

The book cover features a scenic landscape with a river, trees, and a yellow splash at the bottom. The title is prominently displayed in the upper half, with 'TARCOET' in large, stylized letters and 'SPECIMEN RANGE' below it. The word 'HANDBOOK' is at the bottom in a bold, blocky font. A target symbol is centered over the 'O' in 'TARCOET'.

GARDNER

TARCOET

SPECIMEN RANGE

HANDBOOK



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TARGET

After the success of Gardner Tackle's carp focused Covert range of terminal tackle, we have utilised the expansive knowledge of our in-house expert specimen anglers, to develop a range of refined terminal tackle tailored especially to fulfil the needs of the specialist angler.

Whether you're setting out to target hard fighting barbel, tench, bream and eels or roach, rudd and crucian carp there will certainly be products within the Target range that will prove beneficial in your quest to capture the fish of your dreams.

Just as carp angling techniques and terminal tackle have evolved during the last decade, specimen anglers have, on occasion, utilised and refined the rigs and techniques that originated in the carp scene to great effect.

For instance bolt rigging for species such as crucian carp and rudd would have been largely unheard of a few years ago, but are now widely used and accepted methods that allow anglers to fish far more effectively than ever before.

Due to their roots, many items within the range are also suitable for use by carpers too, as there has not been any compromise made in terms of the tackle's robustness or performance. If you're angling for pressured fish and you want to keep the components of your rig as small and inconspicuous as possible it will definitely be worth taking a look at the range.

In this Target Specimen Handbook we aim to highlight the new range and impart insights into some of the ultra effective methods used and the tackle being employed to catch specimen fish.



TARGET

THE TARGET TERMINAL RANGE

Within all angling disciplines there is a definitive balance between using tackle that is capable of handling the fish being targeted and the need to maintain a level of finesse. Making sure that the fish are unaware of the tackle's presence means they are more likely to make that one crucial error – when they inhale the hook bait and offer a hittable registration...

This principle is well understood and always worth bearing in mind. Most of us will recognise that fishing delicate bait such as maggots on an unwieldy large hook will tend to lead to fewer bites as the bulk and weight of the hook causes the bait to behave so unnaturally that our piscine quarry knows that something is not right and will steer well clear.

A natural progression of this formula is the refinement and camouflage of key terminal items such as swivels, lead clips and buffer beads. After all, why would you use a large bulky component that stands out and looks unnatural when you do not need to?

The 'natural' green and brown colours in the Target terminal range are designed to blend in with most aquatic environments – with the green version being ideal for casting amongst silkweed or pond weeds, whilst the brown is for general use in areas free from weed and where the lake or riverbed is relatively clean.

Target Lead Clip Terminal Pack

Available as a handy pack containing all the components you need, the Target Lead Clip has been developed for use with size 12 Swivels (just pull in until the swivel clicks into place). They feature ribs on both the lead retaining arm and

rear barrel which means you can decide whether or not you want to dump the weight. After all it is not often necessary to loose the weight on the bite but it is also important that should the lead become wedged in a branch or thick weed it will still discharge the lead correctly.

- Target Lead Clip Terminal Packs are available in Natural Green and Natural Brown.

- Each pack includes 5 x Mini Lead Clips / dedicated Tail Rubbers / Size 12 Rig Swivels.



Target Kwik Lok Terminal Pack

At first sight the Kwik Lok Terminal Pack looks a little uninspiring! But take a closer look at the design and you will see that the XL Buffer Bead has been extended so that when it is used with a size 12 Kwik Lok Swivel there is no longer any need to use additional sleeves or tubing to retain the hooklink safely in position. It is so simple and yet so effective that we cannot fathom why it hasn't always been done like this!



- Target Kwik Lok Terminal Packs are available in Natural Green and Natural Brown.

- Each pack includes 5 x XL Buffer Beads / Size 12 Kwik Lok Swivels.

Target Buffer Beads Terminal Pack



These simple but efficient Swivel and dedicated Buffer Bead packs have a multitude of uses - though their primary use will inevitably be as part of a simple running rig, making them perfect for the river specialist or anglers targeting species that require minimal resistance when they have picked up the hook bait.

- Target Kwik Lok Terminal Packs are available in Natural Green and Natural Brown.

- Each pack includes 5 x Buffer Beads / Size 12 Rig Swivels.

*** All the components listed in these packs are also available as individual products.**

In addition to these packs and products there are a number of other key items available in the Target terminal range that have been included because they are either generic 'essentials' or serve a specific purpose in terms of their weight, size, performance and their use in certain rig applications.

