



OSU EXTENSION
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Spin Fishing

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service • Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

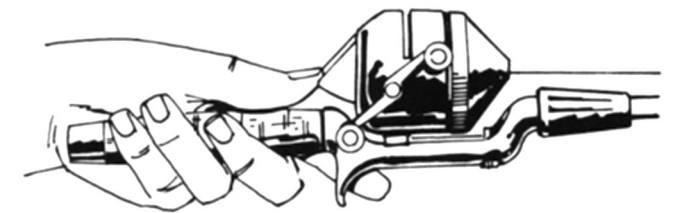
Spinning is a method of fishing with artificial tackle. In spin fishing, a weighted lure is cast with a line, which unwinds from a spool that does not turn. The line is rewound by a “finger” that turns around the stationary spool as you crank the wheel.

Spinning bridges the gap between fly fishing and bait casting. With spinning tackle, you can cast a fly, a tiny lure, or a live bait three or four times farther than you can with a fly rod or cane pole, and you are less likely to lose live bait off the hook.

Spin casting is different from spin fishing in that the spin-casting reel is mounted on top of the rod, and the spin-casting rod is essentially the same as the casting rod. The line on this type reel (spin casting) is controlled with a thumb device.

Also, you can cast smaller lures with spinning tackle and cast it farther than you can with bait casting tackle.

One disadvantage, however, is that you may not land a big fish from water filled with fallen trees, stumps, or bushes. The average fresh-water spinning line ranges between 4 and 8 pound breaking test. There is a brake on the



rod, which you adjust to “slip,” to prevent snapping the line. Therefore, a big fish may pull off line while you are frantically cranking your reel to bring him in, but this light-test line is an advantage because you can cast more accurately and farther with it than you can with heavy-test lines.

Choosing Tackle

Get a spinning rod 6 1/2 to 7 feet long with light action. You have a choice of two types of reels, open face and closed-face. On the open-face reel, the line and spool are in full view. But the closed-face reel has a cone covering the spool and line; the line feeds through a small hole in the center of the cone. Probably the advantage of the open-face reel is that you can see and correct line troubles quickly.

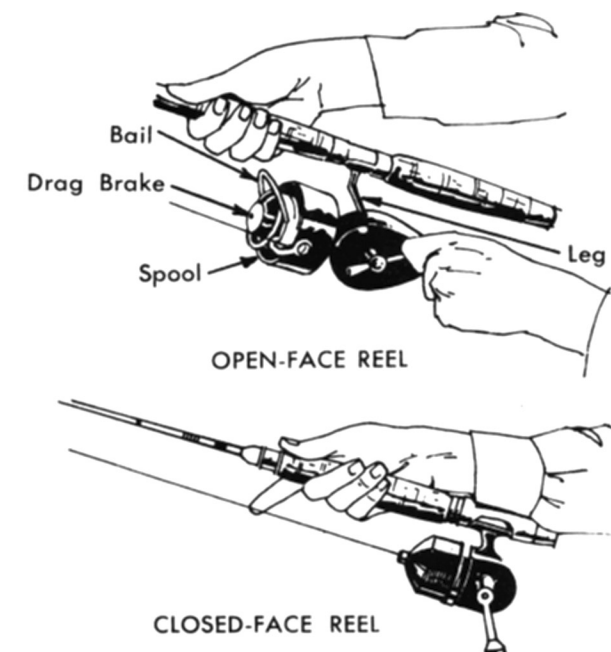
If you are right-handed get a reel with a left-handed crank; if left-handed, get a reel with a right-handed crank.

Be sure to use monofilament or braided line especially made for spin fishing.

As a beginner, you should not buy the cheapest tackle nor the most expensive. Pick out name-brand equipment in the medium-price range.

