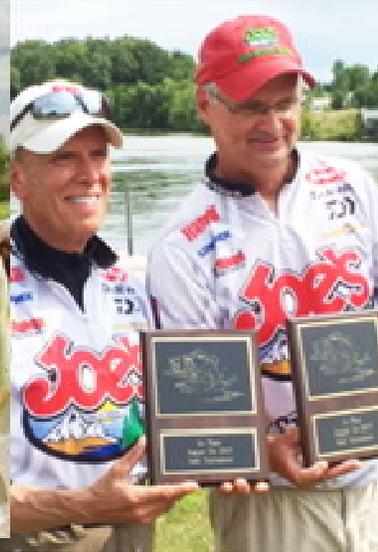


Run & Gun

Tactics for Bass



Dale Glader • Tournament Director • Team Bass



Run & Gun is a style

- *Search and destroy attitude*
- *The clock is always ticking, even fun fishing*

Combination of ingredients:

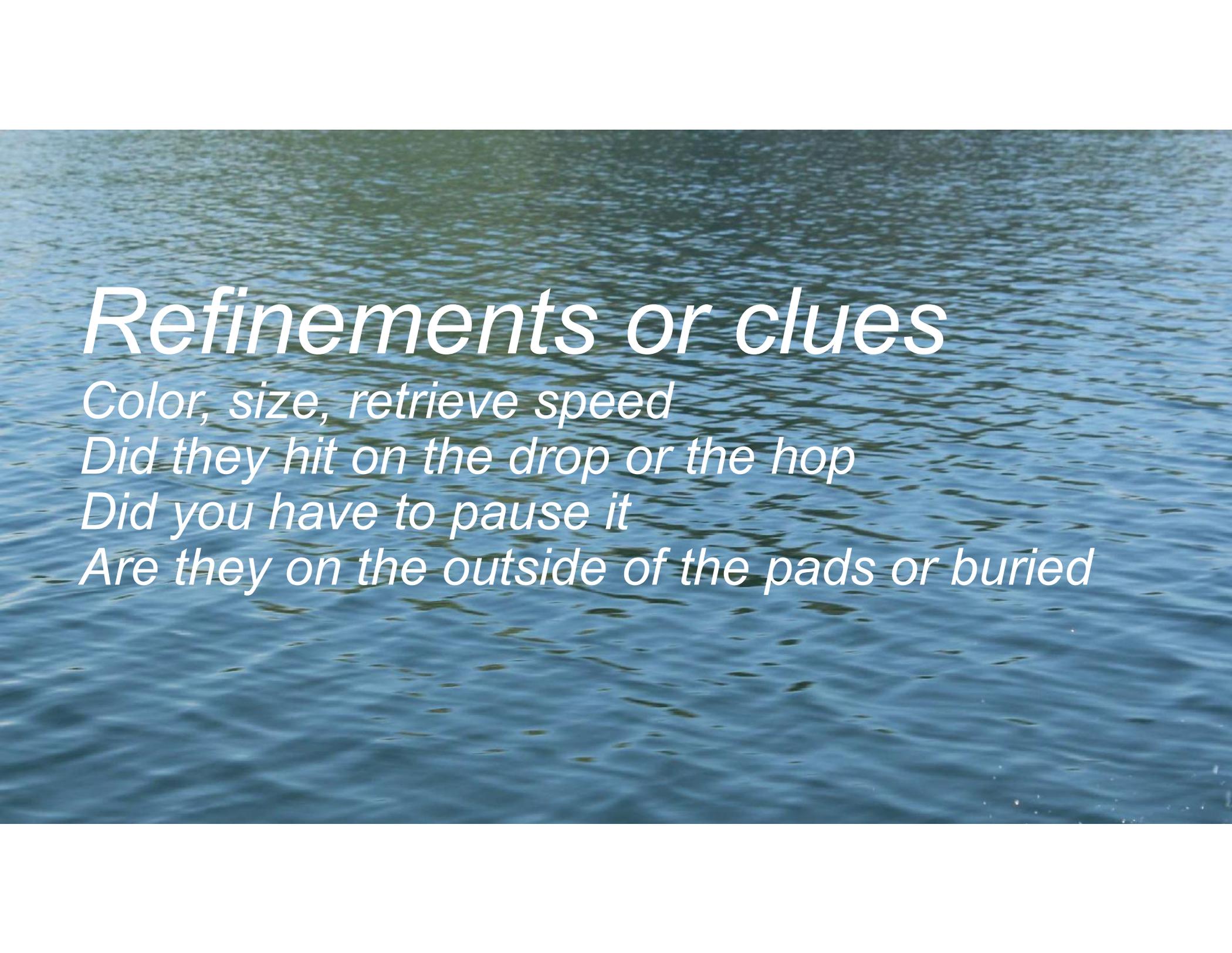
- *Trolling motor*
- *Electronics*
- *A few basic lures*
- *Weather*
- *Time of year*



