

A good way to catch your very first fish at Ellingham Lake!



Secretary Dave Gladwell says:

YOUR HOOK IS THE VITAL PART!

- a size 12 or size 14 is ideal and that is about this big.

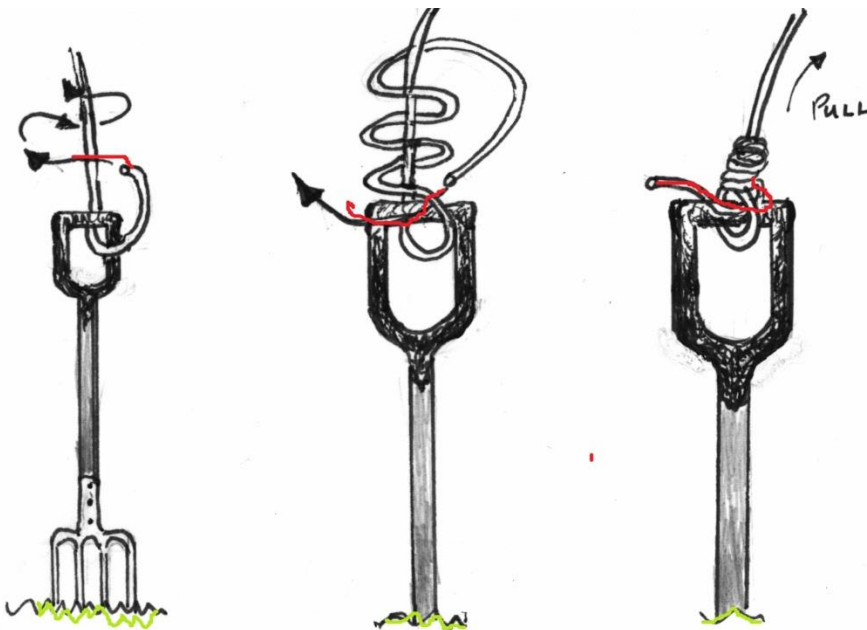
With an eye on the end – called “An Eyed Hook”.

Without a barb – says **BARBLESS** on packet.

IT does not get firmly stuck in your clothes or flesh because it is VERY **easily** removable!

You can buy them ready tied in a Packet with a loop. Then you need to loop to loop on the main line to join them, but this is much cheaper and does not tangle getting them out the packet!

A MAGNIFIED GOOD WAY HOW TO ATTACH THE HOOK TO YOUR LINE



Try it large with a washing line for getting to know the system, how it twists round, and then use the method once you understand how the knot is done with a fairly large hook and thin line, coming down gradually when proficient, to the 12 or size 14.

Mum's and Granny's are particular good recruits for this exercise as they are used to threading needles!

So what strength and sort of line should we use? Well fairly strong – this type about 6 lbs 12 ozs (0.17)



but these two will be fine in our wonderful Lay-by Pit where the fish are not so many and harder to catch even for the skilful angler!

Very thin for the breaking strain! on a short pole or whip by tying a loop on the end.

Now why not try and Make some floats for free?



Hold the quill in your left hand, thick bit top the top, take the feathering in your right hand finger and thumb and draw down to slowly and firmly remove the feathering. Trim off the thin end, and then insert a pin to give it a little strength where the bottom float cap will go on. Some anglers straighten an eyed hook and insert it in the bottom to make a little ring there (as above). Thread two floats caps on to the line ready to hold your float in place. **Good Ellingham Tip:** Black the tip with a felt tip pen to see it easily on the reflection of the open sky.

Not too much showing out of the water!

