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Chairman of the Boards BRUCE DESHANO
COO NICK DESHANO
Editor MARK ROMANACK

The **OFF SHORE** RELEASE

Your Leader In Trolling Technology www.offshoretackle.com



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“Off Shore Tackle is a family business. When we see cute kids like this enjoying a day on the water with family, we can’t help but share the image and encourage others to do the same.

Left to right this new batch of trollers are named Wyatt, Weston and Brynn. These kids are big fans of fishing, no surprise considering they are the grandchildren of Captain Eric Hirzel of Erie Gold Sportfishing Charters. Thanks Eric for using Off Shore Tackle products, making time to fish with your grandchildren and for sharing this priceless photo.”

**Tips and Techniques brought to you by
Your Leader In Trolling Technology,
Off Shore Tackle LLC.**

THE A, B, C’S OF IN-LINE PLANER BOARDS

BY MARK ROMANACK

One of the up sides of the Covid 19 pandemic is more people than ever are turning to the outdoors for recreation. Record numbers of anglers took to the water in both 2020 and 2021. Many of these anglers have never used an in-line planer board and there is no time like the present to get started and the basics are the perfect place to start.

WHY IN-LINE BOARDS?

When talk turns to in-line planer boards, perhaps the best way to start the conversation is to explain the benefits of using these trolling aids. In-line boards are designed to clip directly onto the fishing line via line releases or clips that are mounted both on the bracket and the tail of the board.

In-line boards provide two important benefits to trolling. First off, the board makes it possible to plane baits out to the side of the boat, spreading out lures, facilitating fishing multiple lines, covering more water in the process and helping to make contact with more fish.

Secondly, an in-line board also functions as a strike indictor. Because in-line boards are attached directly to the fishing line, when a fish strikes and is hooked, the board reacts by being dragged backwards from the weight of the struggling fish. With a little practice it’s easy to tell when even a small fish has been hooked while trolling with in-line boards.

POPULARITY

One of the reasons that in-line boards are so popular with anglers is these boards can be rigged a host of different ways to accommodate different species, trolling preferences and line types. Off Shore Tackle produces three different in-line boards including the OR37 SST Pro Mag, the OR12 Side Planer and the OR38 Awesome Crappie Board. Each of these boards is designed to be fished with a wealth of different line releases and line clips.

No matter what species an angler might be targeting, OST features the right board and the right line clips/releases for the job.



It’s never too early or too late to use in-line planer boards. So long as there is open water to fish, in-line boards are fish catching machines. This shot was taken in the spring brown trout trolling among the ice bergs of Milwaukee Harbor.

OR37 SST PRO MAG

The SST Pro Mag is the largest in-line board in the OST line up. Designed to handle large muskie and saltwater lures, heavy trolling weights, sinking lines such as lead core, stranded copper and also weighted stainless steel wire, the SST Pro Mag comes factory equipped with an OR18 Snapper Release on the bracket and an OR16 Pro Clip mounted to the tail of the board.

This factory set up is ideal for trolling using both heavy monofilament lines and also low stretch super braid and fused fishing lines. The OR18 is popular because this line release can be used with all of the common line types and is an excellent choice when using braided lines.

When the factory set up on the SST Pro Mag is used, the board becomes affixed to the line. When a fish is hooked, the angler must reel in both the board and the fish before the board can be removed from the line. As a result, most anglers opt to fish with a modest number of these boards per side of the boat.

The SST Pro Mag can also be rigged with another release known as the OR39 Sam’s Pro Release. The Sam’s Release mounts to the bracket of the SST Pro Mag and the OR16 Pro Clip remains mounted to the tail of the board. By wrapping the line

around the plunger on the OR39 and then placing the line in the OR16 clip anglers can trip the line from the OR39 when a fish is hooked.

With this rigging configuration the line pops free from the OR39, but remains attached to the OR16 clip. Once tripped the board is no longer planing and is easier to reel in. This rigging configuration is popular with anglers who want to run two, three or more SST Pro Mag boards per side of the boat.

OR12 SIDE PLANER

The OR12 is the work horse in the OST line up of trolling boards. Just the perfect size for most trolling chores, the OR12 has become the in-line board all others are compared to.

Like it’s big brother the SST Pro Mag, the OR12 can be rigged a number of different ways making it the most versatile planer board on the market. The rigging that comes factory standard on the OR12 features an OR19 (orange) heavy tension line release on the bracket and an OR16 (red) mounted to the tail of the board.

Rigged in this manner anglers can use monofilament, fluorocarbon or co-polymer type fishing lines. When a fish is hooked, a quick snap of the rod tip will trip the line free from the OR19, but the board will remain attached to the line thanks to the OR16 at the

tail of the board. Once tripped the board is no longer planing, making it easy to reel in the fish and planer board until the board can be removed from the line.

This tried and true rigging method makes it possible to stack multiple board lines on either side of the boat. Tripping the board when a fish is hooked not only makes it easier to reel in the fish, the board can be reeled in without having to clear any other fishing lines.

For anglers who prefer to troll using super lines, we recommend they switch out the OR19 release on the bracket for either the OR39 Sam’s Pro Release or the OR18 Snapper Release.

OR38 AWESOME CRAPPIE BOARD

The Awesome Crappie Board is the smallest in-line board in the OST line up. Designed to pull live bait and small lures such as jigs commonly used to catch crappie and other panfish, the OR38 is much more versatile than most anglers realize. The OR38 is also handy for pulling stick baits and smaller wobbling plugs commonly used for walleye, northern pike and even brown trout. The OR38 is also perfect for presenting wobbling plugs to steelhead while back-trolling in rivers or even when fishing from shore.

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THE A, B, C'S OF IN-LINE PLANER BOARDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The OR38 comes factory rigged with an OR10 (yellow) Light Tension Planer Board Release on the bracket and an OR16 (red) mounted to the tail of the board. The small size and light weight of the OR38 makes this board perfect for anglers who are using light lines and light action trolling rods/reels. Virtually any rod and

reel combination can be used to troll with the OR38.

START OUT MODEST

No matter which board is selected, it's always good advice for beginners to start out using a modest number of boards per side of the boat. Two board lines per side of the boat is a good starting

point. As an angler develops more skill and confidence trolling with in-line boards, more board lines can be added.

Don't forget, most states put a limit on the number of lines per person that can be fished. Check with your local game laws before trolling multiple lines.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Trolling with in-line boards is one of those fishing skills that takes a little practice to master. The good news is that "time on the water" also has its own set of rewards.

CRANKBAIT TUNING WITH THE EZ CRANKBAIT TUNER

BY MARK ROMANACK

Everyone who has spent much time trolling or casting crankbaits knows these lures are fish catching machines. The problem is sometimes the machine breaks down. All crankbaits are subject to being knocked out of "tune" a term that indicates the bait is no longer running straight in the water or diving to maximum depth.

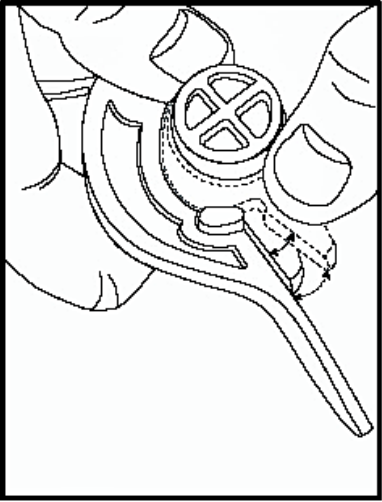
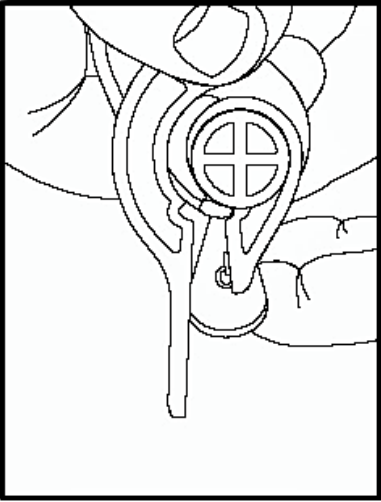
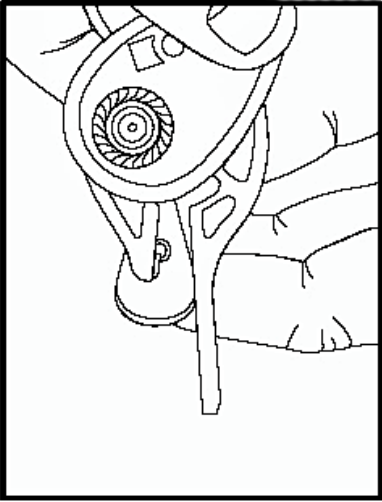
Most crankbaits feature a wire molded into the diving lip or the nose of the lure that is designed to be the center of the bait and also the point where the fishing line is attached to the lure. If this wire becomes bent for any reason, the bait will run to the left or to the right when trolled or casted and retrieved.

A crankbait is typically knocked out of tune while removing the lure from a fish's mouth or when the bait becomes badly tangled in the landing net. Even a powerful fish can put enough pressure on the "line tie" to tweak a crankbait and render it temporarily "out of tune".

Thankfully crankbaits that become "out of tune" can be "re-tuned" to run straight by simply bending the wire eye tie back to its original position. The process of tuning a crankbait is a trial and error event that requires the angler to make a minor adjustment, cast the lure and retrieve it to see how the lure is running and then make another adjustment to correct issues.

If a crankbait is running to the left of center, the wire eye tie will need to be bent slightly to the right. If the bait is running to the right of center the wire eye tie will need to be bent slightly to the

Always start with a lighter setting and adjust tension as needed.



1. Place short jaw on line tie and long jaw against bill at a 90 degree angle.

2. Squeeze until you hear a click.

3. Reset by squeezing jaws together.

4. If bait doesn't make a change, give adjustment knob 1/2 turn for more tension.

SHORT JAW MUST BE RESET AFTER EACH ADJUSTMENT

left.

A little goes a long way when bending the eye tie on a crankbait and too much bending can soften the wire to the point the bait can never be kept in tune.

Off Shore Tackle's OR40 EZ Crankbait Tuner is a tool designed to help anglers tune crankbaits using small adjustments to the eye tie wire. The EZ Crankbait Tuner has two jaws. One jaw is long and is designed to be positioned on the edge of the crankbait's diving lip. The second jaw is short and is position against the wire eye tie of the crankbait.

The short jaw features a slip clutch mechanism that can be set to deliver very precise amounts of pressure to the wire eye tie. A small tension dial on the EZ Crankbait Tuner makes it easy to increase or decrease the slip jaw pressure so that crankbaits large and small can be effectively

tuned.

