONE MUST THINK AND ACT FAST IF HE HOPES TO EXTRICATE HIS PRIZE.

## ATTRACTING AND TAKING FISH

### - FISHING FLOATING FLIES WITH SPIN-TACKLE -

In all my twenty-three years of spin-fishing, I have never run into a situation where the fishing of flies, with my spinning tackle, would have enhanced my chances of success. If I had, I wouldn't have given up the fly rod. Only the smaller fish succumb to the floating fly - and I'm seldom after them. However, I do like to take pan-fish occasionally, because I enjoy eating the little rascals, and the fastest way to do this is with a floating fly.

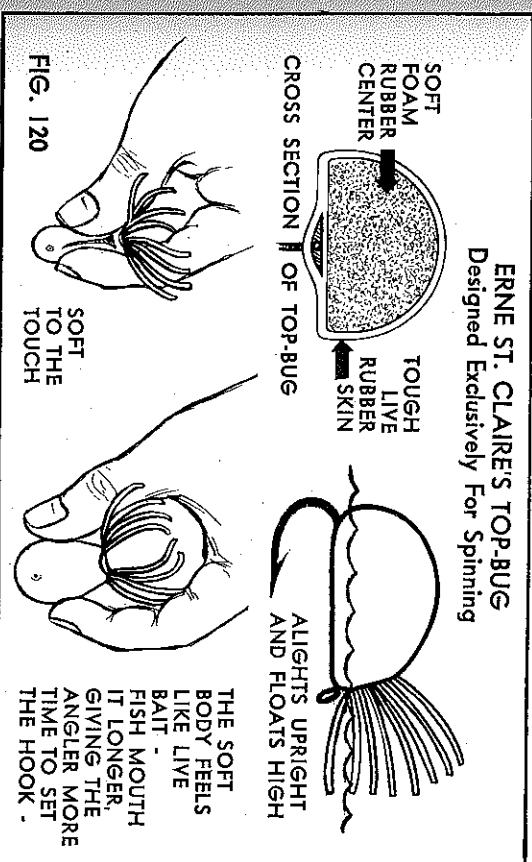
To successfully fish a floating fly with spinning tackle, one must have a floating weight. The plastic bubble, made for this purpose, is as untidy as fishing with overripe chicken livers. I detest its use. As most of my pan-fishing is done in water where bass are present, I have solved the problem by using my bass bug as a float. It acts as an attractor to the smaller fish, making the flies much more effective, and any bass in the area are taken on the bug. Even in Western coastal streams, I have found this rig effective for taking cut-throat and steelhead trout. These two species of trout are partial to moving flies, and even more so, when the bug is used as an attractor.



## ATTRACTING AND TAKING FISH

### - BASS BUGGING -

Even though bass bugging is the most deadly way ever devised to take largemouth bass, and the only really effective method of fishing in dense weed growth, few spin-fishermen indulge in its thrilling sport. Their failure to take advantage of this fascinating form of top water angling is the fault of the lure manufacturers, who have failed miserably to devise a satisfactory bug for the method of spinning. All they have come up with is weighted copies of the various fly rod models, which were originally designed for fly casting - not spin-casting. My Top-Bug is the only bass bug I've ever seen which was designed exclusively for the method of spinning.



When fishing a bass bug with spinning tackle, don't use the rod to impart action to the lure - use the reel only. Just cast the bug out, let it sit (long enough to light a cigarette), and then, make a quick quarter turn of the reel handle. Let it sit again, and repeat the quarter turn - and so on, until the lure has been retrieved. You can vary the reel turns if you like, to make the bug flutter, jump, or crawl - but the rod is not moved during the whole retrieve.

Everytime a spinning rod is twitched it creates slack between you and a surface lure - far too much slack to set the hooks in fish securely. The rod twitching method belongs to fly fishing, which has a heavy large diameter line to resist the energy of the rod. CAUTION: USE THE "TENSION RETRIEVE" WHEN FISHING SURFACE LURES WITH SPINNING TACKLE.

Bass bugs are also very effective for taking surface feeding smallmouth bass, pike, pickerel, crappies, bream, rock bass, striped bass, night feeding trout, and many tide water top feeders.



## THE AUTHOR'S LAST CAST

If I've allowed a note of cynicism to creep into the foregoing chapters, I'll assure you that it was entirely intentional. I'm a little weary of the synthetic atmosphere of hyper-sportsmanship which surrounds fishing, and more than a little nauseated by the cloying aura of sainthood which exudes from the magazine writer's version of the typical American angler. Thank God that most of the anglers with whom I'm acquainted have somehow escaped the metamorphosis which is supposed to miraculously transform all fishermen into saintlike halo bearers. Worldly people make better fishing companions.

I have no intention of boring you with a long winded sermon about the virtues of sportsmanship, because I'm sure that you are just as weary of being propagandized on this subject as I am. I figure that your conduct on stream and lake is none of my business - so long as it doesn't effect me or my fishing. But conservation does effect mine - and yours - and everybody's angling future. Practice it religiously.