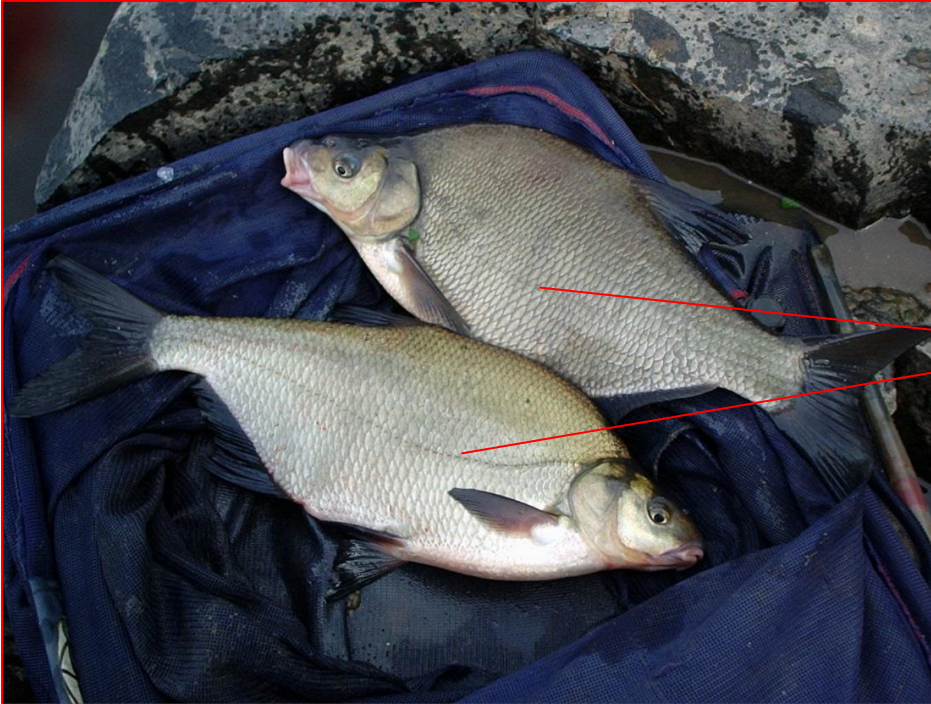
Why – well if I stood on two feet before you it would take two hands to push me over even though I am old and grey! – If I was on one foot it would take very much less, with maybe one hand. IF I was standing on tip toe on one foot – you could push me over with a finger-tip prod. It is about “Balance” The fish when sucking in your bait needs to feel next to no resistance either. So, the less of the tip showing requires less suck to draw it down – and gives the most sensitivity for the bite and so the least resistance. Get it down to half an inch for a small float and small bait – and in deeper water or with a bigger bait, for the big swan quill with lots of shot, an inch is plenty.

You will be **casting** out with a gentle underarm swing. Rather like a pendulum, cunning and slow, laying the tackle on the water. Try a few first to get the measure of it with pole or whip in your right hand. Not tucked under your arm pit, but laid beneath the wrist to elbow (along the underside of the fore arm. We are attempting to make it a natural extension to your arm. Building up the muscle control, and strengthening the fingers and wrist – none of this worm on one end and a fool on the other some people think because the next part is very important too.

Moving on: – the mouthing or sucking in of the bait is the crucial issue – If I gave you a sandwich on the end of a washing line tied to a house brick you would feel the weight of the brick. Even shall I say, if you were an exceptionally stupid child. If it was a piece of string with a small pebble and little bit of bun much less would be noticed or felt. You could still be cautious though. Now, if it was a piece of cotton, a tiny button and a jelly baby it would be hardly noticeable at all. Scale that all down for your end tackle with a grain of sweetcorn. The best balanced result = a confident greedy gobble without care and caution thrown to the wind - gobble, gobble and a confident bite pulling the float under. Then gently, but firmly “STRIKE!” the rod upwards, and see it bend as the fish bucks and burrows towards the middle or weeds and your pole bends and maybe the elastic stretches out! It becomes just like a man trying to run away whilst I have hold of his braces. We are looking to slowly tire out our fish, playing it and not tearing the hook out by just tugging away. For this dear Friends – is indeed the “Skilful Art” and a pleasure of it for the Adept Angler!

What's all this fuss about not making a lot of noise then?

Well, unbeknown to many adults the fish whilst having nostrils, mouth and eyes, like us; it does not have ears on its head. Instead, it absorbs all that is going on around it from the line of tiny scales running horizontally along its body called **the lateral line**. Just like your Sky dish or the wireless Wi-Fi it picks up all the indications giving you an image. What is going on around it! So the little blighter who yowls and stamps his feet, fidgets about and probably has never done what he's told during his entire lifetime – can be a big handicap. Fish are wild creatures and alarmed by all sorts of things that soon put them off feeding. You . . . are to become the "Hunter" – man's oldest pursuit – a skilful artiste - but angling suits the female of the species just as well.



**Try and
"Think like a Fish"**
is the best advice
I can give you.

Here is the **"LATERAL"** line on a couple of nice two or three lbs Lay-By Bream – but it is the same in all species if you look carefully.