Tuning a crankbait with the EZ Crankbait Tuner requires a few simple steps. Start by resetting the slip jaw. (Note: The small slip jaw MUST be reset each time prior to making an adjustment. Failure to do so can damage the Crankbait Tuner). Squeeze the short jaw until it snaps shut against the long jaw. Next point the crankbait towards you and line up the long jaw on the edge of the diving lip and the short jaw on the wire eye tie. The third step is to squeeze the handle on the EZ Crankbait Tuner until the slip jaw pops. When this occurs, a noticeable click can be heard.

Next, make a cast and watch closely as the bait is retrieved to see if the adjustment has made a difference in how the bait is running. If no adjustment occurred, tighten the adjustment knob on the EZ Crankbait Tuner one half

turn clockwise, reset the slip clutch jaw and try again. If a large adjustment to the crankbait is noted, back off the tension knob one half turn and try again.

Once the tension adjustment is set properly, tuning crankbaits becomes a simple matter of making a few adjustments and testing the bait to confirm the results are a perfectly tuned or straight running crankbait. Compared to a pair of pliers, the EZ Crankbait Tuner makes it much easier to apply consistent pressure to the wire eye tie so as to make small and controlled adjustments.

Most crankbaits from small panfish sized lures to the oversized muskie and saltwater baits can be tuned using Off Shore Tackle's OR40 EZ Crankbait Tuner. This unique tool should be in the tackle box of every angler who fishes with crankbaits.

MAXIMIZING DOWNRIGGER SUCCESS

BY MARK ROMANACK

No matter what you spend on a downrigger, these depth control aids are completely dependent on one simple accessory. The downrigger line release is the single piece of equipment that will either make or break your day on the water.

The sad truth is that most downrigger line releases are poorly designed, and they do an equally poor job of connecting the fishing rod/line to the downrigger weight. For a downrigger release to function properly it must provide enough tension to hold the line securely, not just while trolling, but it must also have enough tension that when a fish strikes, adequate resistance is provided to set the hook.

While it all sounds simple enough, most downrigger line releases fail miserably at this critically important task. If the release doesn't feature enough tension, false releases and missed fish result. If the tension is too stiff, it becomes almost impossible to trip the release for switching out lures, lead lengths or depths.

Because no one downrigger release can function flawlessly for all species and trolling situations, Off Shore Tackle pro-

duces a three different downrigger releases designed to cover all the bases an angler might encounter.

OR1

The OR1 Medium Tension Downrigger Release was the first product introduced by Off Shore Tackle and continues to be a top seller. This release was designed for general purpose trout and salmon trolling and works flawlessly when pulling spoons, plugs and spinners for lake trout, chinook salmon, coho, brown trout and steelhead at typical trolling depths and speeds.

OR4

The OR4 Light Tension Downrigger Release is aimed at the angler who is fishing for smaller species such as walleye, kokanee, spring coho or brown trout. This release is ideal for fishing at modest depths and also slow to moderate trolling speeds.

OR8

The OR8 Heavy Tension Downrigger Release is a special purpose release designed for trout and salmon anglers who

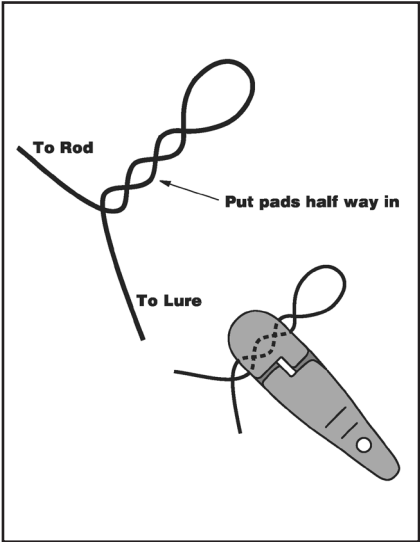
are trolling with large flashers, dodgers, rotators, large lures or other heavy gear. The extra spring tension is also welcomed among muskie trollers who pull big baits and at high speeds that have a lot of resistance in the water.

Saltwater trollers also swear by the OR8 for their big game trolling applications. The extra fast trolling speeds practiced in saltwater call for extra heavy tension line releases like the OR8.

LINE TWIST TRICK

The "Line Twist Trick" can be applied to downrigger fishing with downrigger pinch pad style line releases. Fold the fishing line and place it between your thumb and index fingers then spin the line three or four times to create a few wraps of line and a small loop of line.

Place the twists of line into the downrigger release, allowing the loop of line to extend past the downrigger release about an inch. This simple trick increases the purchase, solving any issues with false releases, yet when a fish is hooked and pressure is applied to the line, the loop can be easily popped free from the



release. The line twist trick can be applied to any line release that uses spring tension and rubber pinch pads. The line twist trick is especially handy when using the OR8 Extra Heavy Tension Downrigger Release.

SUMMING IT UP

The best investment any downrigger troller can make are buying quality downrigger line releases. Off Shore Tackle produces the OR1, OR4 and OR8 downrigger releases so anglers can choose the release that best suits their trolling applications. Stacker downrigger releases are also available in the medium tension (OR2) and light tension (OR7).

LINE RELEASE MAINTENANCE

BY CAPTAIN ERIC HIRZEL, ERIE GOLD SPORTFISHING

Line releases are a critically important part of planer board trolling. It doesn't matter if the angler is using an in-line board or trolling with a planer board mast system. Both trolling methods require quality and dependable line releases and those line releases also require regular maintenance.

LONG TERM STORAGE

At the end of the fishing season, line releases should be stored in a cool and dry place away from direct sunlight. Sunlight and UV rays deteriorate the rubber in the pinch pads and can also cause the plastic used in line releases to fade over time.

A basement is the ideal place

to store line releases in the off season. Not only will a basement remain cool and dry, the day to day temperature doesn't vary creating the perfect environment for storing anything made of plastic or rubber.

To prevent the rubber pinch pads from sticking and eventually fusing together, a thin wafer of paper should be placed between the pads before storage. A standard business card is about the perfect thickness. Cut up a business card into a bunch of half inch squares and place one square between the rubber pads of each release. This simple step will ensure the rubber pads will not fuse together and will be ready to go for next season.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Pinch pad style line releases like these OR19's should be stored with a piece of paper placed between the jaws. A business card cut into pieces works well and helps to keep the rubber jaws from fusing together during months of storage.

CATFISHING WITH OFF SHORE BOARDS

BY MATT “CATMATT” JONES

I can remember as a kid sitting on a muddy riverbank reeling in channel catfish over edge ice because the winter had been long, and I needed to fish. I didn't have a boat then, nor did I know of the evolution the fishing game in which catfishing in particular would go through over my next 20 years of life. I was pretty much pigeonholed as a kid when it came to tactics. It was hop in the creek and seine some minnows or catch some grasshoppers. Then tie on some nuts I'd steal from my dad's toolbox above an old Eagle Claw bait holder hook and I was fishin'. Where I'd fish all depended on how far I wanted to walk carrying a bucket and a tackle box, a couple rod and reels and assorted other gear. Those were the good old simple days.

Fast forward 4 decades and man oh man have things a changed my friends. My world of catfishing has graduated to technology and techniques I could have never imagined in my wildest dreams. Seems catfish weren't just dumb bottom dwelling fish that survived on dead fish. These things used strategy to hunt food. They would up and chase food,

kill it and eat it. They were picky even eating what they wanted not what was just there. Technology taught us that catfish liked to suspend and eat at all levels of depth including even on the surface. They would also use cover to strategically ambush prey.

With all this new tech teaching us things we didn't previously know it opened our eyes as to new ways to pursue catfish. Along with new-fangled sinkers, rods, sonar, hooks and remote controlled trolling motors our eyes were opened to a new device previously reserved for the likes of walleye and salmon. The planer board, more particularly the Off Shore Tackle OR37 SST Pro Mag planer board was just the new diverse shiny tool the catfishing world was looking for. Imagine being able to pinpoint bait depth and move it. All the while covering huge swaths of water only dreamed of before. This was it, the golden ticket, the key to the next step in the evolution of catfishing. Boy has it changed the game! With Off Shore's unbeatable design, highly visible color and durability and its unmatched size selection there



According to Matt “Catmatt” Jones, there is no limit to the catfish fun an angler can have using Off Shore Tackle planer boards. Once thought of as trash fish or bottom feeders, modern anglers know cats can be caught throughout the water column using a variety of board fishing tactics.

is virtually no situation Off Shore Tackle planer boards can't adapt to.

There are tons of ways to use the boards to increase your odds of hooking up. One of my favorite tactics is to side drift these OR37's into exposed cover while anchored. Being able to anchor a great distance from the cover and use the boards to walk my bait to them is a huge advantage. Sometimes a tree or log jam may be holding many good fish so being

able to keep my boat noise a good distance away from my target is essential. Also, while targeting this cover I can be targeting shallow water, deep water, ledges and drop offs from the same anchor. In this situation more is definitely better and it increases my odds exponentially.

The uses for Off Shore Tackle planer boards are virtually endless and now the catfishing world knows it.

LINE RELEASE MAINTENANCE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

WORN OUT PADS

The pads of Off Shore Tackle line releases are made from a soft rubber with small ridges that are designed to grip the fishing line. Over time and with hard use, the rubber pads can become worn smooth or develop slits in them, reducing their ability to hold the fishing line securely. When this happens, it's time to replace the rubber pads.

Off Shore Tackle produces replacement pads for all of their popular line releases. Most retailers carry the replacement pads or they can be ordered directly from offshoretackle.com. Replacing the pads is a simple process that just takes a few minutes to complete. (To find out the product number of the replacement pads that you need, simply go to the product pages located in the center of this newspaper for complete descriptions).

I recommend using a small

C-clamp to hold the line release in the open position. This makes it easier to do the work without having to constantly hold open the release with your fingers.

A small flat bladed screwdriver works nicely to pop out the old and worn pad. Place a small drop of Super Glue on the back of a new pad and press it into position on the release, then repeat the process with the second rubber pad.

To finish the job, place a thin piece of cardboard between the jaws of the release and remove the clamp so the line release is placing equal pressure on the new pads. Make sure the pins on either side of the pad line up with the corresponding holes. Let this sit for about a minute to allow the Super Glue ample time to fully dry.

Go easy when applying Super Glue to the new pads. A tiny drop is all it takes to hold the pad securely. If glue is squeezing out when you press in the new pad,

you're applying too much Super Glue.

SANDING TRICK

For releases that are worn, but still functional, place a two or three inch strip of fine grit sandpaper that has been folded in half between the rubber jaws. Give the sandpaper a couple pulls to roughen up the rubber pad surfaces. This trick will give extra life to pads that have become worn smooth with use.

OR18 SNAPPER

The OR18 Snapper uses a fiber pad that can also be easily replaced. Off Shore Tackle sells replacement fiber pads that feature a self adhesive surface (ORRP8SN).

Simply remove the tension screws that hold the OR18 together, strip off the worn pad with your fingernail, remove the adhesive tape from the new fiber pad and press it into position on the release

surface. Re-assemble the release with the tension screws and the OR18 is as good as new.

