

DO-IT-YOURSELF (DIY) LURES !



There wouldn't be a fisherman worth his or her salt who hasn't felt the frustration - and expense - of losing one lure after another on those days when the fish, or the trees, or the snags seem to win. John & Samantha Yates decided to beat the high cost of their lure losses by making their own. In this special report, they share with us the secrets in making 'pro' lures . . . that really work !

Fishing with popper or blooper style lures is an exciting form of fishing. These lures are designed to skip and bubble their way across the top of the water in imitation of an injured baitfish. As all the action is on the surface, it is great seeing one of these lures being crashed by a hungry predator. In the north of Australia this style of lure is a particularly effective way of catching such great sportfish as trevally, queenfish and coral trout. I can tell you that a fair share of barra and mackerel have been brought undone on these lures as well. Usually lures such as these are used around rocky headlands, or in areas with plenty of shallow bommies. Now, combine these types of location with the calibre

of fish we're talking about, and it is not hard to imagine that lure attrition rates can be pretty steep. When you have had three lures go 'west' after being wrapped around coral outcrops by GT's in the space of 3 casts, things can start to get VERY expensive! Especially as nearly all lures of this style cost around the \$15.00 - \$18.00 mark in most tackle stores. Now, while I was losing the equivalent of two cartons of Vic Bitter in 3 minutes recently, my mate Michael Wyatt was tying on lures he had made out of an old broom handle. Sure he got "done" too, but at what cost? To make matters worse, these cheapo lures of his were getting just as many, if not more hits, than my fancy shop bought jobs! But Mick's a good bloke, and feeling sorry for his

mate (and doubtless concerned about his on-going supply of VB!) one day he sat down and told me the secrets of making these most effective lures. That was quite some time ago, and since then, I have made quite a few of my own. In practice, I have found that these homemade lures work just as good as the best shop bought models, and a darn sight better than most of the remainder. Over time, Michael and I have tizzed our lures up a bit, but the basic design and construction remains the same. Some whopping big fish have been landed on these homemade lures without once having had one fail. Mind you, a few get fairly badly chewed up. Homemade poppers and bloopers can be made at a fraction of the

cost of shop bought models, and it is not hard to do. The poppers are made in 3 sizes - small, medium and large, basically so as to have a lure to match the size of the quarry. The blooper on the other hand, is only made in one size, as it seems to produce the best action. The actual dimensions and appropriate hook sizes can be found in a box hereabouts. So as to keep things simple, all the lures can be made from broom or rake handles that can be purchased in the given diameters from hardware or general stores just about anywhere.

POPPERS

SMALL -
Length 70 mm.
Diameter 19 mm.
Hook 1 x No. 2 treble.

MEDIUM -
Length 110 mm.
Diameter 22 mm.
Hooks 2 x 1/0 trebles.

LARGE -
Length 140 mm.
Diameter 25 mm.
Hooks 2 x 3/0 trebles.

BLOOPER

Length 100 mm.
Diameter 25 mm.
Hooks 2 x 1/0 trebles.

Lures made as described cost around the \$2.00 mark. Besides being cheap and effective there is also the increased satisfaction of capturing fish on something you have made yourself.

In addition to casting either from a boat or shore, try trolling the poppers. You may be surprised at the fish that fall to one or two fizzing away behind the boat. Hav'a'go! Besides how can you mow the lawn when the rake has suddenly gone missing!

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