Putting Tackle Together

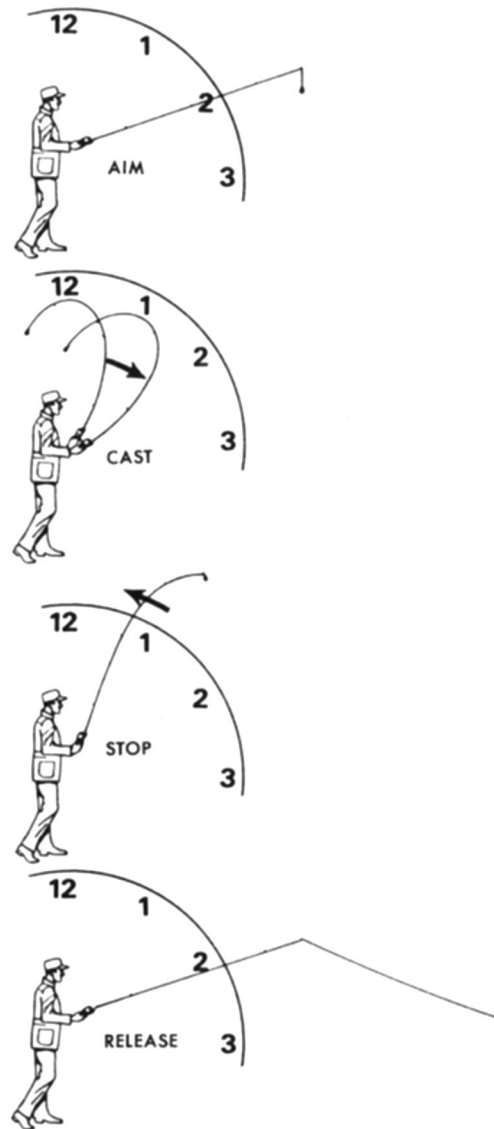
Place the reel on the rod handle in line with the rod guides. Move the reel forward and backward on the handle until the equipment feels balanced. Draw the line through the guides and attach a practice plug to it. Grasp the rod in the right hand with the reel beneath the handle and with the lure 6 to 12 inches from the rod tip. Slip the “leg” of the reel between the first and second or second and third fingers of the right hand. With the forefinger holding the line almost against the rod, trip the winding bail or “finger” with the left hand if you are using an open-face reel. If using a closed-face “spin-casting” or “spin bait casting” reel, follow manufacturer’s directions.



Casting Directions

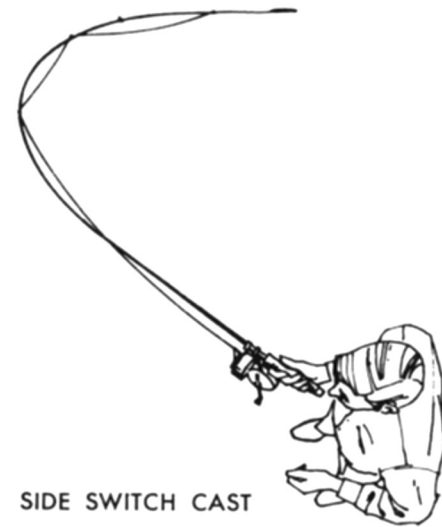
Good casting comes with understanding your particular type of equipment and with practice. You can practice casting on your lawn, using a lure without hooks.

Overhead Cast. There are several ways to cast, but the overhead cast is the most popular and the safest of all. In casting, imagine you are standing with your left shoulder against a large clock face. Hold the rod at 2 o'clock. As the lure bends the rod backward, snap the rod forward and release your forefinger. When the rod returns to the 2 o'clock position the lure will sail out, pulling your line from the spool. To stop the lure, merely touch the line or reel face again with your forefinger and turn the reel crank with your left hand to bring in the lure. (See draw-

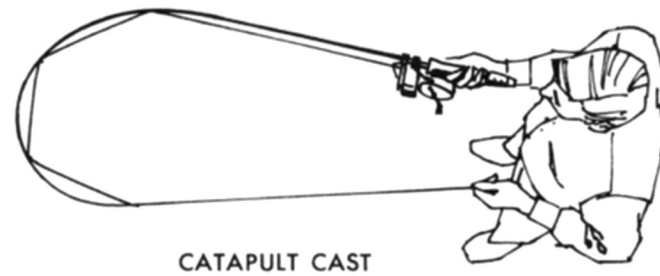


ings.) If using a spin-casting reel that is placed on top of the handle, crank with your right hand, the same as you would a bait-casting reel.

Side Switch Cast. To cast a lure low over the water, simply switch the rod tip slightly downward and to the right or left a few inches and release forefinger from the line as the rod begins to straighten. Do not swing your rod completely to right or left because you may hook another fisherman.



Catapult Cast. If you are standing under over-hanging bushes or wish to cast beneath low tree limbs, use the bow and arrow or catapult cast. To make this cast, point the rod tip toward the spot you wish to hit. Holding the lure in your left hand so that you will not get hooked, pull about 3 feet of line from the rod tip. (Your right forefinger is holding the line.) Then pull the lure to you. This will bend the rod tip. Release the lure, and a split second later your forefinger.



Care and Cleaning of Tackle

Be sure to follow the manufacturer's direction sheet for operation, care, and cleaning your tackle.

Credit is due Earl F. Kennamer, Extension Fish and Wildlife specialist, Alabama Extension Service, and D. Leroy Gray, Extension Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Arkansas Agricultural Extension Service, for preparation of this material.

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Samuel E. Curl, Director of Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. This publication is printed and issued by Oklahoma State University as authorized by the Dean of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and has been prepared and distributed at a cost of \$.20 per copy. 0404.