OR16 PRO CLIPS

The pads (ORPR16HL) for the OR16 Pro Clip come with a hole in the middle to accommodate the pin. When replacing the pads on the OR16 it's also a good idea to inspect the pin to make sure it is smooth and in good shape. Over time, the pin can become scored creating sharp edges that ultimately will damage fishing line. Once the pin on the OR16 becomes damaged, it's time to replace that clip entirely.

Editor's Note: Captain Eric Hirzel is a Lake Erie charter captain who uses and endorses Off Shore Tackle products. For charter information visit Eric's Facebook site or eriegoldwalleyecharters.com.

BUILD YOUR OWN PRO WEIGHT SYSTEM

Off Shore Tackle produces the OR20 Pro Weight System which comes with 4 OR16 Pro Clips with split rings and a selection of all the common sizes of Guppy Weights in a storage box. The OR20 kits are intended to be a convenience for anglers who are just getting their feet wet using Pro Snap Guppy Weights.

What is great, is that Off Shore Tackle offers all of the components of the OR20 Pro Weight System to be purchased separately allowing anglers to customize their own kit or replace parts as needed more economically and adapt to their fishing environment. OST's Pro Guppy Weights are molded from environmentally friendly material!

The OR16 Pro Clips with split rings and are sold in two packs. The 1/2, 3/4 and 1 ounce sizes of the Pro Guppy Weights are sold in three packs; 1 1/2 and 2 ounce Pro Guppy Weights come two in a package and the 3 ounce Pro Guppy Weights are sold in single packs. You can simply add these items to one of your existing tackle boxes or purchase one specifically for this purpose that will house all of the components you decide on. The official instruction sheet is available for download off of Off Shore Tackle's website



as a quick reference on getting started. If for any reason your favorite retailer doesn't carry these replacement parts, they can be purchased on line by visiting www.offshoretackle.com but always check with your local tackle shop first.

Building your own Pro Weight Kit is a great way to customize based on your budget and needs for all your fishing adventures.

CRAPPIE TROLLING WITH THE OR38

BY MIKE & LEANNE SIX

My husband Mike Six is an avid walleye angler and has been using the OR12 Side Planer produced by Off Shore Tackle for many years. Mike feels the OR12 is the best in-line board on the market, so six years ago when we decided to start targeting crappie and fishing crappie tournaments, the OR38 Awesome Crappie Board was the obvious choice.

We often use the Bandit 300's and Flicker Shad #5 crankbaits and find that the OR38 is the perfect match for pulling crankbaits for crappie. The OR38 boards are easy to use, and they are ready to go right out of the package. Simply attach the bracket with

the yellow OR10 release on it to the board, slide the red OR16 clip that is already on a split ring onto the tail of the board and the Awesome Crappie Board is ready to fish.

We rig up by burying the line on the rubber pads of the OR10 release, leaving a little slack and then placing the line behind the pin on the OR16 clip. We like to use 10 pound test monofilament line (our preference is either the Berkley XT or Vicious brands) because when you happen to get hung up, this line is strong enough to retrieve our lures most of the time. When we have tried trolling with lighter six and eight

pound test lines, we break off too many lures.

Our favorite crappie trolling speeds vary from 1.5 to 2.5 mph when pulling crankbaits. The best trolling speed depends on the crappie bite, water temperature and the time of year of course, but our most productive speed is often 1.7 mph.

Recently we've worked hard at learning to pull jigs behind the OR38. The float on top of the OR38 really helps to keep the board running properly when pulling jigs at lower speeds from .5 to 1.0 mph.

The tournament world has taught us that you must have a

few options in your bag of tricks. We love to pull crankbaits and we generally start prefishing for tournaments with cranks.

In the spring and early fall the Crappie Magnet Fin Spin jigs with the Slab Curly or Tiny Dancer from Crappie Magnet are a must have crappie baits.

The other tool that is an absolute must is the Precision Trolling Data phone app. The app has made our fishing days so much easier pulling cranks or jigs, I find the depth the fish are suspended at, pull out my phone app, set my depth and no guessing it tells me the exact amount of line to let out – sweet!

We have raised a few eyebrows during our tournament career by pulling boards. It is not a common technique here in the Midwest for crappie and being able to place in our tournaments gets folks inquiring about our technique.

Russ Bailey of Brushpile Fishing is one of those who noticed what we are doing, and he ask to do a show with us. In July of 2021, we recorded a season 8 episode to air in August 2022 with Russ on our local lake here in Ohio pulling crankbaits behind the Off Shore Tackle's OR38 Awesome Crappie Boards.



Mike Six is a big fan of Off Shore Tackle products. Pictured here he is trolling for crappie using the OR38 Awesome Crappie Boards.

Editor's note: Mike and LeAnne Six are crappie tournament pros and members of the Off Shore Tackle pro team. They live in Ashville, Ohio.

ANGLE OF ATTACK



Captain Matt Leben shows the results of watching the angle your boards are running.

BY CAPTAIN MATHEW LEBEN

Have you ever been out trolling and wondered, “Why are my boards on one side not aligned?” Often the boards are staggered or just the one side is pulling harder than the other. Here is a step by step approach to identify, adjust, and fine-tune your trolling presentation the next time your Off Shore Tackle boards don’t line up properly.

OBSERVATION

After you get your lines and speed set, stop and compare one side of the boat to the other. Here are some of the questions to consider. Are the in-line boards pulling harder on one side of the boat than the other? Are the in-line boards running in a V-shape formation like geese flying overhead? Are both sides are running equal, but one side appears to be moving slower/faster than the other?

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TADPOLE DIVERS AND SPOONS ERIE STYLE

BY CAPTAIN BOB GREENE

We all know that the Off Shore Tackle OR36 series Tadpoles are an excellent choice when running worm harnesses. Did you know Tadpoles can also be used to get trolling spoons in the “fish catching” zone?

On Lake Erie most anglers think of the Jet Diver when it comes to fishing spoons. While Off Shore Tackle’s OR12 Side Planer board is certainly capable of pulling “jet style” planers, it can be difficult to mix crankbaits and Jets on the same side due to the excessive pull or drag Jet Divers create.

Since Tadpoles dive like a crankbait and pull about the same as a crankbait, using them instead of Jet Divers makes it possible to mix spoons and crankbaits in a trolling pattern without suffering from excessive board lag.

Tadpoles come in four sizes including 1, 2, 3 and Magnum models. When fishing the islands

region of Lake Erie, I’m using mostly the 1 and 2 size. In late summer when the fish are often found deeper, I’ll use the 3 and Magnum sizes.

I typically run a leader of four to eight feet in length. Because the Tadpole is designed to be resettable, there is no tension setting or trip arm mechanisms to worry about. Simply tie the provided coast lock snap on the end of your line, place this coast lock over the tow arm of the Tadpole and when a fish is hooked the snap slides to the front of the tow arm and the diver automatically stops diving.

Tadpoles are not just for fishing nightcrawler harnesses. These unique divers also work great with spoons.

Editor Note: Captain Bob Greene operates Meals on Reelz Charters and is an avid fan of Off Shore Tackle products.



Bob Greene is an Erie charter captain at Meals on Reelz charters and an Off Shore Tackle pro staffer.



TRICKS OF THE TATTLE FLAG™

BY MARK ROMANACK

Some fishing tackle products are destined to become “must have” equipment. The iconic OR12TFEK Tattle Flag™ HD Economy Kit is one of those products that serious walleye anglers simply won’t leave home without.

The Tattle Flag™ is an accessory for the OR12 Side Planer board that makes it possible to tell when a light strike has occurred, or a small fish has been hooked. Anyone who has trolled using an in-line board has at one time or another struggled to tell if a fish has been hooked and is being dragged along. It’s especially tricky to read in-line boards when the wind is blowing and waves are bouncing the boat and the boards around.

The Tattle Flag™ is an articulated, spring loaded flag system that allows the flag to lay flat when a fish is hooked or debris becomes fouled on the line.

Designed to mount to the OR12 Side Planer, the Tattle Flag™ features a host of spring tension settings that make it possible to troll a wide variety of lures, live baits, in-line sinkers, Tadpole divers, sinking lines, trolling speeds, etc., while keeping the flag upright until a strike occurs.

OR12TFEK

The OR12TFEK Tattle Flag™ HD Economy Kit is a low cost accessory that includes the heavy duty wire, a stainless steel spring, the washer, a split ring and the necessary hardware. If you have an older version OR12 Side Planer that came with the black OR14 releases, then you will also need to switch those out to the OR19 (orange) on the bracket and OR16 (red) on the tail of the board.

ADJUSTING SPRING TENSION

Once the Tattle Flag™ is installed on the OR12 Side Planer, the flag tension can be adjusted by moving the spring connection points to a series of holes drilled in the lip of the OR12 Side Planer. The flag also has a tab on the stem that features another series of holes. Together these adjustment settings make it possible to use the Tattle Flag™ for the majority of popular trolling applications.

REPLACEMENT PARTS

Off Shore Tackle sells the parts of the Tattle Flag™ individually including springs, washers, hardware, replacement flags, wires, etc. Most dealers carry these parts, but they can also be purchased on-line at: www.offshoretackle.com.

Flags are available in both orange/red and green colors.

Many anglers prefer to set up the left boards with one color flag and right boards with a different color flag to make it easy to identify them at a glance.

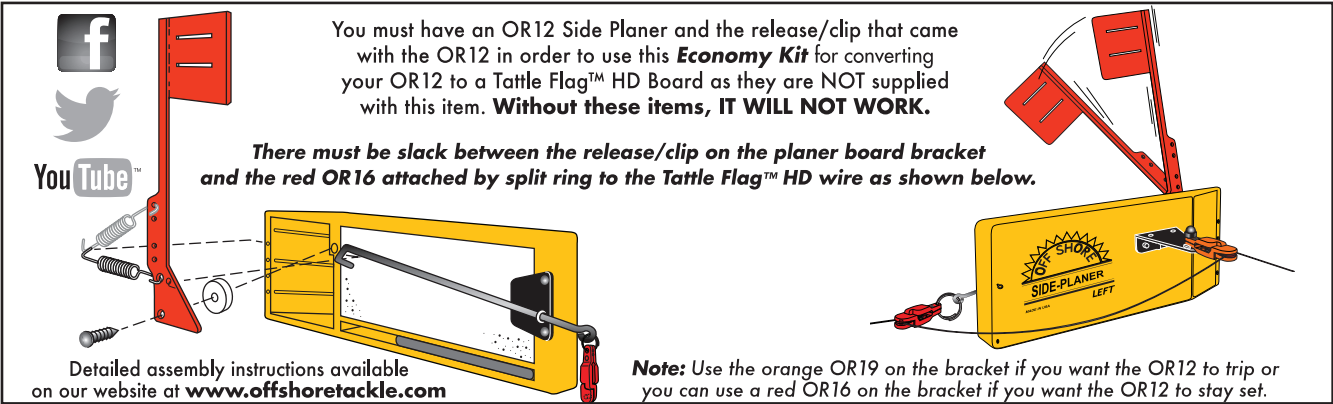
READING THE FLAGS

Anglers who pay close attention to their boards while trolling will notice important fishing information is often telegraphed thanks to the Tattle Flag™. If a fish strikes at the bait but is not hooked, the flag will drop for a second then spring back upright.