Target Rig Swivels

All of our swivels are finished with Gardner Tackle's acclaimed low glare mat Covert finish which dramatically reduces the glint that can make other components stand out like a sore thumb!

Available in sizes 12 and 20, the Rig Swivels rotate smoothly and have been sourced to offer consistent strength and reliability.

Use the size 12 Swivel with the Target Lead Clips and Buffer Beads or the size 20 Swivel for those delicate presentations that may be adversely effected by a heavier swivel – i.e. helicopter rigs for rudd and roach. With very light hook baits these rigs may be prone to tangling with a larger/heavier swivel.



Target Kwik Lok Swivels

Finished with Gardner Tackle's Covert finish, these Kwik Lok Swivels are available in two sizes (12 and 20) and are a great option for allowing you to quickly change hooklinks or when you want to thread a PVA stick down the hooklink to mask the hook from debris.

The size 20 is a great size for use with scaled down helicopter style rigs for roach, rudd and tench, whilst the size 12 fits perfectly in our Lead Clip and is ideal for harder fighting, larger species like barbel and carp.



It is important that the crook of the Kwik Lok is sheathed with a Target Anti Tangle Sleeve. The addition of this sleeve not only retains the hooklink firmly in place but also helps kick the hooklink away from the lead, improving presentation and avoiding tangles.

Target Anti Tangle Sleeves

Carefully sized to work with both the size 12 and 20 Swivels and Kwik Lok Swivels in the range, these sleeves can be added to many styles of rigs, to make them more streamlined and reduce tangles therefore helping to maintain good presentation.

Target Anti Tangle Sleeves are available in Natural Green and Natural Brown.



Target Line Stops

These Line Stops grip the line firmly and are a great alternative to stop knots.

They are ideal for use as float stops, controlling the position of a delicate helicopter rig above a feeder or to use as a back stop for bolt style rigs or even on running paternosters, whilst fishing with small live baits for perch or zander.



Another use for them is in conjunction with the tapered bore 'Covert Safety Bead'. The medium sized

Target Line Stop acts as an excellent stop whilst still letting the bead pull over and away from the stop in the event of a breakage, allowing the rig to separate from the line. A system that is much safer for the fish.

Target Line Stops are available in three sizes:

- Small - 1.5mm diameter x 6mm long**
- Medium - 2mm diameter x 6.5mm long**
- Large - 2.5mm diameter x 7.5mm long**

Target Line Stops are black in colour and each tab has 15 stops set on wire loops ready to go.

HOOK CHOICE

All Gardner Tackle hooks are manufactured to exacting standards and feature a super sharp chemically etched point. They are formed from forged high carbon steel that has itself been subject to a unique tempering process that makes it extra strong, whichever gauge wire is used.

There is a broad variety of patterns available in the Gardner range, including the famous Mugga pattern, the Incizors (a great all-rounder), Wide Gape and the original Talon Tips, Chod Hooks and Longshank Mugga Hooks – so whatever species your targeting we probably have a pattern to suit.

Some of them are already extremely popular with specimen hunters (they're not just good for carp!) and have a proven track record. For instance our own resident superstar, Alan Stagg, loves using Wide Gape Talon Tips for his perchings; whilst for eels he prefers Incizors and he's had a load of barbel on the Mugga Hooks!

The point being, specimen anglers have always been well catered for within the range – the missing link was a pattern that incorporated the smaller sizes. Enter the Target Specimen Hook...

Target Specimen Hooks

With the diverse assortment of species and venues we visit one hook pattern will never cover everything, but this one comes pretty close!

The 'Target Specimen Hook' pattern is based on our hugely successful Wide Gape Talon Tip Hook, and has tried and tested mechanics that ensures this hook punches way above its size and weight.

The combination of a sharp beaked point and in-turned eye guarantees excellent penetration. That along with the strong forged and tempered high carbon steel gives the hook the strength to cope with big fish – even in the diminutive sizes 14 and 16.



Without doubt beaked point hooks naturally offer good hook holds as the in-turned point helps to hold position and grip firmly (a great benefit if your water has a barbell only rule).

Beaked points also tend to stay sharper for longer. Especially when fished over gravel, a common scenario when you are dropping hook baits on to baited gravel runs on rivers or casting on to clean gravel spots whilst tench fishing.

The new Target Specimen Hook is available in sizes 10 to 16 (barbed and barbless) and features Gardner Tackle's exclusive Covert finish which offers excellent camouflage and reduces glint on bright days when fishing in clear water.