Figuring out where the fish are comes down to a few general categories

Rules or Basics *proven over time*

- *Overcast or bright*
- *Windy or calm*
- *How windy is it*
- *Clear water or stained water*
- *Changes throughout the day*
- *Time of year (mid May to early June shallow)*
- *Water under 50 degrees they won't chase*
- *South breeze is usually best*
- *Post front is the toughest (NW breeze)*



Refinements or clues

Color, size, retrieve speed

Did they hit on the drop or the hop

Did you have to pause it

Are they on the outside of the pads or buried

Exceptions or Flukes

- *Things you may never see again*
- *Both good days and bad days can be exceptions*
- *Learn to recognize flukes and don't get sucked in*
- *Look for consistency over time*
- *You can fish memory lane, but don't die by it*

Trends

- *Both lures and lakes go through trends*
- *Learn to recognize it*
- *Spend your money carefully*
- *You don't need every color, stick to basics*
- *I have bags of stuff I'll never use*



Tackle and Equipment

Spinning rods

- I use the same 7 foot Med Heavy spinning rod for almost all my fishing*
- More versatility and control*
- Shimano Spirex 4000 with quick fire trigger*
- 1% or 2% more cast during the course of the day*
- Braid changed everything for spinning rods*
- Back reeling*
- Hold handle correctly*
- Learn to fix them, take pics when disassembling*



Baitcasters

- *They are so much better today*
- *Even your low end magnetic reels are very good*
- *Set magnetic drag to 7*
- *Set spool tension so the lure just drops*

*Minimize backlash
with electric tape
Saves time, headache, money*



Line

- *I use 30# PowerPro Braid*
- *Use 6# or 8# test for backing*
- *With braid, set drag to have slight give on hook set*

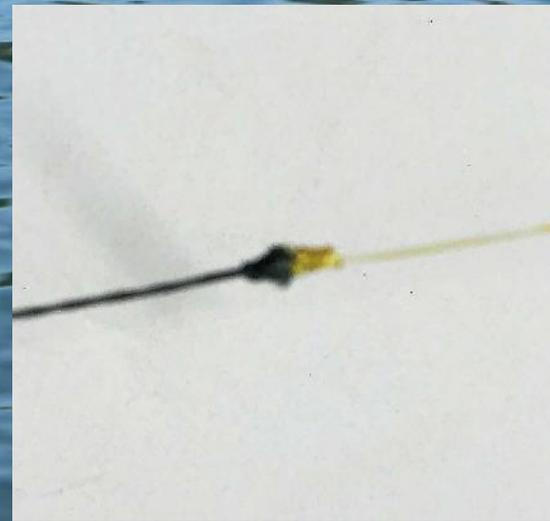


*Spool line from the bottom of the spool
when replacing line on spinning reels*



Knots

- *Palomar knot*
- *Improved clinch knot*
- *Loop knot*
- *Double the line first*
- *Joining two lines (clinch knot)*