If you react quickly, open the reel bail and allow line to play off the reel, the board will hesitate, giving the fish a second opportunity to strike. After a couple seconds, re-engage the reel and the board will shoot forward again. Often this brief hesitation will trigger an explosive strike.

If a Tattle Flag™ that is normally standing up straight starts to lean a few degrees, that’s an indication that weeds or other floating debris has fouled on the fishing line.

When a solid fish has been hooked, the Tattle Flag™ will drop and stay down. With a little practice, reading the Tattle Flag™ becomes second nature and the art of trolling much more efficient.



ANGLE OF ATTACK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

ADJUSTMENTS

The answer could be that your vessel alignment with the direction of the current is off. Current strength and direction are continually changing with the wind, water temperature changes and river confluences. Another sign that your boat is not in alignment with the current could be that you are only getting fish to bite on one side of the vessel.

To correct this, you can start by “slicing the pie” with your trolling direction, making five to ten degrees changes in your boats heading until your boards on both sides are pulling like geese flying in a V formation. This technique not only works for trolling in-line planer boards but also other trolling gear

like diving planers or dual board mast systems.

Another technique to correct this would be to adjust the spacing between boards until they are symmetrical. Don’t be afraid to get picky and move boards closer or further away from the vessel by letting more or less line out from the reel to get a nice even spread between the boards.

Another possible issue that can cause boards to run out of lines could be the main motor is not aligned perfectly straight. Even if the motor is turned a few degrees it can cause noticeable “crabbing.” Crabbing is when the boat is side slipping as it travels forward.

In some situations, you can use the motor and crabbing as a

tool. For example, when you are up against a break wall, but the current is pushing you sideways, you want to correct the crabbing by turning your main motor to straighten your trolling path square to the wall. You can also use a drift sock to rectify crabbing.

FINE TUNING

Once the boards are running in the “V” formation, the next question is how are they pulling? Now is the time to make small adjustments to the boat speed. If the planer boards appear to be running slow, you might be running with the current. Try running in the opposite direction at the same trolling motor/main motor speed (making one change at a time).

After making this adjustment what does the action of the boards look like? Do they look like they are pulling hard, too fast, or too slow? Do you need to increase or decrease your speed? All these small adjustments will help you be more consistent and successful on the water.

GET OUT AND FISH

The next time out, take a close look at the boards to see how they are pulling. Paying close attention to how the boards are positioned and the action on the boards goes a long way towards avoiding problems like crabbing and can help dial in the most productive trolling speeds.

REMEMBERING FRANK MAJDECKI SR



Frank Majdecki Sr, Renee, Nick, and Bruce DeShano are shown here representing Off Shore Tackle at a sports show many years ago. Photo provided by Captain Jerry Cox.

This photo from days gone by brings back so many memories of our dear friend, loyal employee and long time Off Shore Tackle pro staffer, Frank Majdecki Sr. Frank passed away in 2021 after a long courageous battle with cancer. He was always willing to jump in and help anyone who was in need. Just a great person all the way around. He is most definitely missed by all who came in contact with him. Rest in peace Frank; we hope that you are up there chasing some big walleye!

CUSTOMIZING OFF SHORE BOARDS

BY LEE GOULD

Since the beginning of time, man has always looked for ways to improve, innovative, and set himself apart from others. As anglers we are always looking for that extra trick, cool new products, or whatever we can get to boost our confidence.

Planer board fishing is no

exception. Companies are always looking for new gizmos to come up with to make a simple product better. At the same time, anglers are also doing the same to “customize” their boards. Changing things, adding things, and altering planer boards to help make them more versatile for use is a

big part of what board fishing is all about. With Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planer boards there are a variety of things you can do perform exactly to your needs.

You have the ability to add the OR12TFEK Tattle Flag™ system, which will alert you to anything on your line besides your bait when the flag drops. Off Shore Tackle also offers red and green flag options so it’s easier to know what side of the boat (red/ left/port, green/right/starboard) the boards are to run.

You can change your clips to different styles and configurations, based on your style of fishing. Off Shore Tackle boards feature the orange (OR19) clip on the bracket and the red (OR16) on the rear. However, you can add the OR18 Snapper Release to either spot for easy release by not having to squeeze clips open. You can also add the OR39 Sam’s Pro Release for anglers who want to fish braided lines and also rig their boards to release when a fish is hooked.

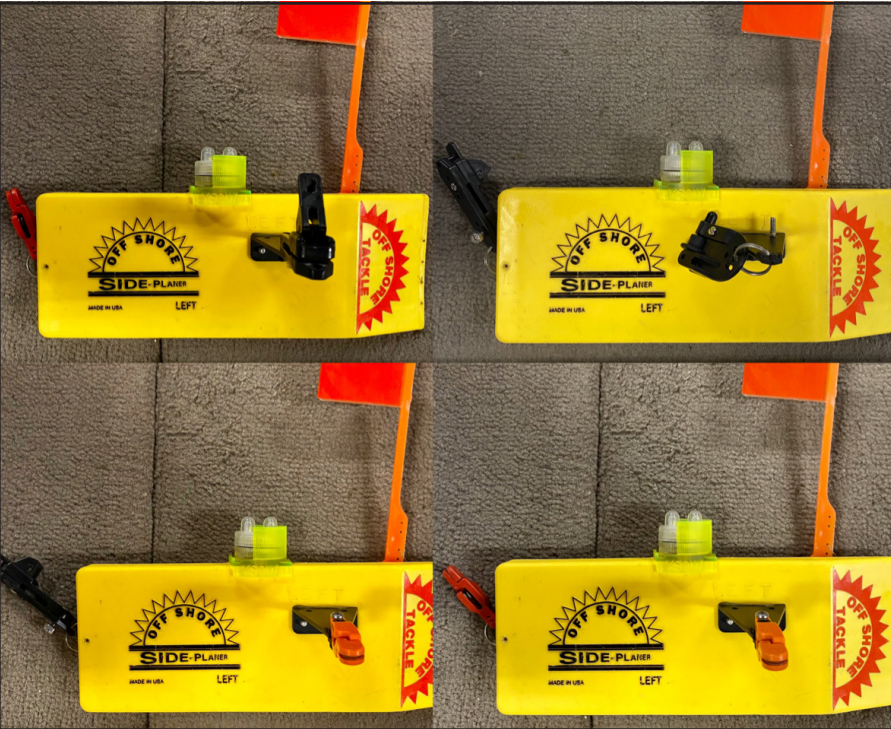
Another popular trick you can do with your boards is adding re-

flective tape or lights to the board for night fishing. Night fishing for big walleye is gaining in popularity and having the ability to see your boards is key!

I personally use reflective decals that go on the flag and the front of the board, using highly reflective vinyl or you can use pieces of DOT reflective tape as when you shine a light towards your boards at night, they will light right up!

There are also several companies out there that offer lights you can mount on your boards. Some mount on the bracket, the top of the board, the flag, and some even replace your existing flag. I have a set of lights that mount on the top of my boards made by Hi-Tech Custom Painted Baits that work great in conjunction with my reflective decals.

Whatever style you fish or how you fish for them, Off Shore Tackle LLC has the tools and products that you need to get a leg up on the fish and other sportsman! Never stop being creative or innovating to be better in the game!



Lee Gould likes to customize his Off Shore Tackle Side Planers by adding reflective tape and lights for night fishing. He also uses the Tattle Flag™ system and after market releases including the OR18 Snapper and also the Sam’s Pro Release.

GETTING IT DONE WITH PRO GUPPY WEIGHTS

BY ROB BARNES

Off Shore Tackle’s OR20 series Pro Guppy Weights have become staples in the freshwater troller’s arsenal. By selecting the proper individual Pro Guppy Weights and pairing them with the red, OR16 Pro Clips, baits enjoy a little extra diving depth. In addition, Guppy Weights provide the added bonus of mitigating wave surge when trolling in less than ideal conditions.

These benefits have helped make the Precision Trolling 50+2 Method gospel when it comes to weight-assisted depth control for a variety of baits and presentations. The Pro Guppy Weights have additional applications which can help put more fish in the boat.

FLOATING WEED MITIGATION

OR20 series Pro Guppy Weights are not limited to being paired with OR16 Pro Clips. One of my favorite ways to use these weights is to attach a ball bearing swivel to the tail fin and rig it as an in-line weight. When rigged as an in-line weight an angled catch point is created and the rounded body serves as a catch point for floating weeds. This is especially key when fishing in the late summer as weeds begin to die off. This catch point often gathers the floating weeds and keeps baits fishing cleaner for a touch longer. More time fishing clean simply means more opportunities to get bit!

MAKING MUD

Because Off Shore Tackle’s Pro Guppy Weights are molded in a round form, they displace a solid

amount of mud and sand when pounded off the bottom. If anyone has ever fished the Detroit River with heavy jigs, they know firsthand the effectiveness of thumping heavy weights off the bottom of a body of water where walleye lurk. Crashing bottom creates noise and makes mud which attracts fish to the commotion.

Pairing OR20 2 oz Pro Guppy Weights with shallow diving balsa minnow baits is one of my favorite fall fishing setups for walleye on Lake St. Clair. This combination is able to take shallow diving baits right to the bottom. While trolling, try performing “S” turns with the boat to crash Pro Guppy Weights into the bottom and make mud. Often times bites are triggered on the inside rods right after baits crash into the bottom and a turn to the opposite side is executed.

CONSISTENCY MATTERS

Because of the material the Pro Guppy Weights are made of, they are able to be produced more precisely than lead weights which can vary considerably. Because of this, Pro Guppy Weights provide the angler with confidence which can only be earned with consistency. Using trusted trolling baits with assisted weight diving programs provides additional benefits such as wave surge mitigation, floating weed catch points, and the ability to cause a commotion with controlled structure crashing. With these things in mind, it is no wonder that Pro Guppy Weights consistently puts more fish in the boat.



Bob Barnes, pictured here is the father of the author Rob Barnes and an active member of the Lake St. Clair Walleye Association. Fishing clubs are ground zero when it comes to helping other anglers be more successful on the water. This father and son fishing team are big fans of Off Shore Tackle products.

THE OFF SHORE TACKLE MISSION STATEMENT

Our company’s foundation is based on presenting products to the consumer that result in a more productive fishing experience. We strive to use the best available materials that are as eco friendly as possible. Our products are “Often Imitated but Never Duplicated”. You can buy cheaper products, but you can’t buy better designed, built, longer lasting or more functional trolling products than those produced by Off Shore Tackle. That’s why Off Shore Tackle LLC remains your “Leader in Trolling Technology.”





