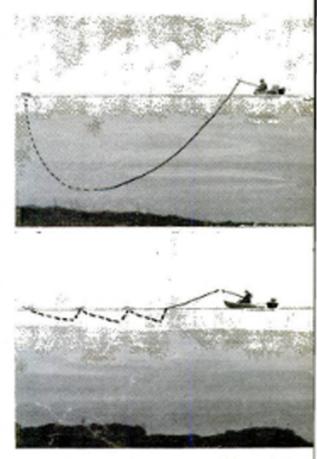


Fishing's Deadly Dozen

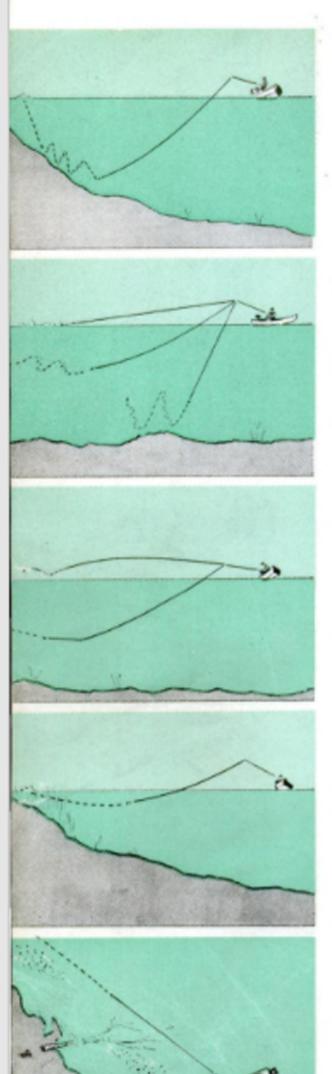
By Dick Kirkpatrick

FISHING LURES come and go, but a few—the great ones—go on forever. When PM polled a panel of experts for nominations for our list of all-time greats, they surprised us by agreeing on almost all the lures. But more important, almost all reported that most fishermen not only don't fish the lures right, but won't read the instructions in the box, either. Here's their list, in alphabetical order, with their tips for fishing them . . .

- 1. THE ABU REFLEX SPINNER is the newest lure on the list at five years old, and the only import. It comes from Sweden through the Garcia Corp. of New York City. The quarter-ounce model shown, with a chrome blade and white body with black spots, is the most popular. Seven other models come in 10 other combinations. The weedless-hook model shown is a good idea, since spinners are notorious snag-finders. The keel ahead of this lure isn't standard equipment, but helps avoid line twist, though later Abus have a new nontwist eye. Best tip: Fish the Abu just fast enough to keep the blade spinning, and use the "slow roll" method illustrated to cover all depths until you find the fish, then control depth with reeling speed.
- 2. THE BASS-ORENO is the oldest (60 years) and probably best-known of the PM team. It is now made by South Bend Tackle Co., of Chicago, in four sizes from % to ¼ ounce and in seven finishes. But the original size and style shown—a %-ounce bait-casting size with a red head and white body—is still considered best. Designed as a floating-diving wiggler for bass and northern pike, the lure is still at its best for those species, but has spread to all kinds of shallow-feeding game fish; it's even trolled in the Gulf Stream for big pelagic species. Best tip: By using a reel-pause retrieve, you can make the Bass-Oreno dive and bob near the surface to imitate a struggling, injured baitfish; the method is especially effective over submerged weeds.



