

"My Favourite Fishing Tackle" (P-4)



"My Favourite Tackle"

The Hooks, Accessories & Clothing.

In this piece, I'd like to cover the old and new advances in hooks, tools, accessories and clothing that have either endured many seasons of work, or are new and are like nothing else before them.

Obviously, it depends on your own situation as to what people you fish with and more importantly, the types of angling you enjoy that will impact on what you find useful or a hindrance.

When you get to fish with a broad cross section of people, it never ceases to amaze me what new ideas come from them that can have an impact on your own gear.

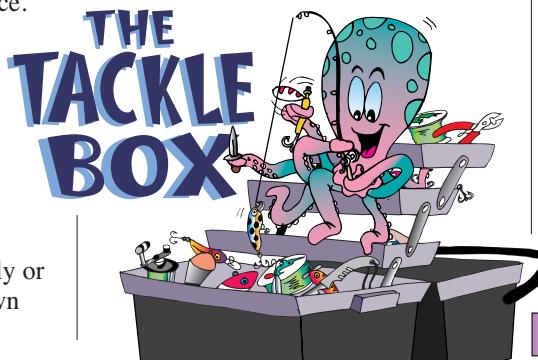
Having done a lot of extreme fishing, such as pegging massive poppers at the largest giant trevally or dropping foot-long metal jigs down amongst 40kg amberjacks, I have

found some of the latest hooks that have come from Japan to be brilliant. This is where we shall start.

It is obvious that with all types of recreational line fishing, hooks are going to be involved, so instead of running through the endless range of hooks that are available, I have picked out a few that have piqued my interest.

Decoy Hooks.

The range of hooks made by this Japanese company really has had an impact on my deep water jigging and popper tossing.



Some of the features of their jig hooks are the size and strength of them.

It was a problem finding a hook that was used for other purposes that would hack the heavy drag settings that I employ for stopping big AJ's. Gamakatsu with their Heavy Duty Live Bait was the best, though we found better.

Two of the notables are the Cutlass JS-2 Jigging Single and the Sergeant' N Jigging Single.

The Cutlass in 5/0, 6/0 and 7/0 is a brilliant short shank, large eye forged game hook designed for jigging.

Being short though stout, the hooks design tends to weigh less, which decreases the ability of the hook to dampen the lure's action.

The large eye allows the common single, head-rigged hook that most serious jigger's use to knot heavy dacron of 200lb, or braid up to 500lb without any problem.

With Aaron Concord

As with most Japanese hooks, it also comes with a smaller, micro barb and a chemically sharpened conical point, both which aid in penetration. The Cutlass jigging single is also non-kirbed; by that I mean the point has not been offset with a twist. It is in-line with the shank. This helps prevent the hook from fouling on the jig. They are made in sizes from #1 to 8/0.

The Sergeant' N has all of the attributes of the Cutlass, though its shape, most notably at the eye is quite radical. The eye is not perpendicular to the shank but rather, in line.

When one of these hooks is split-ringed to a lure, the hook point is in line with the lure and not sticking out at 90 degrees.

This bit of ingenuity means the hook doesn't destabilise the lure's action.

I have used it as a tail hook on metal jigs when wahoo or spanish mackerel are present. It also makes for a great change from trebles on most bibbed and bibless minnows around 16-22cm long, depending on the hook size. They come in sizes from 3/0 to 8/0.

For the surface popper fisherman, Decoy makes some of the largest trebles imaginable. To put the true size into perspective, most manufacturers will make up to a 4/0 or possibly a 5/0 treble. At these sizes, they fit poppers

around 150mm, or 6 inches long. What happens if the popper is larger? Simple. Pull out a Decoy 6.5/0, 8/0 or 10/0.

The GT Special in 8/0 and 10/0 are without a doubt the meanest, heavy tackle trebles available. These were designed for massive poppers and equally massive giant trevally.

The problem with trebles is their shape and design. The "more hook points the better" isn't necessarily true when running drag pressure of over 6 or 7 kilos. They get bent, twisted and contorted. The culprit is usually a hook too small for the job that gets crushed by powerful jaws or more so, a hook that hasn't penetrated fully. A hook that is only half way in is more easily straightened than one buried to the hilt.

However, with more points, you do have more chance of getting a proper hold at all. It is just a fact that most trebles are not built for the type of challenge we put to them.

Well I am glad to say that I have seen more than enough big trevally to around 40kg caught on these hooks on redlined tackle to vouch for their durability. Bearing in mind, other than a couple of prototype Gamakatsus a Japanese friend showed me, there is nothing available in this size and strength. .

You will probably pay around \$10 per hook, though considering your choices at present (none!) I think they are worth every cent.

Pakula

Tanaka Trolling Hooks.

I haven't had a chance to put these relatively new hooks to the test, though they are a solution for both light and heavy tackle game fishing.

These hooks are the result of a gap existing in quality, fine gauge trolling hooks.

The real inspiration comes from the Gamakatsu SL12S Trey Combs fly hook. These babies revolutionized light tackle trolling with skirted lures for sailfish and baby black marlin. This fine gauge, chemically sharpened hook is like a hypodermic needle. She finds a mark and goes straight in. The sole problem was their susceptibility to corrosion and electrolysis when trolling or if stored wet.

Well, Peter Pakula has taken the initiative and made a range of stainless steel hooks from 7/0 to 11/0 that can be used for tackle from 4kg to at least 37kg, and lures from 6 inches up to around 14 inches.

They have conical points. They are forged for strength and have also been



The author with a baby Barra. Note the usual Columbia Bahama shirt and Aruba pants. The sunnies are Maui Jim Typhoons in Tortoise frame/Maui Rose glass lenses.