OFF SHORE TACKLE

Your Leader In

Our products can used with any monofilament

Planer Boards

Model # OR38 Awesome Crappie Board



Each OR38 Awesome Crappie Board includes an OR10 release, OR16 Pro Clip, black bracket, split ring, lock nut, 6/32 x 1/2" screw, and instructions. One board... Dual Purpose....It's Reversible and runs directly off of your rod line! Ideal for several species of fish not just crappie. Don't let the size fool you.

Model # OR12L Side Planer Left
Model # OR12R Side Planer Right



Each OR12 Side Planer includes a stationary flag, one OR19 release, one OR16 Pro Clip, instructions and is carefully ballasted to run flawlessly in rough water off of your rod line. Ideal for several species of fish.

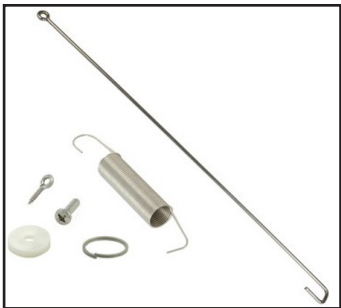
Model # OR37L SST Pro Mag Planer Left
Model # OR37R SST Pro Mag Planer Right



The SST Pro Mag Planer includes a stationary flag, one OR18 release with lock nut, one OR16 Pro Clip, instructions and is designed to carry large, heavy baits further to the side than any other in line planer! Perfect for long copper and lead core lines. The OR16 Pro Clip on the tail of the board ensures that your board will stay on your fishing line.

Tattle Flag™ HD Upgrade Kit

Model# OR12TFEK
Tattle Flag™ HD Economy Kit



This kit works by using your OR12 Side Planer and the release/clip that came on your OR12. This kit just contains ONLY the hardware which consists of a HD wire, spring, washer, screw eye, split ring, 6/32 screw and limited instructions.

Planer Board Releases

Our three full size planer board releases come with a quick clip for use on dual planer boards. Also available without quick clips. Their large diameter pinch pad design holds monofilament lines securely. Tensions can be adjusted further by how deeply the line is placed in the pads.

Model # OR3
Light Tension Planer Board Release - White



This release is ideal for small light biting fish.

Model # OR17BWW
Medium Tension Planer Board Release - Black



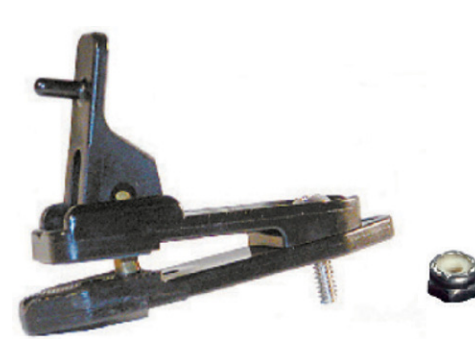
This release is ideal for deep water good size fish. It can also be used to pull lead core, snap weights and deep diving crankbaits.

Model # OR30BWW
Heavy Tension Planer Board Release – Red



This release is ideal for large lures and high speed trolling.

Model # OR18 Snapper Adjustable Tension
In Line Planer Board Release—Black



The OR 18 is designed with an adjustable cam action locking arm that can be set to release at a range of tension settings or tightened down to hold even super braid lines and lead core securely. This release comes standard on our OR37 SST Pro Mag Planer and is made to attach to the bracket of our OR12 Side Planer as well.

Model # OR39
Sam's Pro Release-Black



Manufactured by Silver Horde, the OR39 Sam's Pro Release incorporates a jettison design that allows low stretch super lines to be wrapped around a rubber plunger that in turn fits into a pressure fit housing. This release is good for all species that the super lines are ideal for.

Our three half size adjustable tension planer board releases come with quick clips for use on dual planer boards and split rings for use on in-line planer boards. They are also available without quick clips and split rings. Tension can be further adjusted by simply sliding the spring toward the pads to increase tension or away from the pads to decrease tension.

Model # OR10
Adjustable Light Tension
Planer Board Release—Yellow



This release is ideal for small light biting fish.

Model # OR14
Adjustable Medium Tension
Planer Board Release—Black



This release is ideal for deep water and/or good size fish as well as most commonly used for rigging add-a-lines or fixed slider lines among downrigger anglers.

Model # OR19
Adjustable Heavy Tension
Planer Board Release—Orange



This release comes as standard equipment on the OR12 Side Planer and is ideal for large lures, high speed trolling.

The red OR16 Pro Clip is found under the Pro Weight section on page 11.

PRODUCT SHOWCASE

Trolling Technology

line, for best results we suggest a minimum of 10 lb. test.



Pro Weights



Model # OR20
Pro Weight System



Each system includes instructions, four OR16 Pro Clips, four split rings, two of each of the following guppy weights: 1/2 oz., 3/4 oz., 1 oz., 1 1/2 oz., 2 oz., and 3 oz. all contained in a plastic tackle box. Use as Snap Weights or In Line Weights - you decide. This system is used off of flat lines, dual planer boards and side planer boards.

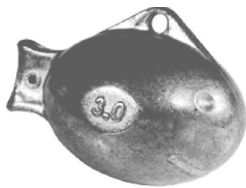
The OR16's and guppy weights are available to purchase separately so you can create your own custom Pro Weight System!

Model # OR16
Pro Clip—Red



This half size clip has an extra heavy spring tension and includes a split ring. You simply position your fishing line behind the pin that protrudes through the center of the pads to hold your snap weight securely on the line.

The OR16 comes as standard equipment on the tail of the OR37 SST Pro Mag Planer, OR12 Side Planer, OR38 Awesome Crappie Board and in our OR20 Pro Weight System. It is ideal for use with snap weight fishing, super braid lines and with our tattle flag™ HD system.



Replacement Pro Guppy Weights

Model # OR20 1/2
1/2 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

Model # OR20 3/4
3/4 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

Model # OR20 1
1 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

Model # OR20 1 1/2
1 1/2 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

Model # OR20 2
2 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

Model # OR20 3
3 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

These items, replacement parts, and promotional items (including apparel) are all available through our website.



PLEASE VISIT US AT ...

www.offshoretackle.com

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Resettable Diving Weights



Model # OR36 1
Tadpole Size 1

Model # OR36 2
Tadpole Size 2

Model # OR36 3
Tadpole Size 3

Model # OR36 MAGNUM
Tadpole MAGNUM Size

Downrigger Releases

Our downrigger releases are all full size and therefore have the large diameter pinch pad design that holds monofilament lines securely. Tension can be adjusted further by how deeply the line is placed into the pads.

Model # OR4
Light Tension Single
Downrigger Release, White



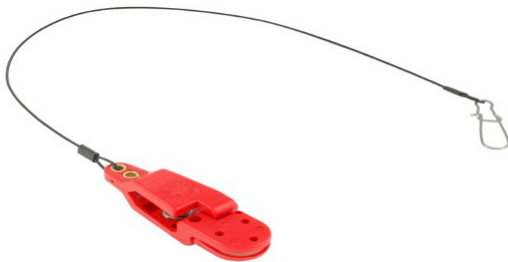
This release is ideal for light biting fish.

Model # OR1
Medium Tension Single
Downrigger Release, Black



This release is ideal for deep water and/or good size fish.

Model # OR8
Heavy Tension Single
Downrigger Release, Red



This release is ideal for large lures and high speed trolling.

Model # OR7
Light Tension Stacker
Downrigger Release, White



This release is ideal for small light biting fish and allows you to run two lines off of the same downrigger.

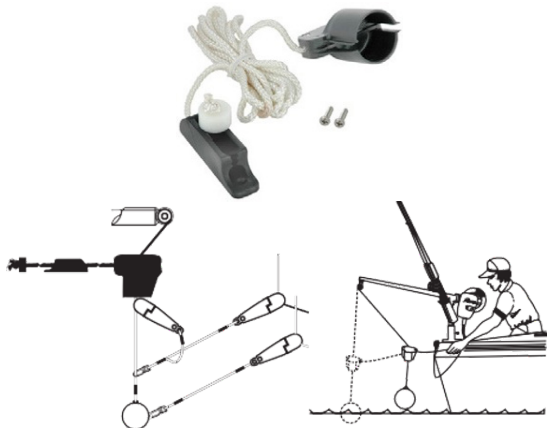
Model # OR2
Medium Tension Stacker
Downrigger Release, Black



This release is ideal for deep water and/or good size fish and allows you to run two lines off of the same downrigger.

Stacker Stripper/Weight Retriever

Model # OR6
Stacker Stripper/Weight Retriever



Stacking two lures on a downrigger is quicker and easier with the OR6 Stacker Stripper.

As the weight is raised, the Stripper will automatically strip the stacker release from the cable so you won't have to stop the cannonball. The automatic stripping eliminates the grooves worn into stacker pads from sliding on the cable.

The OR6 doubles as a Weight Retriever to bring the weight into the boat for resetting lines. Using the retriever cord will reduce damaging cannonball sway.

Replacement Pads



Model # ORRP8
Replacement pads for OR1, OR2, OR3, OR4, OR7, OR8, OR17, and OR30 releases.



Model # ORRP8SN
Replacement pads for OR18 releases.



Model # ORRP16
Replacement pads for OR10, OR14, and OR19 releases.



Model # ORRP16HL
Replacement pads for OR16 clips.

EZ Crankbait Tuner

Model # OR40
EZ Crankbait Tuner



These unique tuning pliers feature a long and short jaw design that includes an adjustable spring tension setting making it possible to tune any crankbait.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDS, BRUCE DESHANO

Tournaments were busy again with the new Head2Head format added to the many team and Pro/Am tournaments. All were all well attended even with many new government restrictions and mandates in place. The Off Shore Pro Staff did great across the board; **CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!**

We lost some great people; some to natural causes and some to the virus that seems to be haunting the world. Long time

friend, employee and pro staffer of Off Shore Tackle, Frank Majdecki Sr; Ron Lindner, Al's brother as did Al's wife Mary, and Stephen Picht left us after a long battle with Covid. They will be missed.

I am enjoying life with Nick doing all the heavy lifting now and handling the numerous issues with supply and equipment problems. It sure has been tough working through them and he has done great putting out the fires. **Thank you both vendors and**

customers that have shown so much patience with the delays in shipping. All of the Off Shore Tackle employees stepped up and continue to get the product out the door as fast as they can when raw material arrive. **Thank you all!**

Fishing was great throughout the country with the anglers catching a lot of fish whichever the specie. Crappie, catfish, salmon and other fish were caught when the weather would let them fish. I was able to get

out a few times on Saginaw Bay and in June I took some of the grandchildren fishing for panfish and bass. We even caught some! I hope that everything goes better for 2022 and we all get to fish even more than last year. Again, **THANK YOU** to everyone down the line that continues to support us during these trying times as we are doing everything we can. Good fishing!