Point Doctor

Here's a little gadget that every tackle box should contain... the Gardner Point Doctor. It is an idiot proof tool that has been developed to improve hook points, making them sticky sharp and ready for action!

Made from a unique abrasive rubber compound, it is forgiving and avoids applying too much pressure to the hook. Each stroke of the Point Doctor gently removes a fine layer of the hook's plated or coated finish, helping to improve and enhance the hook point.

A sharper hook will turn more pick-ups into fish on the bank because a sharper point also ensures the hook will penetrate further and easier! This is the perfect tool for improving points that are 'nearly' sticky sharp.



HOOK LENGTHS

Target Speciskins

It's not at all surprising that skinned hooklinks are so popular! They offer many of the benefits of braided hooklinks with the benefit of less tangles. With the introduction of the new ultra fine Speciskin range, specimen anglers now have a finer, more subtle option. For use in scaled down rigs that have been successfully developed from methods that originated within the carp scene.

The coating on Speciskins have been engineered to be easy to strip and knot. The core braids are super fine and supple, and can be threaded through most hook eyes without any problems. The 10lb rating is minimum knot strength, and by using a well-tied grinner or figure of 8 loop knot can be exceeded in practice.

With four colours available; Silt (black), Gravel (brown), Weed (green) and Camo (dark green) there is a version that will blend in superbly with almost any lake or riverbed.

Fluorocarbon

Once upon a time Fluorocarbon (as many old timers will testify) was tarred with a reputation for poor knot strength. An issue that was addressed many years ago and the reality is now that 100% PVDF Fluorocarbon lines, whether they are being used as mainlines or hooklinks, offer the angler tangible benefits in terms of mainline and rig concealment.



Here at Gardner Tackle we sell some of the best Fluorocarbon products money can buy; namely our long standing Subterfuge hooklinks and Mirage. These mainlines and hooklinks have now been supplemented with the introduction of the new Target Specimen Fluorocarbon that is available in four breaking strains supplied on 25m spools for a modest £4.99.



Like all Gardner lines they have been rated at knot strength and range from the ultra fine 3lb (0.17mm) version up to the steely 10lb (0.28mm). Whether you are feeder fishing for big roach and rudd, targeting crafty chevin or tackling big barbel amongst beds of tough ranunculus, there will be a Fluorocarbon in the range that will suit your angling perfectly.

Pure Fluorocarbon is a unique material and normal Grinner and Palomar knots don't offer the best knot strength. Surprisingly, we recommend a three to four turn tucked blood knot - whereas we certainly wouldn't suggest you use blood knots for copolymer or braided lines.

Fluorocarbon is faster sinking, practically invisible and due to its molecular density, it is extremely good in terms of sheer resistance. So should have a rightful place in all specialist anglers' tackle boxes.

Braided Hooklinks

Uncoated braids seem to have been forgotten by many anglers since the introduction of skinned hooklinks, but why?

Uncoated braids offer unsurpassed limpness that gives the hook bait the freedom of movement that can fool fish into taking the hook bait more confidently. The supple nature of these materials also enhances the mechanics of many rigs as the critical hooking potential of the rig is not inhibited in any way... and the addition of a little PVA parcel of freebies pretty much stops tangles anyway!

The perfect hooklink braid should sink flush to the lake bed, be extremely smooth and ultra-limp, have a low diameter and be nicely camouflaged against a number of lake beds. Thanks to the specific braiding process using Dyneema and coloured high density fibres, Trickster Heavy achieves a remarkable balance for all of these essential attributes.

Trickster Heavy is currently available on 20m spools as 15lb, 20lb and 25lb in Camo-Green, Camo-Brown and Camo-Silt. Keep an eye open for a lovely 10lb version that we are working on at present.





HELICOPTER RIGS for Roach & Rudd

Alan Stagg

Targeting roach and rudd lends itself to two very different methods; the float and the feeder. The float is the more traditional approach of the two and wading out in the shallow margins, spraying maggots, can lead to some good fun fishing. When the wind strengthens, things can become difficult on open water venues, making presentation and accurate feeding challenging to say the least! In these conditions the feeder can come into its own. Short hook lengths fished helicopter style with maggots take some beating, allowing us to fish in tough conditions or when fish are showing out of the range of float fishing techniques.

The rig is very simple to construct and comprises of a short 3 – 4 inch hook length of 3lb Gardner Target Fluorocarbon tied to a small size 20 Target Swivel. I favour short Fluorocarbon hook lengths as they are slightly stiffer which helps to reduce tangles, especially when they've been left to straighten out on a rig board for a few hours. Threading a Target Anti Tangle Sleeve on to the hook length to help create a boom, which kicks out the hook length away from the mainline also helps to reduce tangles.

