

Spinnerbait Tips

The safety-pin spinnerbait is a versatile lure for bass fishing. They can be fished almost any depth and cover. There are 4 basic types of safety-pin spinnerbaits and each has its place under certain conditions.

The 4 basic types of spinner baits are:

- Single blade – it is generally best in open water. It tends to run deeper and produce a distinct vibration that's easy to feel. This makes it the best choice for deep water and slow retrieves.
- Double blade – the double or tandem has 2 blades mounted in line. The same size as the single blade will run shallower as it has more lift. This is a good choice for 10' or less of water.
- Long arm – this has the blade as far back as the hook. This is a more weedless lure.
- Short arm – here the blade doesn't reach the hook point so hook sets are easier. This is a good choice for deeper open water, with the single blade best choice. Best for Keowee.

The spinnerbait is versatile as you can change out the blades and skirts. I suggest that skirt changes are the only thing that needs to be done as some times they tear off. You can also change skirt colors easily.

In Lake Keowee shad are dominant so colors that imitate shad are best. White / blue or white and gray seem to work well.

Spinnerbaits come in many weights. For shallow water 3/16 to 3/8-ounce weight is recommended. The 3/16 or 1/4 for real shallow water (5' or less) lets you cast to the bank without the worry of hooking the bottom as the hook points up. Weights of 1/2 to 1 or more ounces are used for deep water.

Colorado (round) blades produce more vibration and are a good choice for a single blade spinner. This can be worked deeper and slower. A willowleaf blade which is more elongated has more flash and runs shallower.

Typical rod are 6' to 7' in length and medium or medium / heavy action. Braided line that does not stretch is a good choice for a solid hook set. You can use spinning or bait casting reels but bait cast combos are best.

There are different retrieve methods that can be effective under certain conditions.

- Slow Roll – the lure is cast and allowed to sink to the bottom and then retrieved slowly back to the boat. It is best to try and keep contact with the bottom or just off the bottom. Weight used depends on water depth discussed above.

- Pumping Motion – this is used to cover sharp sloping banks, points or bars. You cast to the shallow part of the structure and work the lure back in a slow pumping motion. Letting it flutter down and pumped it up.
- Buzz It – just reel fast enough to make the spinner make a wake on the surface. This can be effective in shallow water.
- Buzz & Drop – Same as above but every once in a while stop it and let it flutter down a little, repeat.

Some times just a slow steady retrieve works best.

Spinnerbaits are most effective on windy days or early before sun up if the water is calm. Remember that the best way to fish the wind is to have it to your back as bass will be facing the wind looking for baitfish being moved by the water. You want to bring the bait back with the wind.

Try using a spinnerbait, as it is easy to use and can be very effective.