My grandchildren Gus, Ari and Alex proudly show their catch!

PLEASE NOTE

Before using any fishing/rigging method, make sure to consult your local Department of Natural Resources fishing directory to confirm local fishing regulations.



ABOUT THE EDITOR

The Off Shore Tackle Release annual newspaper is edited by outdoor writer, Mark Romanack. Mark is one of the original Off Shore Tackle Pro Staffers and was instrumental in helping Off Shore Tackle develop the wildly popular OR12 Side Planer. He has spent his career communicating the “outdoor lifestyle” in all media venues including magazines, newspapers, social media, outdoor television, on-demand television, outdoor radio, consumer sport shows, pod casts, fishing seminars and more.

The author of thousands of magazine articles and 11 different hard bound book titles focusing on fishing and three e-books. Mark is also the guy behind the popular Precision Trolling Data, phone apps. Mark also remains active in helping Off Shore Tackle develop new products and helping with the never ending process of refining existing products to be as effective as possible.

Those who would like to make submissions to the Off Shore Tackle Release can contact Mark via e-mail at Mark@Fishing411.net.

Purchase your Off Shore Tackle Company LLC products at your local dealer or send in your order today!

Prices in effect January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022

Prices and packaging subject to change without notice.



-----**Order Blank**-----

MODEL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PACKAGE	NUMBER OF PKGS. ORDERING	PRICE	EXTENDED AMOUNT
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC SIDE PLANER BOARD PRODUCTS					
OR38	Awesome Crappie Board With Float	Pkg. of 1		\$24.50	
OR12L	Side Planer Left	Pkg. of 1		\$40.00	
OR12R	Side Planer Right	Pkg. of 1		\$40.00	
OR12P2	Pigtail and Split Ring For OR12L and OR12R	Pkg. of 2		\$3.85	
OR12TFEK	Tattle Flag™ HD ECONOMY KIT (No Release/Clip or Flag Included)	Pkg. of 1		\$10.00	
ORS2	Tattle Flag™ Replacement Spring	Pkg. of 2		\$7.85	
OR37L	SST Pro Mag Planer Left	Pkg. of 1		\$61.55	
OR37R	SST Pro Mag Planer Right	Pkg. of 1		\$61.55	
OFF SHORE TACKLECOMPANY LLC PLANER BOARD RELEASES					
OR3	Light Tension, White With Quick Clip	Pkg. of 2		\$20.35	
OR17BWW	Medium Tension, Black With Quick Clip	Pkg. of 24		\$221.85	
OR30BWW	Heavy Tension, Red With Quick Clip (Note: This is NOT the smaller-sized OR16)	Pkg. of 6		\$62.25	
OR18	Snapper Adjustable Tension, Black With Lock Nut	Pkg. of 1		\$16.60	
OR10	Adjustable Light Tension, Yellow With Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 4		\$25.80	
OR14	Adjustable Medium Tension, Black With Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 4		\$25.80	
OR19	Adjustable Heavy Tension, Orange With Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 2		\$13.70	
OR39	Sam's Pro Release, Black With Split Ring and Lock Nut	Pkg. of 1		\$14.50	
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC PRO SNAP WEIGHT PRODUCTS					
OR20	Pro Snap Weight System	Pkg. of 1		\$64.10	
OR16	Heavy Tension Pro Clip, Red With Split Ring	Pkg. of 2		\$13.65	
OR20 1/2	1/2 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 3		\$5.95	
OR20 3/4	3/4 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 3		\$6.60	
OR20 1	1 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 3		\$7.90	
OR20 1 1/2	1 1/2 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 2		\$5.80	
OR20 2	2 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 2		\$7.20	
OR20 3	3 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 1		\$5.00	
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC RESETTABLE DIVING WEIGHTS					
OR36 1	Tadpole Size 1 – Includes Two Coast Lock Snaps	Pkg. of 1		\$7.55	
OR36 2	Tadpole Size 2 – Includes Two Coast Lock Snaps	Pkg. of 1		\$7.80	
OR36 3	Tadpole Size 3 – Includes Two Coast Lock Snaps	Pkg. of 1		\$15.15	
OR36 MAGNUM	Tadpole MAGNUM Size – Includes Two Coast Lock Snaps	Pkg. of 1		\$15.45	

Continued on reverse



These items, replacement parts, and promotional items are available through our website:
www.offshoretackle.com



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Purchase your Off Shore Tackle Company LLC products at your local dealer or send in your order today!



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ORDER BLANK CONTINUED FROM PRIOR PAGE

MODEL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PACKAGE	NUMBER OF PKGS. ORDERING	PRICE	EXTENDED AMOUNT
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC SINGLE DOWNRIGGER RELEASES					
OR4	Light Tension, White	Pkg. of 1		\$11.40	
OR1	Medium Tension, Black	Pkg. of 1		\$11.40	
OR8	Heavy Tension, Red	Pkg. of 1		\$14.25	
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC STACKER DOWNRIGGER RELEASES					
OR7	Light Tension, White	Pkg. of 1		\$20.20	
OR2	Medium Tension, Black	Pkg. of 1		\$20.20	
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC STACKER STRIPPER/WEIGHT RETRIEVER COMBINATION					
OR6	Strips The Stacker Release Off OfThe Downrigger Cable AsThe Weight Is Raised. Also Doubles As A Weight Retriever By Pull Cord. Line Loc Included.	Pkg. of 1		\$16.10	
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC REPLACEMENT PADS					
ORRP8	Pads For OR1's, OR2's, OR3's, OR4's, OR7's, OR8's, OR17's, and OR30's	Pkg. of 8		\$3.70	
ORRP8SN	Pads For OR18's	Pkg. of 8		\$9.20	
ORRP16	Pads For OR10's, OR14's, and OR19's	Pkg. of 16		\$6.15	
ORRP16HL	Pads For OR16's	Pkg. of 16		\$6.20	
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC OTHER ACCESSORIES					
OR40	EZ Tuning Tool, Black With Lanyard	Pkg. of 1		\$23.05	



These items, replacement parts, and promotional items are all available through our website . . .

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Product Total

Shipping Charges Within The 48 Mainland United States

Subtotal
(Product Total Plus Shipping Charges)

Michigan Residents and Orders Being Shipped to a Michigan Address from Non Residents, Add 6% Sales Tax Based On Subtotal

Total (Subtotal Plus Sales Tax)
U. S. Funds Enclosed

★ ONLY ACCEPTING ORDERS BEING SHIPPED TO AN ADDRESS WITHIN THE U.S.A. ★

\$8.99

Send THIS completed order form, along with your U.S.P.S. money order or COMPLETE credit card information to:

Off Shore Tackle Company LLC, P.O. Box 88, Port Austin, MI 48467-0088

Be sure to fill in BOTH mailing and shipping address as we ship via several different ways • Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

MAILING ADDRESS

Name: _____

c/o: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ - _____

E-Mail Address: _____

SHIP ORDERTO

Name: _____

c/o: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

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OFF SHORE PRECISION CRAPPIE TROLLING

BY DAN DANNENMUELLER SR. (CRAPPIE DAN)

Learning to accurately and easily troll (primarily pulling) for crappie has just gotten even easier with an updated trolling app. Mark Romanack with Fishing411.net released this year a major update to their Precision Trolling App which includes crappie trolling variables for many crappie baits. I have used this new app all year and found it to be spot on.

Using this new app coupled with your Off Shore Tackle planer boards can be a very productive method to catch slab crappie all year round. It is extremely productive if the fish are scattered or in schools in open water. This method of fishing, DOES NOT REQUIRE an angler to have live technologies. Instead, I like to use Garmin Clear VU down and side imaging to find these fish.

When you find big schools of bait fish, the crappie won't be far away. What is the key? Find the range of depth where most of the fish are located. For example: Last year for many months, the crappie were in 10 to 14 feet over 20 to 30 feet of water. I found this to be true for many different deeper lakes.

Once you have the depth, the fishing baits of choice and color become the next variables. Choosing the type of crappie baits is the second variable, after depth, to input into the referenced app. If you use the Off Shore Tackle OR36 series Tadpole, they will determine the correct variables in the app for you. Only two are listed in the app, the OR36 1 and OR36 2. I only use the OR36 1 for crappie.

I usually like to use a two-way leader setup clipped to my tadpole. This leader setup is

comprised of first, a two foot 8 pound test clear fishing line with one end clipped to the backend of the tadpole and other clipped to a 30 pound three-way. From the middle of the three-way, I clip a 2 to 3 foot, 8 pound leader. On the other end of this leader, I clip it to a smaller crappie bait or jig. To the last end of the three-way, I clip a 4 foot, 8 pound test leader with the other clip connected to a crappie crankbait of choice.

By using a tadpole, I don't have to worry about using a deep diving crankbait vice a shallow runner or even a square-bill. Any crankbait will only dive approximately one foot with the tadpole and this length of line. The tadpole and line out shown on the app determines the depth.

What is great about this set-up, I will run the crankbait just above the bottom fish depth. So, if they are down to 14 feet, I will set my line out for 12 feet so the running crankbait will run at 13 feet. Then the bait on the shorter leader will run approximately 1-2 feet above the crankbait which puts me near the top of the crappie school.


If I am running in shallower water, I will run one, 4 foot leader and not run the top bait. With this setup, I usually run 10 pound test fishing line, Hi Vis on my main line from the reel. I clip the main line to the front of my tadpole. All my clips for this setup are Thundermist size 00 and/or 01.

The next step is to determine the number of feet back from the Off Shore Tackle board to the tadpole which will determine the depth the baits will run with the tadpole and the speed you will pull them at.

Go to the app and select under

Tadpole #1

Light/Dark Mode ☐



Line Type Click to Change

10# BERKLEY XT

Feet Down	Feet Back	MPH
12	16	2.5
13	17	1.0
14	18	1.25

the crappie menu, the Tadpole #1. Once this is done, you will see a picture of the Tadpole and the line selection which he only has 10# Berkley XT. He only has this line for this selection and does not affect the depth that much if you use another brand and size of line with this setup.

Then, scroll down on Feet Down until you reach 13 feet. When making this selection, your number of feet back should show 17 feet at a pulling speed of 1 mph. You will now set your first rod to 17 feet back. To do this, reel the Tadpole to the top guide on your rod, then, by using a line counter or by pulling 12 inches at a time from the reel, pull 17ft off plus one foot. The

extra foot is where your board will be attached. On my OR38 Awesome Crappie board, I like to clip the red OR16 on the tail of the board first to the 17 foot mark, then create a small loop and then clip the boards yellow OR10 clip that is attached to the bracket of the board to the line.

I follow this procedure for all lines and boards I will be deploying. I like to vary the depths to see if the fish want it slightly higher in the water column or deeper. Usually a range of, one to two feet shorter to 1 to 2 feet longer. I recommend keeping a record of which rod and reel is what depth. Once you catch a fish or two, move the other lines and boards to that depth.