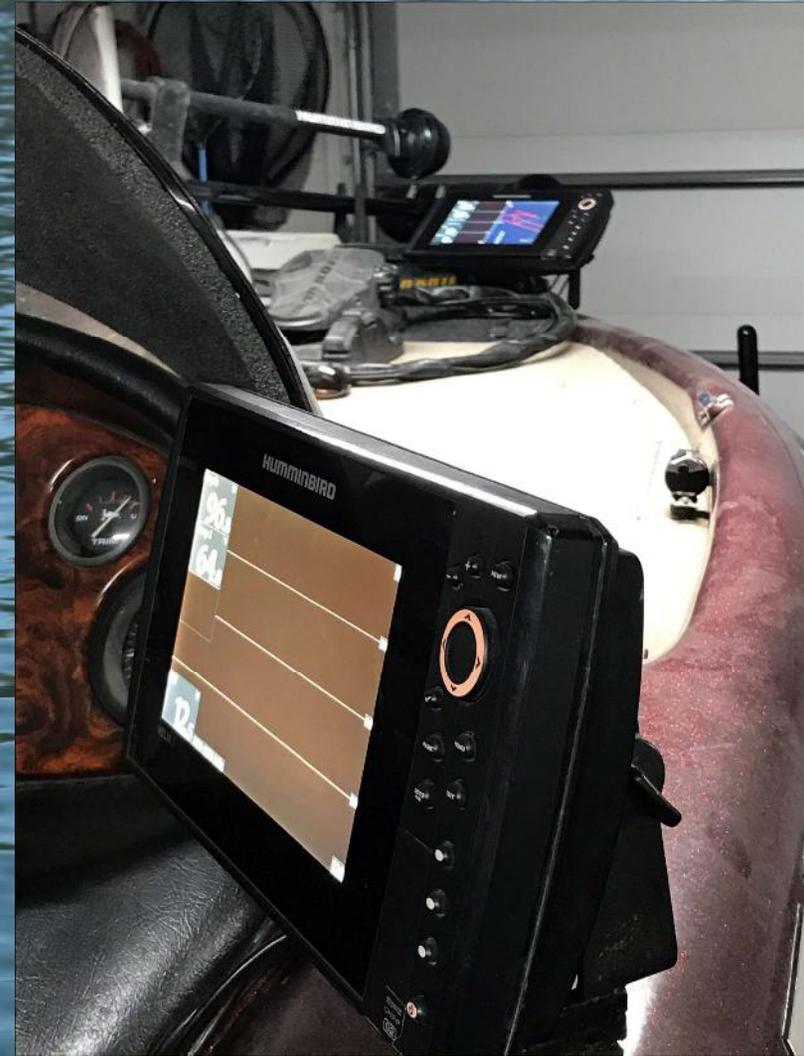


*Place knot at
bottom of
spool*



Electronics

- You need a locator anytime you can't see the bottom*
- Mapping is a huge time saver*
- I use down image and map most of the time*
- Many smaller units have the same features*



Optimizing the boat for efficiency









Trolling motor

- The heart of Run & Gun*
- Get the biggest one you can afford*
- Batteries and charger are hidden cost*



Lures

A handful of lures is all that is needed

- *Jigs*
- *Spinnerbaits*
- *Plastics*
- *Topwater*
- *Crankbaits*

Jigs

- $\frac{1}{4}$ oz Bitsy Flip (not bitsy bug), black or black blue
- 2.5 inch Zoom Chunk trailer, black
- $\frac{3}{8}$ oz Booya Jig, black, black blue or white
- Netbait Paca Chunk trailer, Black or white to match jig



Spinnerbaits & Buzzbaits

- *Almost any 3/8 willow/Colorado blade combo*
- *Silver & gold blades, white or white/chartreuse*
- *1/4 oz Colorado, silver blade, white skirt*
- *1/2 oz Buzz bait white or white/chartreuse*



Plastics

Senko, RingFry, Zman Hula Stickz



Topwater

Popper, Zara Spook, big frog, small frog



Crankbaits

- *Rapala DT6, DT4, Minus1, XRap, Rat-L-Trap*
- *Color matters more with crankbaits*



Hooks

- *Have to be stronger with Braid*
- *Forged or tempered*
- *Should not bend easily with your fingers*
- *Bitsy Bug vs Bitsy Flip*
- *Worm hooks, Mustad Nor-Tempered*
- *Trebles, Gamakatsu round bend #2, #4, #5*

Change treble hooks often



Get a good hook sharpener





On the water - 3 zones

Shallow, 4' or less

Flats, 4' to 9'

Deeper water from the weedline and beyond

Shallow water

- *Easiest zone to figure out*
- *Visible cover, pads, docks, reeds, carpet weed, duckweed, trees, slop, curly pond weed*
- *Bass like whatever is different*
- *You can move faster*



Flats

- *Great on overcast days or wind*
- *Start where you can no longer see the bottom*
- *Use horizontal presentation and cover water*
- *Start upwind and drift large areas*
- *Second half of June*
- *Late fall, water in the 50's, Rat-L-Traps and Chatterbaits*



Deeper water

- *Generally this is the weedline*
- *Weedline has 3 zones*
- *Tall, Tapered Edge, Clean Edge*
- *Deeper boulders, sunken trees*

Fishing the weedline

- *Make sure it drops straight down*
- *Don't wait to feel a bite*
- *"Test" for weight then set the hook*
- *Mood, are they hitting on the drop or hop*
- *Are they hitting by the boat (chasing)*
- *In wind, lay the line down on the water*
- *Mapping is a huge time saver*
- *Boulders out deeper (side imaging)*
- *Manhandle them when they jump*