I vary the distance that the hook length is set above the feeder to gauge the reaction of how the fish are feeding on the day. I start with it sitting around 6 – 7 inches above the feeder and adjust it throughout the session until I find out how the fish want the hook bait presented. When they are feeding hard the hooklink is positioned nearer to the feeder.

I only leave the smallest of gaps between the Target Line Stops that hold the swivel in place, leaving just enough space to allow the swivel to turn and flex on the mainline. Too much of a gap can mean the swivel can move too freely, reducing the hooking properties of the rig.

For rudd I like to sandwich a small sliver of 6mm Gardner Pop-Up Foam between two maggots to help pop the hook bait up the length of the hook. This puts the hook bait right in front of the rudd and due to their mouth shape, allows them to take a bait suspended up off the bottom far easier.



STEP 1



Tie a short 3 - 4 inch hook length of 3lb Target Fluorocarbon. Thread a Target Anti Tangle Sleeve down the hook length and tie the fluorocarbon to a size 20 swivel.

STEP 2



Thread a medium sized Target Line Stop on to the mainline.

STEP 3



Follow this by the hook length.

STEP 4



Thread a second medium Target Line Stop and sandwich it against the swivel. Leave just enough gap to allow the swivel to rotate in flight.

STEP 5



The finished rig.





THE T-RIG

Tony King

My angling ethos revolves around keeping things simple, so I tend to stick with tried and tested tackle and components, which I know will not let me down. That way I can concentrate on the things that count, these being watercraft and location.

When it comes to tench fishing on the gravel pits that I regularly visit, I find that a strong durable mainline is essential. It is beneficial with regular recasting of heavy feeders and playing fish through thick weed. As such, I load my reels with 12lb GT80+. It's strong old rope but at least when I'm using it I know whatever happens to pick up my hook bait, the tackle will be more than adequate to get it into my waiting net (including the occasional rogue carp).

On this I tie a simple helicopter rig made up with a 1½ ounce open ended feeder which is packed full of an active groundbait mix. On this I mount a 5 inch hook length tied up with 10lb Target Gravel Speciskin. It is a lovely dark fine diameter coated hooklink material, which is a permanent feature in my tackle box these days. At the business end, is tied a size 10 Target Specimen Hook. These hooks have also earned a place in my armoury. This small yet strong hook pattern has an in turned point which helps protect the hook point from turning over with frequent recasting on gravel lake beds.

Imitation plastic baits from Enterprise Tackle such as maggots, casters and corn are my favourite hook bait. Not only do they resist the attention of small fish but the buoyant version can be used to critically balance hook baits. The key to my T-Rig is the way in which I mount them on the hair, threading a

plastic maggot on lengthways and a caster on sideways forming the trade mark 'T' shaped hook bait. The point of this arrangement is that the shape of the hook bait makes it easy enough for the tench to inhale but very difficult to eject once it's in the fish's mouth. This devastating rig design has accounted for many big catches of tench and also works for bream, carp and crucians.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED



STEP 1



Strip back 4 inches of coating. Tony's favourite hook length is 10lb Target Speciskin in Gravel. Tie a double overhand loop to form the hair.

STEP 2



Mount an imitation buoyant maggot length ways and a buoyant caster sideways, this creates a 'T shape' hook bait.

STEP 3



Add a hair stop to keep the bait in place. Using a simple knotless knot whip down the hook shank, Tony prefers a short hair.

STEP 4



Tie a simple figure of 8 loop in the end of the hook length.

STEP 5



The finished rig - thread a PVA Micromesh stick of groundbait down the hook length and carefully push the hook point into the bag.





THE 'MOHAWK' RIG

Sam Meeuwissen

Here's a rig that I have been using very successfully on the quiet for several years now. It's one that I have found exceedingly effective when fishing gravel pits targeting bream, tench and carp. Tying the rig is very simple and all you need to construct it is a grain of Enterprise Tackle Pop Up Sweetcorn, a size 10 Target Specimen Hook, a small size 16 hook and a length of 15lb Trickster braid.

I have certainly found it best to fish this rig over a carpet of small food items such as maggots, hemp, pellets and groundbait (with a sprinkling of corn). Being critically balanced, the hook bait sits up the length of the hair off of the

hook. The combination of using this with a supple braided hook length works perfectly, adding free movement and allowing the hook bait to move naturally. The addition of three or four maggots adds movement to the hook bait and is highly visual thanks to the piece of fake corn. Both sight and movement make this hook bait very attractive.

