

Installing new line not so difficult if you know how



Installing new line on spinning or spin-casting equipment is easy, if done correctly. 1. Remove front-cover and tie new line on to reel spool. Make sure you run the line through the line guide in the front cover! 2. Make a trial turn or two of the handle and watch the pick-up head on the reel and the direction the line is coming off the spool. They should both be working in the same direction. This eliminates twist. 3. Put front cover back on reel and start turning. Many persons prefer to actually mount the reel on the rod and run the line through the guides when installing line. The tension through guides, thumb and forefinger helps a bit to seat the new line. Should the line get twisted from lure action or some other reason, play it out behind the boat and rewind. It will straighten it out.

Fishing afoot can be better than fishing afloat

By HOMER CIRCLE
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Not everyone can afford to blow several thousand dollars on a boat, motor and a flock of electronic gadgets just to outsmart a passel o' fish. Not everyone needs to, especially if you're a wader.

Fishing afoot, in a comfortable pair of waders or hippers, has a number of advantages over fishing from a boat, as a matter of fact.

Like: You can enjoy the vigor of early morning fishing forays along streams too small for boats.

Also, because of a low profile, you can approach bigger fish afoot by using stealth and watching for movements of feeding whoppers. It's mighty difficult to approach an old mossback in a boat and not give out some kind of telltale vibrations.

And it's versatile! While wading, I fly-rod for bluegills and trout; bait cast for bass, walleyes, pike, crappies, white bass and catfish; also spin fish for inshore saltwater species as well as lake trout, salmon and muskies in some of the faraway places I go for my articles.

You can learn to compact your tackle for easy toting. Telescoping rods now have excellent actions and can be carried easily through brush. Lures can be put in plastic boxes and carried in a rucksack. Ditch tools, insecticides, sun-burn lotion, etc.

Obviously, if you're going to try fishing afoot for the first time, one of your first purchases will be a pair of hip boots or waders, and I have a suggestion about that. Invest in some good waders instead of hip boots, because you can easily step into deep holes and you're suddenly very wet and miserable.

Look for Thermo-Ply insulated waders, so you can fish comfortably in the icy waters of early spring and late fall. If you get a pair with Royal Red Ball Tuff-Guard tops, they are virtually indestructible.

Over the years, I've learned the wisdom of buying good equipment that lasts and lasts.



Think small — catch big



Ultra-light. The challenge. The cast. The catch. It's different on "baby tackle" and for the advocates of ultra-light angling, "think small" means equipment, not the catch. Bass, bluegill, carp or catfish. Size is relative: the small fish get bigger and the bigger ones become monsters when taken on ultra-light tackle. The chase is greater than the kill and the catching is greater than the keeping. Ultra-light makes it all more fun . . . and productive. Light line, small reel, short and sensitive rods, baby baits or lure. It's the winning combination for more fun per pound. Think small. Ultra-light is more fun. And more productive.

For a lot of anglers, installing new line has been one of the biggest bugaboos of their fishing lives, but taken a step at a time it can be a short and work-well exercise in keeping equipment tuned up.

With a casting or fly reel, installing new line has never been much of a problem: put a pencil through the line spool, tie on to the reel and start cranking. When it's full, quit.

Not so, sez many, when it comes to spinning and spin-casting equipment. They might have thought they did it right back home or in the fishing lodge, but the first 10 casts will disprove that when brand new shiny line starts coming off in Shirley Temple-like curls.

The folks at Zebco have long answered letters and given detailed instructions on proper line installation, but they haven't heard from everybody. So read for a bit and study the pictures. It will make an arduous task easier and equipment function easier.

There's only one real trick to installing line on a non-revolving spool — spin-cast or spinning. Make sure — double sure — that the line is coming off the spool in the same direction the pick-up head or bail is moving. That's all there really is to it.

If the pick-up head is moving clockwise, the line needs to come off the spool in the same direction. Don't worry about clockwise and all that sort of thing. Just make sure everything is turning in the same direction.

And while we're on the subject of new line, let's answer the question before it's asked: you should install new line whenever the old line is bad. It's the cheapest fish catching insurance there is.

When is old line worn out? When it's frayed by rocks, logs or from fishing in muddy, sandy water. When it starts coiling and gets stiff is another signal for a line change.

The best advice is to change it more often than you think you need to. A lot of fishermen change line every year even though many don't think they need to. Better anglers change line after every fishing trip. Somewhere in between is the answer, although the pros feel every day should be the time.

To repeat a statement: new line is the cheapest fish catching insurance there is. If it's put on correctly.

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