Rest your spots

Run & Gun until you locate a few areas with fish

Then bounce between them

Be there when the feeding window presents itself

Let the fish regroup and reload

Camping on a spot is too risky



*Tips to save
you time and money*

Use a snap

- Have a snap on one rod to change lures quickly*
- Needs to be a strong one size 3 or 4*
- Less rods needed*



Use a piece of shrink tubing

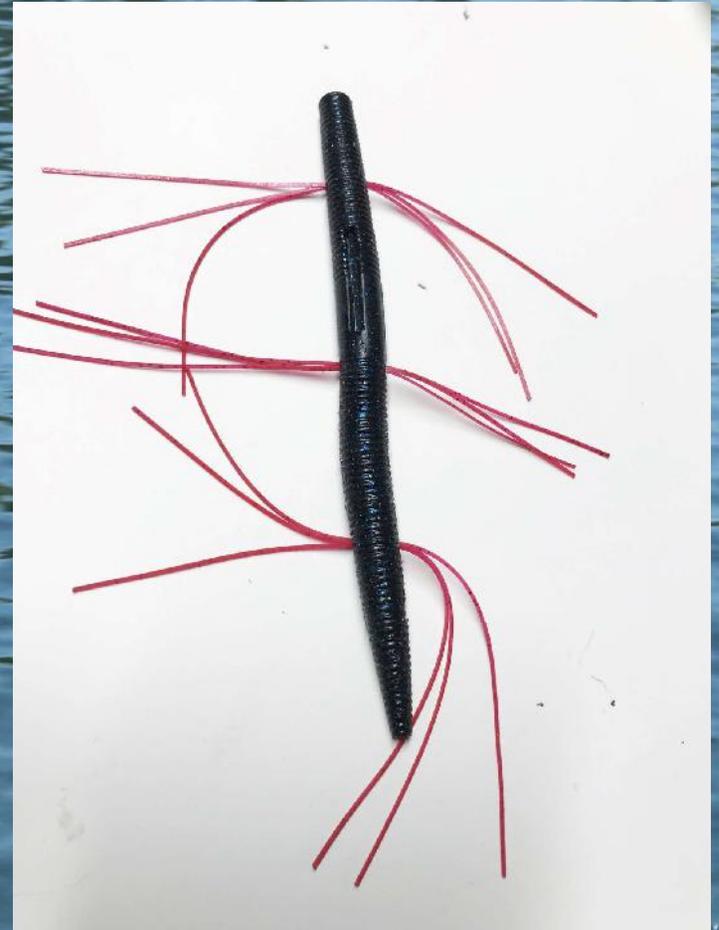
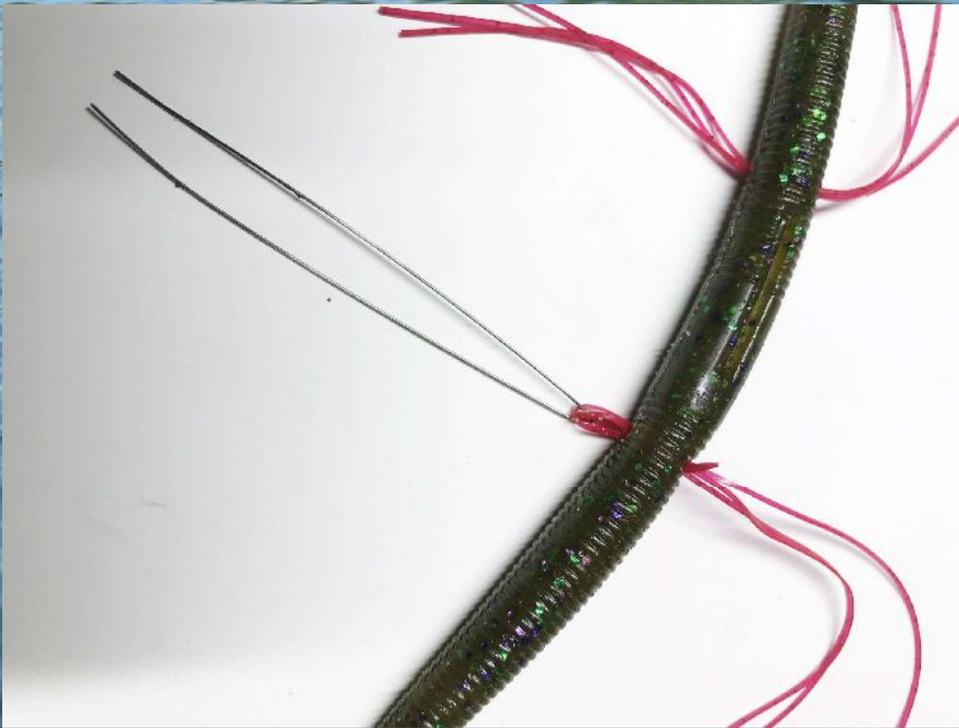
- Acts as a keeper to keep the snap from sliding down on spinnerbaits and buzzbaits*