Help pass laws which will make it *really* unprofitable for commercial interests to use our waterways for the dumping of industrial waste. Get rid of the politicians who allow this illegal practice to go on year after year. If the penalty for polluting our fishing waters is only a fine, make it a big one, and insist that the fine be levied on the offenders every hour - because they are guilty of a new offense each hour the condition exists. Just so long as it is more profitable for them to pay an occasional fine, rather than to put in the necessary equipment to eliminate this outrage, business interests will continue to ruin your fishing waters.

There is little enough open fishing water left in this country, and when we are deprived of its use through pollution, or the selfish interests of other groups of fishermen, its high time to register a loud and determined complaint.

A number of years ago, before I had completely given up fly fishing, an organized group of fly fishermen called on me, and in the name of conservation, asked me to sign a petition designed to close a popular trout stream to all but fly fishing. Even though I had no intention of aiding this select group in their selfish desire, I was curious, and asked them just how such a move would further conservation. Their reply was: "It will keep out the spinners and make it possible for us '*real sportsmen*' to take more fish."

There is far too much of that sort of thing in this country. Fly fishermen have annexed many fine streams and lakes for their exclusive use - under the guise of conservation. It follows, that if fly-fishermen, whose numbers are few, percentage wise, can close a stream or lake to all other forms of angling; spin-fishermen, who outnumber them more than a hundred to one, should have

THE AUTHOR'S LAST CAST  
the right to close one hundred bodies of water for every one closed to them - and so on down the line, percentage wise, bait-casters and still fishermen should be accorded the same privilege. Public fishing water should remain public water to all who hold a fishing license and a rod - regardless of its type.

No matter how lofty are our intentions, or how genuine is our love for nature and its wild creatures, one fact remains: *there is no Godly method of angling*. All have one objective - the killing of fish. A fish is just as dead when taken out of the water by the aid of a beautifully created dry fly, as is the one that falls prey to a flashing spinner.

*We all have "bloody hooks" - so let's not engage in invectives.*

If what you have learned here adds more enjoyment to your fishing hours, then I've been successful in my objective. Subsequent editions of "The Modern Science of Spin-Fishing" will keep abreast of my constantly changing and improving technique - watch for them.

Someday we may meet on stream or lake, where I can thank you in person for your purchase of this book, but until then, please accept my written appreciation.

Fishingly yours,

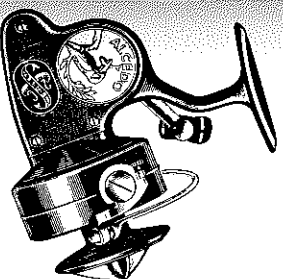
Erne



In the past 25 years the author has received more than a hundred honor awards for big fish. This prize winning trout weighed 30 pounds and 3 ounces.

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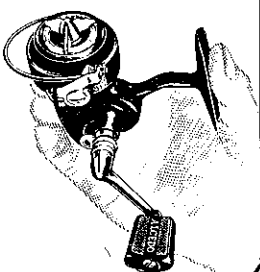
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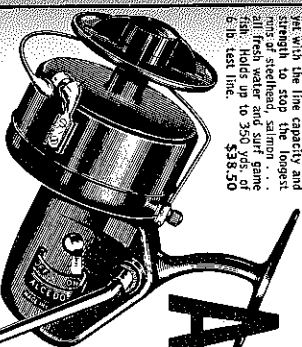
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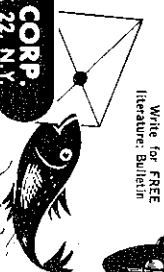
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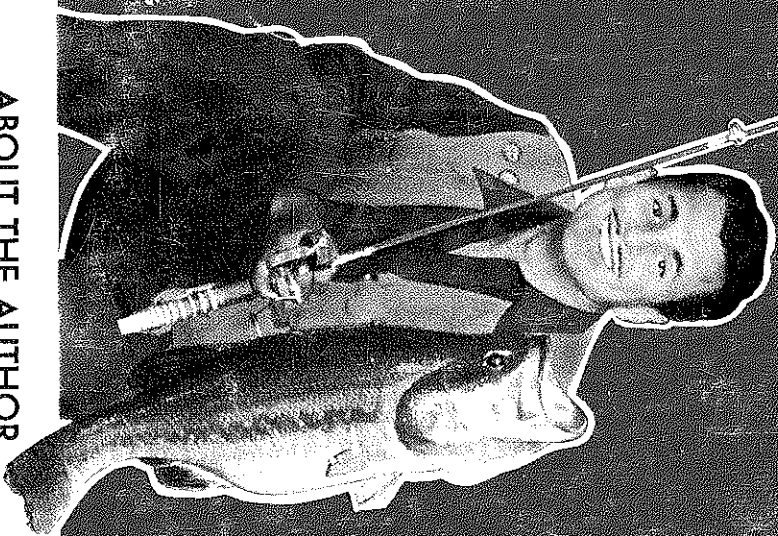
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WITH HIS  
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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Erne St. Claire was one of the very first spin-fishermen in the United States, and his persistent research in that field, during the past twenty-five years, has been responsible for many major improvements in modern spinning tackle design. His casting methods have been adopted by professional exhibition casters and amateurs alike. He is also nationally known for his outstanding catches of big fish. The 53-pound 3-ounce king salmon (pictured on the front cover) still stands as the largest fish ever to have been taken on authentic spinning tackle.