I recommend adding a small Micromesh PVA stick of groundbait to the rig as it ensures the small supple hook length doesn't tangle on the cast and adds a small pile of attractive feed around the hook bait.

My favourite stick mix incorporates a fine fishmeal and krill based groundbait mixed with molasses and a pinch of 2mm pellets, crushed halibut pellets and crushed hemp. If I have time I like to mix the groundbait base for the stick mix up the night before (mixing it occasionally) as this means that any attractors are absorbed evenly into the groundbait.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED



TARGET

STEP 1



Tie a small size 16 Target Specimen Hook to the length of Trickster braid using your preferred knot.

STEP 2



Pierce a piece of buoyant Enterprise Tackle imitation corn through the narrow end first with a baiting needle as shown.

STEP 3



Thread the corn down the hook length and push the small hook into the fat end of the corn.

STEP 4



Taking a size 10 Target Specimen Hook tie a standard knotless knot as shown so the piece of corn sits straight off the back of the hook shank.

STEP 5



Carefully withdraw the small hook from the corn and hook on three maggots. Carefully push the hook point back into the corn.

STEP 6



The finished rig with a small groundbait stick threaded onto the hooklink.

TARGET

THE MAG-ALIGNER RIG for Chub

Alan Stagg

When it comes to tricking wily old chub there is one rig that does the business and that's the Mag-Aligner. The rig was devised by two hugely successful big carp anglers, who cleverly incorporated an Enterprise Tackle Mag-Aligner grub slid over the eye of the hook, creating a line aligner effect which guarantees that the hook turns in the fish's mouth making it a very efficient hooking mechanism.

A size 12 Covert Mugga hook really takes some beating when using this style of hooking arrangement. The curved shape of the hook helps to enhance the hooking action and the straight point takes hold at the slightest opportunity. This pattern of hook also has the bonus of being available in our Covert finish – a special camouflage plating.

A supple hook length is important as the flexibility allows the Mag-Aligner to work to its full potential, which is why I choose to remove the outer coating from a length of the Gravel coloured Speciskin. It's the ideal colour for fishing over gravel and it's really soft and smooth. So it does not inhibit the relatively small hook from doing its job of turning and pricking the fish as soon as the hook bait is inhaled.

Tightly woven Gardner Micromesh PVA is absolutely essential when tying up PVA bags of maggots, so they do not wriggle through the holes and escape. The PVA bag is sealed by wrapping Fishnet PVA Tape around the swivel on the lead that has been dropped into the top of the bag. If you tie a tightly compressed bag of maggots to the lead you can nick the hook bait on to the PVA (being careful not to puncture any of the maggots inside). This will stop any tangles and ensures the hook bait is surrounded by a highly visual and attractive patch of freebies.

If you are unsure how to tie the rig and would rather be out on the bank fishing than sat at home tying rigs, Gardner produce a ready-tied version which can act as a good guide.

WHAT
YOU'LL
NEED



STEP 1



Strip the coating off 16 inches of Target Gravel Speciskin using a Gardner 'Peel & Pull' Stripper Tool.

STEP 2



Tie a size 12 Covert Mugga on with a knotless knot and 'blob' the tag end (optional).

STEP 3



Using a sewing needle pierce the rubber grub (orientation as shown) and carefully thread it onto your hooklink.

STEP 4



Push the grub over the hook eye. Test it's lined up correctly by gently drawing the hooklink over your finger. The hook should flip over.

STEP 5



Carefully nick two maggots onto the hook.

STEP 6



The finished rig with the hook bait hooked onto the Micromesh PVA to avoid tangles.



TARGET

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CRUCIAN CARP

Mike Lyddon

Traditional float fishing methods are a great way to catch crucian carp, however recently I've been adopting a far more effective approach when targeting bigger crucians.

My preferred tactic when fishing for crucians is to use a flatbed method feeder with a short hooklink, fished over an area that has been heavily fed with groundbait.

For this approach you'll need good reliable tackle, so I use 6lb Hydro Flo mainline and a short 4 inch hook length constructed with 5lb Target Fluorocarbon. Hook choice is a size 16 Target Specimen hook that is attached with a simple but reliable knotless knot. After suffering with hook baits being constantly stripped by small fish I

now use plastic imitation for all my hook baits. These are normally two Enterprise Imitation Casters or a 6mm Pop Up Imitation Pellet.

A size 12 Target Rig Swivel is pushed into the housing of the feeder to create a safe bolt effect. This has proved an extremely effective way of turning those tentative bites whilst float fishing into full blown takes and fish on the bank.