SNAP WEIGHT IN-LINE TROLLING WEIGHTS

BY MARK ROMANACK

Off Shore Tackle produces the most popular in-line trolling weight on the market. The OR16 Pro Clip changed the trolling industry forever when it was first introduced more than 20 years ago. Before this innovative product introduction in-line trolling weights had to be affixed to the trolling line near the lure.

The Snap Weight made it possible to easily put trolling weights on the line (and also take them off) anywhere between the lure and the rod tip! The ability to separate the trolling weight from the lure created a whole new style of “stealth trolling” that has proved to be deadly for a host of popular species.

Snap Weights feature the OR16 Pro Clip that features a plastic pin indexed between a pair of rubber pads. When the clip is pinched open and the line placed behind the pin, the Snap

Weight can be firmly affixed anywhere on the line.

Snap Weights are designed to be used with monofilament, co-polymer and fluorocarbon lines. While Snap Weights can also be used with super braids and fused lines, these low stretch lines are slippery and will eventually destroy the rubber pinch pads and also can cause damage to the plastic pin in the OR16. If you wish to use super braids with the OR16 clip, the line must be wrapped around one of the jaws to keep it from slipping and damaging the release.

When a fish is hooked using a Snap Weight, the angler simply reels in the Snap Weight and fish, removing the Snap Weight when it reaches the rod tip. The process of putting a Snap Weight on or taking it off the line only takes a second, making it seamless to use in-line weights for a host of trolling applications.

By varying the size weights used and the lead length combinations employed, Snap Weights make it possible to target a host of trolling depths effectively and affordably. Originally sold as a kit, early Snap Weight kits featured four OR16 Pro Clips and an assortment of lead sinkers including 1/2, 3/4, 1, 1.5, 2 and 3 ounce sizes.

Eventually these lead sinkers were replaced with the OR20 series Guppy Weights which is a trolling sinker molded from environmentally friendly material shaped like a guppy. An important benefit of the Guppy Weight is that unlike lead weights, the Guppy Weights are extremely consistent within each size. The more consistent the weight is, the easier it is to replicate what is catching fish. The Guppy Weight has the advantage of being useful as a Snap Weight



This shows you how a Snap Weight is setup using an OR16 Pro Clip with an OR20 series Guppy Weight attached.

or as a traditional in-line trolling weight.

Snap Weights do a great job of getting a host of terminal tackle options to trolling depths. Wall-eye anglers who troll using spinner rigs are especially enamored with the Snap Weight because the slow trolling speeds employed with spinners allow Snap Weights to reach substantial depths. They were among the first anglers to discover the advantage of using a Snap Weight in combination with a diving style crankbait. Early and late in the year when walleye are often found in deep water, adding a Snap Weight to the line makes it possible to target walleye with a host of crankbaits that simply don't dive deep enough on their own.

While Snap Weights and crankbaits got their start with walleye anglers, salmon and trout anglers soon realized that the Snap Weight is a useful tool for getting salmon/trout spoons and wobbling plugs to depth. The Snap Weight has become a popular alternative to using sinking lines such as lead core, stranded copper line or weighted stainless steel wire.

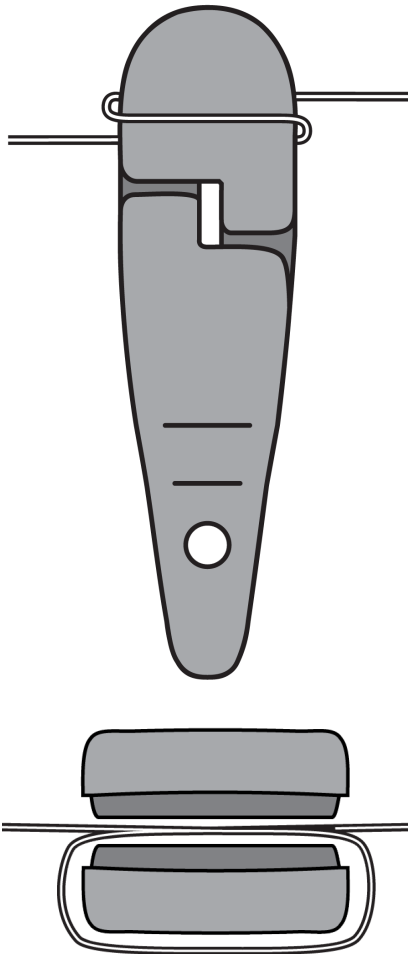
**MORE WEIGHT
PLEASE**
The OR20 Pro Weight Kits come with an assortment of

Guppy Weights up to three ounces in size. For some trolling applications larger trolling weights are required.

No problem, the OR16 Pro Clip can handle larger trolling sinkers including 4, 6, 8,10 and even 12 ounce weights. For using Snap Weights at extreme depths, two Snap Weight Clips can be added to a split ring, making it possible to double down and fish up to 16 ounces of weight on the line.

SOLD SEPARATELY
Pro Clips and Guppy Weights are sold separately as well, making it possible for anglers to stock up on the sizes they fish most often. Major retailers nationwide stock OR16's and the OR20 series Guppy Weights. If your local retailer doesn't carry these products, you can order direct from Off Shore Tackle using the order form provided in this newspaper or at offshore-tackle.com.

SUMMING IT UP
The concept of the Snap Weight has been so successful, it literally changed the face of trolling forever. Off Shore Tackle, Your Leader in Trolling Technology, continues to innovate new products that make trolling more fun and productive.



WANTED

Attention retailers that carry Off Shore Tackle products! We are looking to add you to our list of RETAILERS on our website. Please email us at otcproducts@yahoo.com with your company name along with your location and web address (if you have one) for you to be added.

If you happen to be missing out on carrying our products, we would be more than happy to supply you with a list of distributors that would happily accommodate you in adding the Off Shore Tackle products!

DON'T BE FOOLED

We are “Often Imitated, Never Duplicated”. Make sure that when you purchase your products that they are Original Off Shore Tackle products that have proven to be successful and dependable! We take pride in bringing you the BEST quality!

THE IN-LINE PLANER BOARD SETUP DEBATE

BY JASON O'BRIEN

One of the most common questions I get at seminars and on my YouTube, Channel is “should you run the longer/deeper baits on the inside or outside of my board program?” If you were to ask this question at any tournament you would have half of the anglers say that they run their deeper baits on the outside and half saying the opposite. So, the short answer is you can do either program and still catch fish; however there are several things that change the effectiveness of either program along with different schools of thoughts as why a particular method out preforms the other depending on conditions. Let us look at board setups for both programs.

When I’m running with the longer/deeper baits on the inside Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planer boards and my shorter/shallower baits on the outside OR12’s, I will use an OR19 (orange) release on the bracket. This allows me to release the front clip when a fish is on which will naturally carry the board and fish towards the back and center of the boat overtop of the other inside deeper lines and avoid tangled lines. I find this method very effective especially if you are running more than two boards per side. It is also very efficient as you are not fighting the fish after the board is released as well as you are not having to clear the inside boards.

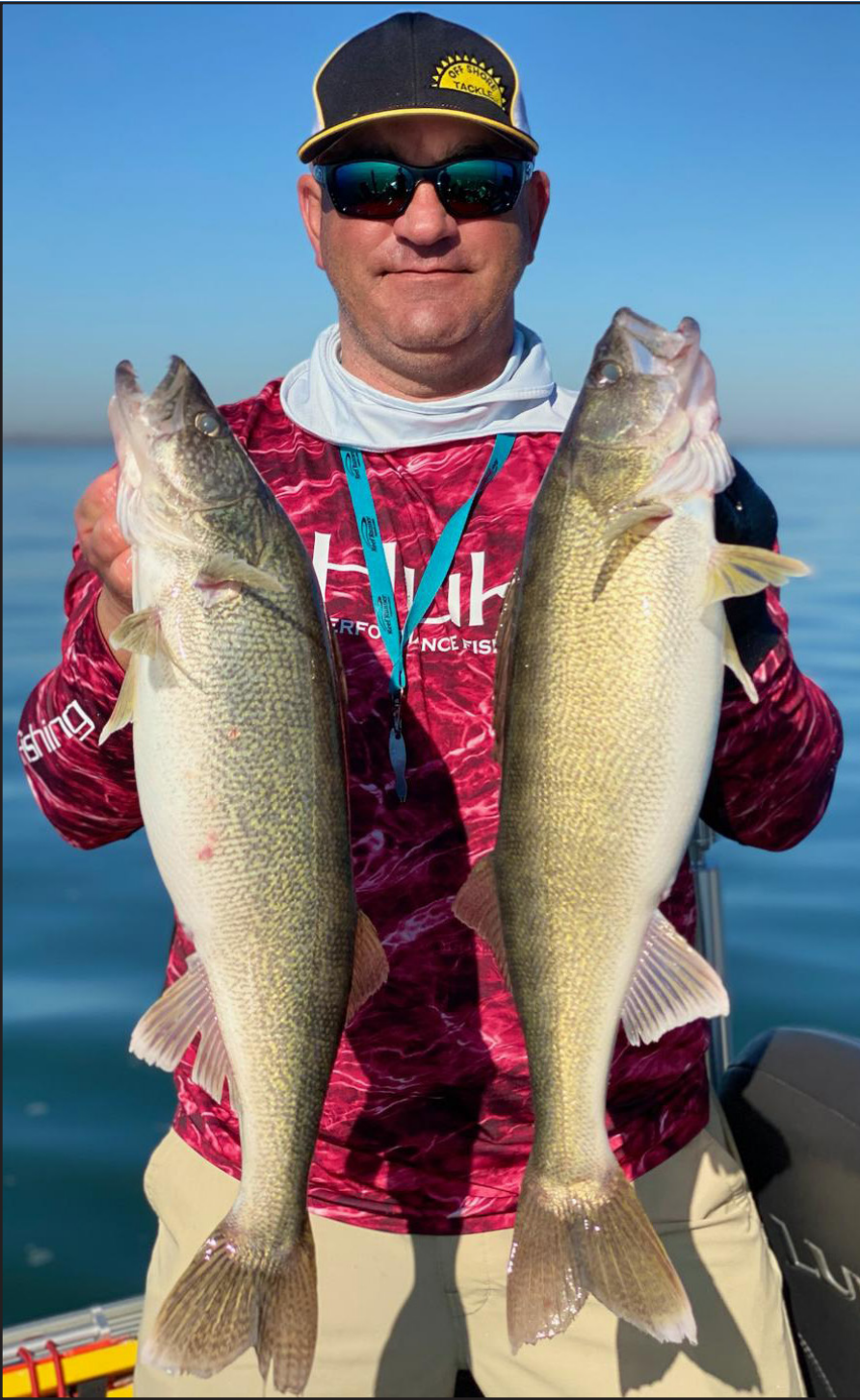
When I run longer/deeper baits on the outside boards and my shorter/shallower baits on the inside boards, I will use an OR18 Snapper Release on the bracket instead. This allows me to tighten the clip down so the line is not released (very useful with braided line). When I have a fish strike, I will slowly let out line so

that the outside board will drop back so it will clear the shorter/shallower inside boards to avoid tangled lines. I will typically go to this setup if I’m running baits with 50 plus 2 method with OR20 series Pro Weights to achieve deeper bait depths. I will also use this setup if I’m trolling in rough seas to prevent unwanted line releases and if I’m running 2 or less boards per side.