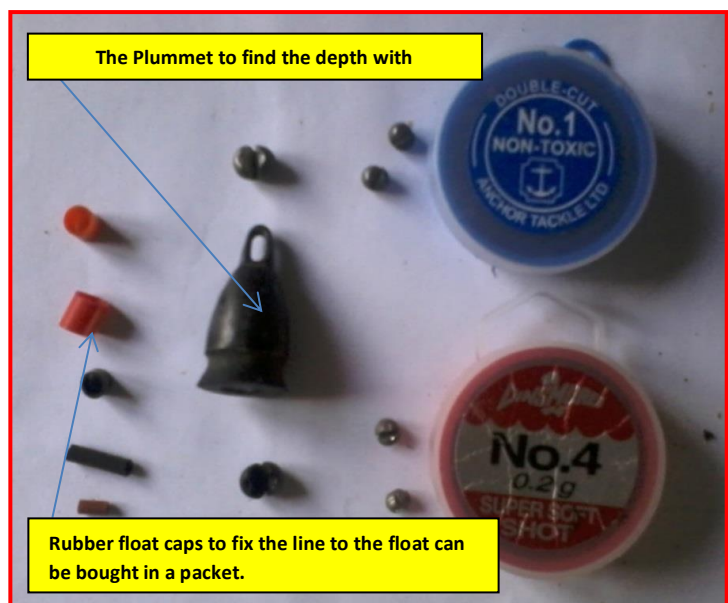
A Short 3 or 4-metre telescopic whip - (Can be adapted to a "Pole" with elastic running through.)

Check this out for costs of only £4 - £5 bargains on sale through the helpful local Tackle Shops or on the Net . . . www.anglingdirect.co.uk/store/sensas-classic-telewhip

Making the float stand up straight in the water – "cocking" it – with split shot.

The line fits into the little grooves cut in – the splits – hence our name "Split Shot". They come in various sizes and you can buy a box of a complete range, but just a couple will do you to start off with. At First the float lays flat on the surface and gradually the amount of shot you add to the line makes it stand upright in the water. If it goes under on its own then there are too many. Then a few more small ones and it lowers the tip to sit in the water just right.

HOW DEEP IS THE WATER? You really need to know this, not just in case you fall in, but because most fish feed fairly near to or on the bottom. Once set up, pass the hook through the ring on the plummet and fix it into the cork on the bottom. Gently lower it into the water to the bottom. By sliding the float carefully up or down the line



you will find the depth. Most things with fishing are best done slowly and carefully – no rush! Start close in at fairly shallow or still out of the way places near rushes or the corners of our lakes. Just out from the edge! Whoop . . . what was that squeaky noise and flash of blue? “Kingfisher” we exclaim – one of the pleasures that catch the eye of good Club members who appreciate the surroundings and leaving no litter behind or bits of line to entangle tiny feet. This small rudd – and fine Bungay Common, Chub, need careful delicate handling for it is our sport for tomorrow!



WHAT ABOUT THE BAIT THEN? Worms are a wonderful bait no matter what their size, whether used whole or in pieces. Little cartons are available to buy but the garden compost heap can provide some nice stripy or red ones. There is not a River or Lake species that will not eat a worm, striped Perch in particular! Next on the list is the maggot, and you do not need a lot. Keep the top on the box and like worms, out of the sun. Only just lightly nick then through the skin so they still wriggle. For those who do not like wriggling live messy things sweetcorn, and the supermarket white sliced loaf is great. Just pinch little bits as round as a pencil end lightly on the line just above the hook. Or dry a couple of slices for a day or two and knead into a softish paste. It always helps to give the Fish a few free samples to encourage and attract them. Rather like throwing a handful of sweets into the school playground?

AND A LAST NOTE ON FISHING IN GENERAL . . . Angling can provide us with a healthy outdoor activity away from noise and all the trials of everyday life if we let it. We can learn important lessons in the way we try to live our lives. It teaches us how to deal with disappointment and disaster, and can turn us into great optimists or we would never venture forth to catch fish. The successful angler is a great strategist and a constructor of effective plans. We have innovation and imagination with the baits we invent or mix and the small pieces of equipment we lovingly create or constantly adjust and modify. There is a delicacy of touch and an artistry we cultivate in the strongest and most manual of horny hands, plus an eye for detail and a mind for simple logic? Nearly everyone who fishes appreciates the wonderful scenery and sights of nature we come upon, subsequently developing a sincere care for the environment. Our pleasant times when we have a few hours out with the tackle, leave us much as humans were hundreds of years ago. Stress and pressure to conform to the *norm* was not so important. No credit cards or computers confusing the world? We make time to respect people as human beings, with values in life more caring and less rotated around wealth, personal gain or material success? Go fishing at dawn and it is like time has stood still, for it stands serene and un-spoilt. As we angle we have the time for our minds to rinse away and forget for a while all these abhorrent pressures. Our very own laundry of the mind is a vehicle to preserve some sanity within it. In this “escape” we come to briefly invest in our own well-being for a better life style and state of mind. Relaxation and happiness can reflect through a whole family environment and our views on the shaping of the world’s ecological future – **and fix your Landing Net up first** – be optimistic! ***Dave Gladwell***