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- 3. THE BOMBER, made by The Bomber Bait Co. of Gainesville, Texas, was designed for a specific type of fishing—bottom bouncing down the precipitous dropoffs in southern artificial lakes for smallmouth bass and walleyes. But it has become the hottest thing in deep fishing everywhere. The big ¾-ounce silver-white shad model shown has been most popular, but the line offers five sizes in 33 finishes. All but the quarter-ounce spinning size are deep-diving floaters; they dive so sharply that you can reel them under your own boat. Best tip: Bounce the Bomber down slopes as illustrated with a reel-pause retrieve. The diving bill protects the hooks from snags.
- 4. THE DARDEVLE, made by the Lou J. Eppinger Co., Dearborn, Mich., was the first metal spoon to be designed for casting as well as a fish-catching action, and is indisputably the most imitated lure in the business, but has a reputation for outfishing most spoons. Most popular model in its 50-year history is the familiar red-and-white one-ounce style with nickel plating on the inside, but there are 22 other sizes and styles in 35 finishes. Best trick is built right into the lure—it can be fished in a variety of ways to get different actions. Three good variations are illustrated; a fast skittering retrieve on the surface, a reel-and-pause retrieve, and a jigging action near the bottom.
- 5. THE FLATFISH, developed in 1933 by the Helin Tackle Company of Detroit, is perhaps the most unlikely looking of lures—but probably the biggest seller. Its wild wobbling action is unmatched anywhere; its tiny hooks on spreader bars make it a fine hooker. And almost everyone fishes it wrong. The Flatfish should never be fished with a snap between lure and line, and should always be fished with a weight about a foot ahead of the lure. It makes casting tricky—unless you learn to stop the cast and let the line straighten out as illustrated. We show the "U-20" model in a green frog finish; it's probably the most popular, but there are 21 models in all, in 27 finishes.
- 6. THE HAWAIIAN WIGGLER, made by the Fred Arbogast Co., of Akron, Ohio, was one of the first really weedless lures made to be fished right in the weeds for shallow-feeding bass and pike. The combination of spinner, wobbling body, and wiggling skirt has kept it popular—and effective—for around 30 years. The Number Two Wiggler, shown, isn't the oldest, but is the most popular in this % ounce size with a red and green body and black and white "hula skirt." There are 10 other models, available in six finishes. Best trick: A second hook, trailing behind the main hook, for short-striking fish; the manufacturer now supplies a special add-on hook with each lure.
- 7. THE JITTERBUG, also made by the Arbogast Company, is a double-purpose surface lure. The litterbug is intended for a slow, steady crawling retrieve, but also works well as a surface popper. Most popular model with our experts is the %-ounce black model shown; it's also available in four other sizes in nine finishes. It's been a top-selling surface lure for over 15 years; our experts agree it's because it doesn't require the poppers' maddening wait after the cast, before the retrieve. Best trick: Fish it along weeds parallel to shore to keep it in productive water through the entire retrieve. Reel about three feet, pause for a few seconds, then reel again.

- 8. THE LAZY IKE, made by Lazy Ike Corp., of Fort Dodge, Iowa, was developed by the Kautzky Sporting Goods Co. in the early forties. It's a "sharp" wiggler with an unusual capacity for working at any speed, became quickly popular with Minnesota trollers, especially for walleye, and spread from there. Most popular size and finish has been the 36-ounce red and white model shown, but similar models come in seven sizes and 12 finishes, plus a good-looking new line of nine metallic finishes. Two good tips: Always fish the Lazy Ikes with a metal snap between the line and lure, and try a worm or a plastic imitation on the rear hook to encourage slow strikers.
- 9. THE L & S MIRROLURES, made by the L & S Bait Co., of Bradley, Ill., were the first to use the reflective qualities of metallic materials inside clear plastic, and have been very popular, especially in their jointed-minnow models like the half-ounce, black-white-and-silver scale model shown. Their excellent built-in action imitates a live minnow with surprising realism; the slow-sinking plug can be adapted to many retrieving speeds simply by bending the diving lip—forward for a shallow, fast wiggle; back for a slower, deeper action. With the bottom barb taken off both hooks, the lure can be made to crawl along the bottom like a feeding minnow.
- 10. THE PIKIE MINNOW, made by The Creek Chub Bait Co., of Garrett, Indiana, is another old-timer; it was developed from a customer's suggestion fifty years ago. Its slow, wobbling action was designed for the big northern species—bass, pike, muskles and lake trout, and it holds the world record for largemouth bass and muskles. The 34-ounce straight-body floater, in the familiar "pikie" scale finish, leads the line, but the lure is also made in a dozen other sizes from 1/4 ounce to 4 ounces, and 17 finishes. Best tip: One nationally-famous muskle fisherman gets his big ones by trolling a jointed Pikie Minnow as fast and deep as possible—at night!
- 11. THE RIVER RUNT, made by James Heddon's Sons, Dowagiac, Michigan, was developed from the Heddon Vamp Spook, the first plastic lure. Basically a sinking fast wobbler, it also comes in nine other styles, including floating and deep-diving models, from 1/4 to 3/8 ounce, in eight finishes. The 3/8-ounce Midget River Runt is the most popular size; red and white, yellow, and the perch scale (shown) the most popular finishes. Best tip: Mass-produced lures (of any brand) vary a bit from lure to lure-in effective retrieving speed. Since the most violent wobble is most effective, Heddon recommends testing each lure's action to make sure you're retrieving at that speed.
- 12. THE SILVER MINNOW, made by Louis Johnson Company of Highland Park, III., was the source of the old story of the fisherman who made lures from his wife's teaspoons until she caught him at it and forced him to forge his own. The little spoon is probably the most weedless lure on the market, and the best hooker among guarded-hook models. The lure is made in six sizes, from 1/24 ounce to 1 1/8 ounce, and in nine finishes. By far the most popular is the 1/2 and 1/4-ounce silver-plated model. Best fished with a bass-sized pork rind strip, the Silver Minnow is becoming popular in the South with a four or six-inch plastic worm trailer, fished slow and deep.