On arrival at the swim, my first job is to mix up my groundbait and give it a chance to fully absorb the water. Whilst it is doing that, I have a quick cast around with the marker to see if I can find a nice clear spot, preferably adjacent to a weed bed. Once I have found a suitable area, I cast my fishing rods and spod rod to the spot and mark them up ready with a line marker so I know recasts will land at exactly the right distance.

Now I start to introduce my feed, and lots of it! Normally my initial bombardment will be about 5kg of groundbait, and this will be regularly topped up during the session, spodding out as and when it is needed. This may sound a lot, but contrary to the popular belief that crucian carp are always shy biting tentative fish, if you can get them feeding confidently and competitively they can be very aggressive feeders.

Once this is done it's time to cast out my feeders, place the rods on the alarms, attach the bobbins and wait...

WHAT YOU'LL NEED



STEP 1



Take around 10 inches of 5lb Target Fluorocarbon.

STEP 2



Using a sharp pair of scissors cut the end.

STEP 3



Tie a simple double overhand knot and pull tight.

STEP 4



Thread on your hook bait, in this case a 6mm pellet.

STEP 5



Leave a small gap between the bend of the hook and tie a simple knotless knot.

STEP 6



The finished rig.

Mike with a cracking brace of big crucians



TARGET

TARGET

THE FLOAT PATERNOSTER

Rory Kingerley



There is one rig that I have found extremely successful when targeting perch with live baits on both still and running water and that is a float paternoster rig. Being simple in design (as are many of my rigs) I hope you will be able to get as much pleasure from it as I have.

I recommend a through action specimen style float rod, which is able to cushion the typical lunges and head shaking of a big perch. I favour a mainline of at least 6lb breaking strain and the 6lb Hydro Flo from Gardner Tackle comes highly recommended and has never let me down. I attach a 2½ swan shot style float with two rubbers (top and bottom) as this will allow you to change the float dependent on conditions or bait size without breaking the rig down.

You can buy the usual float stops or I quite like 3.2mm Latex Bait Bands, they grip the line well, can be stretched easily and are super cheap too. In running water situations with a medium flow and a bleak live bait, I find a 2-2.5 swan float perfectly adequate. When faced with a stronger flow and/or a larger bait.

Next, tie a Large Covert Rig Ring to your mainline below the float and attach a weak link of around eighteen inches to two feet, which determines the depth the live bait will be positioned at. I generally use a mainline of 3lb when forming a weak link, and I also tie a couple of overhand granny knots in it to weaken it further. This gives the added bonus that if the lead link gets snagged, it can be easily broken leaving the angler in direct contact with the fish.

Tie a lead to the bottom of the weak link of at least ¾ ounce (1 ounce is ideal). Last of all attach the hook link to the Rig Ring at right angles to your mainline. Ideally the hook link will be around 3-5 inches shorter than the lead link, which helps to prevent tangles. Recently I have been using the new Target Fluorocarbon in 5lb and hook wise look no further than a super sharp size 8 Covert Incisor. Live baits are always lip hooked and this rig can be fished in a traditional float style or used sunken in conjunction with bite alarms and Gardner Nano Bugs on a long drop. Bites are usually positive affairs with the bobbin pulling steadily towards the rod blank.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED



STEP 1



Attach a float on to the mainline, top and bottom with 3.2mm Latex Bait Bands.

STEP 2



Tie the mainline and the weak lead link to a Large Covert Rig Ring.

STEP 3



Tie a couple of overhand granny knots along the lead link to weaken it further.

STEP 4



Using a 6 inch length of 5lb Target Fluorocarbon, tie on a size 8 Covert Incisor hook.

The finished rig.



BARBEL FISHING

Alan Stagg

I favour a fairly simplistic approach when targeting barbel but by adding a few little tweaks, simple rigs can help trick even the biggest and wariest of fish.

All of my barbel fishing revolves around using a running lead setup, with the idea of keeping as much of the line around the rig end pinned tight to the riverbed. A flying back lead helps to achieve this, which is used in combination with 2 or 3 feet of Gardner Plummet Leadcore. I like to use a Flat Pear Lead that is overly heavy to the river conditions, which allows me to leave the rig in position without the need for regular recasting, which may spook my intended quarry. The lead rests against a Target XL Buffer Bead, which encapsulates a size 12 Kwik Lok Swivel. The use of a size 12 Kwik Lok Swivel enables hook lengths to be changed with ease even on the darkest of nights.

My favourite hook length by far when fishing for barbel is Target Specskin. There are four different colours (Weed, Gravel, Silt and Camo), which suit a variation of riverbeds and conditions. Specskin performed admirably during testing and I was fortunate to land barbel up to a monstrous 18lb 6oz!