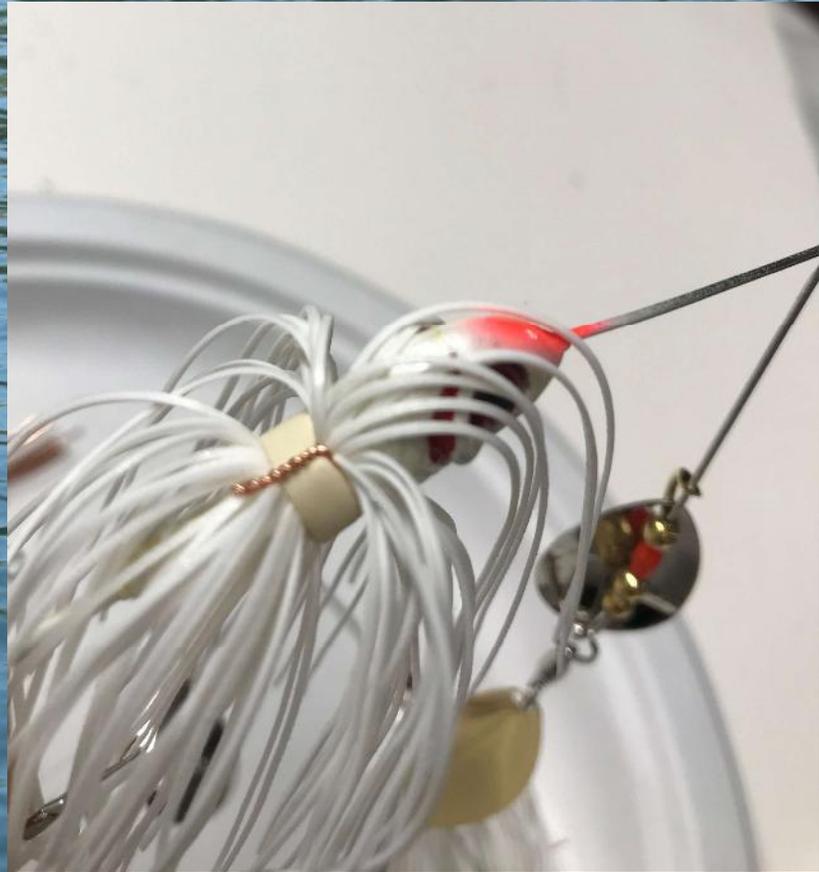
Reinforce Rapala DT crankbaits



Add skirt material to plastics



Wire your skirts on



Add weight to buzzbaits & spinnerbaits



Reinforce trailers with felt



Melt on the felt



Tournaments

No quicker way to learn

Find a local club or circuit

Don't be shy approaching the old pros

Your benchmark will keep increasing

20 bass is a good day, 10 in late fall

Most satisfying day is doing well in a tournament

Without tournaments, I would get lazy

It's an identity, a lifestyle, a network of great friends

It's American

Tournament tips

- *Weigh and record every fish*
- *Time your runs*
- *Run & Gun until you find some pockets of fish*
- *Don't camp on the spots, bounce between them*
- *The fish will feed at some point during the day*
- *Watch the other anglers for clues*
- *Don't fish used water*
- *Lean forward when running, like riding a horse*
- *Try and fish with different partners*

Fishing for a living

- *Pro Angler is a tough even if you win a lot*
- *The field is saturated with skilled anglers*
- *The early 90s there was a chance*
- *Don't turn fishing into a job*
- *Sponsors are tough to get*
- *You are a professional beggar*
- *Find an easier way to make good money*
- *Online opportunities are a huge advantage*

Key take-aways

- *Keep moving*
- *Make lots of presentations*
- *When all else fails, go back to the rules*
- *The right handful of lures*
- *Keep everything at your fingertips*
- *Shave seconds off anywhere you can*
- *Join a circuit or club, or start your own*
- *Fish with different partners*
- *Figure out a way to make good money so you can afford a nice boat and truck*
- *YouTube, Tactical Bassin channel*

*January
Smallmouth
Where is this?*

