



himself, our very own priceless nougat, Rick 'Solid' Golder.

After having the privilege of being one of the first to get to experiment with the Tripwire hooklink material, I was delighted when I got the call from Gardner again, this time to try out a new pattern of hook. At the time I was already well into my summer campaign on the syndicate lake which had yielded good results for me, using both the hinged stiff rig and the chod. On this water the success of these rigs had resulted in a high percentage of the lake's

bigger residents, including a new personal best. To be honest, I can't fully explain why this had happened but it didn't take me long to realise that this method was worth pursuing.

As soon as I saw them, I knew that these hooks were going to be a winner. The pattern was impressive with a straight point but an out-turned eye at an aggressive angle and a good solid wire which seemed able to take the pressure. Just the job for the type of angling I do. I left Gardner with about a dozen of the sample hooks in a clear plastic wallet and couldn't wait to try them out. I not only knew the perfect venue at which to test them, but also the perfect spot too.

I had been fishing more or less the same area of the lake for some time and with regular baiting the spots were becoming bigger, better and more

consistent. The swim itself had a considerable area of snaggy margin to its right hand side which permanently held big Carp all year round – a perfect safe haven due to an extensive mass of underwater branches which was totally impossible to fish safely. However, whilst the predominant area of snags was further along the bank, the main entrance did not hold the same risks and a short five foot underarm cast, several feet away from the branches, coupled with a battle plan, meant that I had not suffered a single loss.

"The plan, in a nut shell, involved me piling on the side strain, sinking the rod top until the tip hit the lake bed, keeping the mainline clear of the offending branches and not giving an inch. After the initial few seconds the fish always seemed to change their agenda and head out for the main part of the lake. But even at that point it was still far from over as at that time of year the lake was top to bottom with huge weed beds that always seemed to totally engulf the fish resulting in everything coming to a complete halt and the inevitable boat bound recovery."

As you can imagine, strong tackle was the order of the day and I was always kitted out with 15lb (6.8kg) Green GR60 and some other test samples of 25lb (11.3kg) green Sink Skin. I had also learned the value of lead discharging

A little while ago, field testing of the new D-Ception Hooks was commencing and although provisional tests were giving good results, we needed to be sure the hooks would stand up to all the rigours of big fish angling and perform equally well in tougher, trickier conditions. The hook itself, specifically designed for pop-up style fishing, is particularly aimed at today's modern pop-up rigs, especially stiff rigs and the successful 'chod' rig. For this kind of trial we had the perfect person; someone who has been an integral part of Gardner's testing and development team for a number of years and an acknowledged specialist in stiff and chod rig methods, Mr Gold Dust



setups, which again made a vast difference during the fight. Once the lead had gone the fish always seemed to come up in the water and I often landed fish from the bank that, had the lead been on, would have quickly become entangled in the green stuff.

I had this specific spot in mind for the hooks test and one late September day found myself kitted up with the new D-ceptor Hook on in a size 6. I was using this 'D-rig style' with a large 20mm pop-up tied on. This sat perfectly with the hook standing proud but nicely hidden beneath the large bait. I prepared a rig and, after tying a light 1.5oz (40g) lead on with 4lb (1.8kg) mono to act as a breakaway, I sat back with a rising feeling of anticipation. This excitement and expectation increased when I walked down the bank and peered into the twisted canopy of branches – within a few seconds I could clearly see a number of the lake's 'A-Team' happily cruising in and out of the snags, only a short distance from

where my hookbait would soon be stealthily positioned. It wasn't easy but I managed to resist the urge to introduce any bait, knowing the fish were already in residence and not wanting to spook them, so I just sat there, right on my rods, buzzing with exhilaration, willing one to burst into life.

Not all went quite to plan, though, it must be said, as it was a full 24 hours later when the margin rod bleeped twice and the bobbin held at the top as the fish pulled at the locked up bait runner. I was up and on it, immediately plunging the tip down and feeling it crunch into the gravel in the margin as the rod wrenched round in full battle curve and I piled on the side strain. This type of fishing really tests out your tackle (and your bottle!) and I never gave an inch until the fish shot out above the weed, heading for

the dense weed. The lead was off and several tense moments followed – even more so as I got a glimpse of the fish, which I knew was big – until I finally pulled it over the net and let out the victory cry. I pulled off the weed to see a torpedo-shaped beast that had set the tackle a severe examination. The hook was in the centre of the bottom lip, totally unaffected by the lengthy battle. The fish weighed 37.10lbs (16.8kg) and to my knowledge was the very first big fish caught on a D-Cceptor Hook. It certainly won't be the last!

Be lucky!

Rick's Perch Rig...



Pass the Tripwire through the hook's eye, and then tie the D-Cceptor on using a whipping style knot like a Dornhoff knot or a simple knotless knot.



Instead of forming a conventional hair rig, now put a rig ring on the excess hook link – as shown.



Create the 'D' by passing the tag back through the hook eye as shown.



Using a lighter, carefully burn the Tripwire so that it melts. This forms a blob of melted material that holds the D neatly in position. Be careful not to burn the hook link or the knot as this will severely damage it.



Tie your chosen hook bait onto the rig ring or use a bait band to pull through for convenient and quick bait attachment. D rigs work well with both pop-up and bottom bait rigs.