Unlike many anglers I like to leave the coating on my hook lengths in tack. Not only does this ensure a tangle free and well-presented hook bait, but is also something a little different to what most anglers use. I always straighten my hook lengths over a boiling kettle (be careful of your fingers when doing this), which helps the hook length to sit out straight in the flow. I also like to add a couple of small blobs of Critical Mass Putty along the hooklink to ensure it sits flush to the riverbed.

For hook choice a size 10 Target Specimen Hook is hard to beat. They are strong, super sharp and have the added feature of Gardner Tackle's unique Covert finish. I always prefer a beaked point hook when river fishing, I find this helps to protect the hook point from the gravel on the riverbed, meaning it stays razor sharp.

A small Micromesh PVA bag containing a handful of hook bait samples is added to the rig. This not only ensures a 100 per cent tangle free presentation but a few confidence building hook bait samples around the rig end.



WHAT YOU'LL NEED

STEP 1



Tie a simple knotless knot using a size 10 Target Specimen hook. Alan prefers a short hair when using this rig.

STEP 2



Tie a simple figure of 8 loop, which makes it quick and easy to change hook lengths.

STEP 3



Add a couple of small blobs of Critical Mass Putty along the hook length to ensure it sits flush to the riverbed.

STEP 4



Attach the hook length to a size 12 Target Kwik Lok Swivel.

STEP 5



Trap the hook length in place by pushing the Kwik Lok Swivel into the XL Target Buffer Bead.



TARGET

TARGET

HIT AND RUN CARP FISHING

Martin Lewis

A lot of my angling involves short productive sessions after work or at weekends on waters, that truth be known, are not that hard due to stocking levels. That is as long as you get your location right and present a bait they want to eat in a manner that the fish will find acceptable.

Typically, these waters are day ticket or club venues that are relatively clear of weed so the use of a lead clip on the rig is more for the convenience of changing lead size and shape, rather than discharging the lead in weed as an aid to landing more carp. As I don't want to lose leads, I push the tail rubber all the way on flush with the clip's barrel.

My rig is a simple knotless knotted hair rig that utilises a beaked point Target Specimen Hook and the refined Target Speciskin hooklink. All simple fare but ruthlessly efficient if you put it in the right place. The length of the rig is adjusted to suit the nature of the lake bed and on firm substrates like sand, gravel and clay the rig will normally start about 5 or 6 inches long. Extending up to 12 inches (or more) if the bottom is particularly silty. I strip the hook end of the rig so that the hook has relatively uninhibited movement which helps give a good firm hook hold.

I don't muck about with long hairs. If a fish inhales my bait, I want the hook to go in its mouth too, so the hair length is normally adjusted in that the bait just touches the bend of the hook. With a relatively short hair like this, the gap between the hook and hook bait allows just enough movement for the hook to turn and take purchase.

By combining this presentation with a stringer or small PVA micromesh bag containing pellet, stick mix or roughly broken boilie, I know I can get a quick bite and this suits my style of hit and run carp fishing perfectly.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED



STEP 1



Using a Gardner Stripper Tool, strip back approx. 3 inches of coating.

STEP 2



Tie a double overhand loop to create the hair and thread on your chosen bottom bait.

STEP 3



Martin prefers a short hair. Position the bait until it just touches the bend of the hook.

STEP 4



Now tie a simple knotless knot as shown and finish the hooklink with a figure of 8 loop knot.

STEP 5



Pull the size 12 Kwik Lok Swivel into the Lead Clip until you hear it click.

STEP 6



Push the Tail Rubber all the way on and secure the hooklength by pushing the Anti Tangle Sleeve over the Kwik Lok Swivel.

*Step shown without lead in position

FISH WELFARE AND RIG SAFETY

Whatever species you're focusing on, it goes without saying that any fish you catch (accidental or otherwise) should be treated with care and returned to the water in the same condition that they were before you caught them.

This means using unhooking mats and soft meshed landing nets. You should wet your hands before touching them, to reduce the amount of the fish's protective mucus layer that you take off whilst handling them and just as importantly, retain the fish in a keep net or sling for the shortest period of time possible. It is also important that all surfaces and slings are thoroughly wetted before the fish goes anywhere near them. This may seem like common sense but sometimes it doesn't hurt to state the obvious.

There may be occasions when retaining a fish will stop it swimming back to the shoal, potentially scaring the rest of the fish (at least making them more nervous and therefore harder to catch) and in these circumstances the fish should be kept for the briefest time possible if you have a suitable retainer, in which they will have plenty of

room to move and most importantly will not become starved of oxygen or stressed. It is the angler's responsibility to make sure that each fish caught is returned in pristine condition.