We know that walleye are a very “spooky” fish and they do not like boat noise which is also why marking fish in the top part of the water column with 2D sonar can be rare. When you troll over walleye they will swim away from danger (your boat). Think of the retreating swimming pattern like the ribs of an umbrella under your boat. Depending on trolling direction, trolling speed, underwater currents, water clarity, light conditions, nearest structure, water temperatures and fish attitudes will determine which direction a spooked fish will swim to safety. For the most part, especially in Lake Erie or bigger bodies of water, it is safe to assume regardless of the direction, they will be swimming towards the bottom for safety.

With regards to the first program with the outside boards with higher baits in the water column, the idea is that you have a better chance of catching higher fish in the column because they are not being spooked by the boat. On the flip side, running your deeper baits on the outside will position your baits in front of the retreating walleye spooked by your boat.

In summary, as noted at the beginning of this article, both board programs will catch fish. You may have to change the release on the bracket of your Off



Jason O'Brien is a walleye tournament professional and active member of the Off Shore Tackle pro staff. His insightful article on setting up in-line planer boards will help anglers catch more fish.

Shore OR12 Side Planer board depending on which program you choose to fish along with retrieval method. Generally, there is no clear proof that one program produces more or larger fish than the other, however due to changing seasons and fishing conditions one method might be more productive than the other on any given day. During my tournament pre-fishing I will always fish both ways and ultimately let

the conditions and the fish tell me what they want. The next time you go trolling for walleye try one side of the boat setup one way and the other the second way and determine yourself which approach is more effective on that given day.

Editor’s Note: Jason O’Brien is a professional angler and a member of the Off Shore Tackle Pro Staff.

DISCLAIMER

Product features, opinions, and/or individual’s contact information may have changed since these articles were originally composed.

TADPOLE DIVERS, IN-LINE WEIGHTS WITH A TWIST

BY MARK ROMANACK

The Off Shore Tackle OR36 Tadpole Diver is perhaps the most unique in-line trolling weight ever developed. Molded from environmentally friendly material, the Tadpole Diver gets its name because it resembles a tadpole with a large head and skinny tail.

The head of the Tadpole Diver creates a functional diving lip that helps this in-line weight achieve more depth. Because the Tadpole Diver sinks and also features a diving lip, these trolling weights can be used to target greater depths. The Tadpole Diver also maintains depth at higher trolling speeds than other in-line trolling devices.

SIMPLE FUNCTION

The simple and yet efficient function of the Tadpole Diver makes this product stand alone in the trolling industry. Molded into the diving lip, the Tadpole features a tow arm that accepts a supplied coast lock style snap. This snap is tied to the main line, then clipped over the tow arm. At the back of the Tadpole Diver a second coast lock makes it easy to attach a leader and the desired terminal tackle.

The coast lock on the tow arm is designed to ride in the elbow when the Tadpole is diving and when a fish is hooked, the coast lock slides forward stopping the Tadpole from diving. This simple and functional design allows anglers to fight the fish not the resistance of the diver.

The Tadpole can be used to get a host of terminal tackle

options to depth including trolling spoons, shallow diving crankbaits, stick baits, in-line spinners and crawler harness style spinners. Essentially any trolling lure that doesn't feature a dramatic diving profile benefits from being fished in combination with the Tadpole Diver.

TADPOLE SIZES

Off Shore Tackle produces four different sizes of the OR36 Tadpole including the No. 1, 2, 3 and Magnum. The No. 1 and 2 sizes are commonly used by walleye and spring salmon/trout trollers who are targeting depths less than 30 feet. The No. 3 and Magnum sizes are useful for reaching deeper depths.

DIVE CURVES

All of the Tadpole sizes have been tested by Precision Trolling Data to determine their respective Dive Curves at popular trolling speeds, lead lengths and line diameters. This invaluable phone app is available for Android and iPhone users and can be purchased at the Google Play and Apple App Stores respectively.

MAIN LINE SUGGESTIONS

The Tadpole Diver can be fished with all common line types including super braids, fused lines, monofilament, co-polymer and fluorocarbon lines. For walleye, spring brown trout, crappie, kokanee and other modest sized fish, a main line that features a 10 to 12 pound



break strength is ideal.

For larger species such as lake trout, salmon, striper, pike and muskie, a main line that features a 20 to 65 pound test break strength is recommended.

LEADER RECOMMENDATIONS

Fluorocarbon is the ideal leader material for trolling with Tadpole Divers. Not only is fluorocarbon line nearly invisible in the water, this leader type is exceptionally tough and features superior abrasion resistance. A six foot leader is ideal for trolling most terminal tackle. When targeting walleye or other modest sized species a 10 to 15 pound test leader works nicely. When larger species like salmon or striper are targeted heavier leaders in the 20 to 40 pound test range are recommended.

Wire leader material is a good option when targeting pike, muskie or many of the toothy saltwater species.

ADDING ATTRACTORS

The Tadpole Diver can be fished clean or attractors such as

Witch Craft Tape can be added to the diving lip. The Big Al Fish Flash and also the Yakima Bait Add-a-Buzz can be added to the back of the Tadpole to create even more fish attracting flash and vibration. Adding attractors to the Tadpole doesn't influence the diving depth of these devices and can help pull fish into a trolling pattern from amazing distances.

Adding attractors to the Tadpole works in all water clarity conditions, but it is especially useful when trolling in stained to dirty water.

SUMMING IT UP

The resettable design of the Off Shore Tackle OR36 Tadpole is flawless and can be used with all line types and for every trolling situation. Tadpole Divers can also be paired up with in-line boards to gain even greater lure coverage. Easy to use, efficient and deadly effective the Tadpole Diver is just another innovation brought to you by the Leaders in Trolling Technology.

FREE!

GREEN

OFF SHORE TACKLE LLC

Volume 29, 2021

The OFF SHORE RELEASE

Your Leader In Trolling Technology www.offshoretackle.com

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One of our proudest moments at Off Shore Tackle is when our founder and "Chairman of the Boards", Bruce DeShano, was inducted into the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame along with OST Pro Staffer Tommy Skarlis in January of 2020.

Tips and Techniques brought to you by
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LOOKING FOR SOMETHING

Maybe you missed some of our past editions of the "Off Shore Release", or are need of more information on our products and their usage. All of this information is always available 24/7 on our website, www.offshoretackle.com!

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TROLLING FOR WINTER/SPRING BROWN TROUT ON LAKE ONTARIO

BY CAPTAIN RICHARD HAJECKI
OF CRAZY YANKEE SPORTFISHING

Our winters aren’t like they used to be up here in New York. Our snow totals are a fraction of what they once were, and we don’t get those long-drawn-out cold spells. This has made it possible to open water fish right through winter on Lake Ontario.

If you have an outboard powered boat, you have what it takes to fish all winter. You just need to watch the weather. When it’s below freezing it makes things a little more difficult, but the real factor is wind. South winds, or very light winds in any other direction, allow you to access Lake Ontario’s South shore. If you can get out the fishing is generally good, and the boat traffic is non-existent.

We tend to fish in less than 20 feet of water this time of year and concentrate around the mouths of creeks and rivers. Often, this is the warmest water around. Finding colored or dirty water isn’t hard to do this time of year. Pull out your favorite shallow diving stick baits or spoons and tow them behind Off Shore Tackle

OR12 Side Planer in-line planer boards. Our GPS speed is usually 1.8-2.0 mph.

Lure colors are very simple. Bright/gaudy colors if you can’t see bottom in 10 feet of water and natural colors if you can. Leads vary depending on the lure of choice. We prefer the Bay Rat Lures short shallow or S3. Utilizing the Precision Trolling App, we know how much line to let out to get those lures a few feet off bottom. We will typically run three planer boards per side. The furthest one from the boat has the longest lead, and they get shorter as they get closer to the boat. This helps with reducing tangles since everything is being flatlined.

Lastly, do some scouting a day or two before you go. You may have to do some work to clear the launch from snow, ice, or debris. It’s much easier to do this the night before than the morning of. Also, be careful and prepared. The water is very cold, and there isn’t much help available if things go south.



Lake Ontario consistently produces some of the best brown trout fishing found in the Great Lakes region. Beautiful fish like this male await those who travel to Lake Ontario and pack their Off Shore Tackle planer boards.

USING STACKER RELEASES

BY MARK ROMANACK

Anglers who fish often with downriggers know the importance of maximizing the value of these depth control aids. Using a Stacker Release such as the Off Shore Tackle OR2 (black, medium tension) and OR7 (white, light tension) can literally allow anglers to double down on their downrigger fishing success.

A stacker release makes it possible to fish two rods using just one downrigger. To set up a stacker release, take one rod and let the desired lure out behind the boat. Place the fishing line into a downrigger release attached to the downrigger weight. Once the line/lure from this first rod is attached to the downrigger ball, lower the ball

10 to 15 feet. Now take a second rod/lure and let it also behind the boat 10 to 15 feet. Take an Off Shore Tackle OR2 or OR7 Stacker Release and note stacker releases feature two line releases, one on a short wire lead and the other on a longer wire lead. Both wires are joined together with a heavy-duty Duo-Lock snap. Place the Duo-Lock snap over the downrigger wire, then take the line release on the short length of wire and also attach it to the downrigger wire. The line from the second rod is then placed between the rubber pads of the second release. Place both rods in rod holders and back off the drag of the reels so when the downrigger

weight is lowered, line can slip off the reel smoothly. Lower the downrigger weight to the desired level, positioning two different lines at two different depths. Tighten up the drags and reel up slack line on both rods until the rods are bent over. The stacker release makes it possible to fish two different lines and at different depths using just one downrigger. This allows the angler to experiment with different lures, different lure sizes of lure colors. The OR2 Stacker Release features a medium tension that is ideal for most trout and salmon trolling situations. The OR7 is a Light Tension Stacker Release designed for walleye, kokanee,

spring coho, brown trout and other modest sized fish species. **OR6 STACKER STRIPPER** The OR6 Stacker Stripper is a downrigger accessory that strips off the stacker release as the downrigger is raised. This product also helps recover the downrigger ball to hand, making it easier to reset downrigger lines. **SUMMING IT UP** Downriggers are the ultimate in depth control fishing. By using special purpose products like stacker releases and stacker strippers, anglers can double down on their downrigger fishing success.