If you see young or inexperienced anglers do not be afraid to offer assistance and advice.

Sometimes a little mentoring goes a long way and means that they will be capable of looking after fish themselves a lot better in the future.

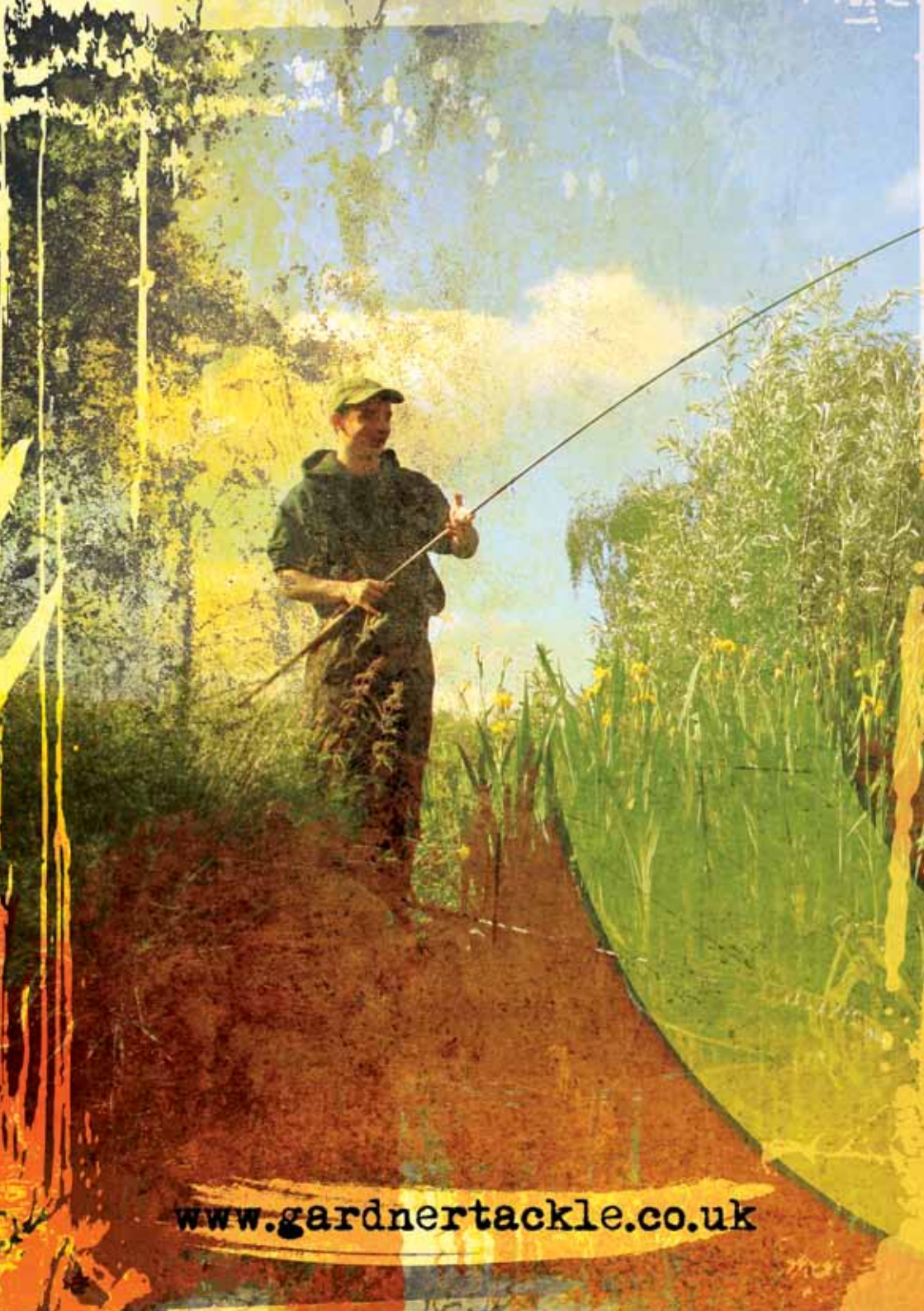
Always treat any sores or lacerations with a fish care product, such as Gardner's Medic Plus. These liquids have been sourced through the aquaculture industry and help to disinfect and seal wounds giving the fish the best possible chance of healing itself and making a full recovery.

TARGET

SPECIMEN RANGE



TARGET



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