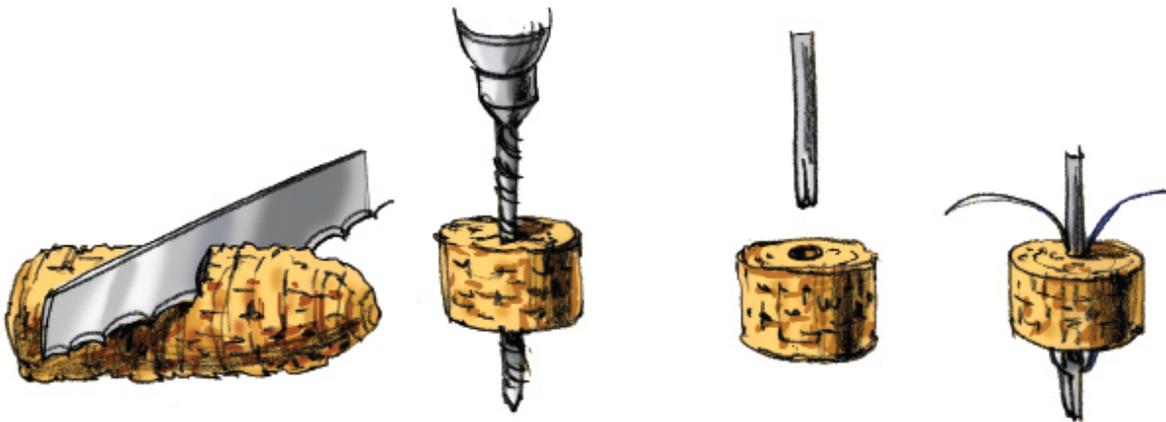


HOW TO: MAKE YOUR OWN FISHING LURES

SIMPLE PROJECTS FOR CONSERVATION

Americans spend more than \$45 billion a year on fishing—a sizable chunk of it on tackle. With money tight these days, you may feel the need to cut back. Instead, get creative. Anyone can make simple, effective tackle using cheap materials and junk lying around the house. Here are a handful of ideas from Rev. J. D. Hooker of Indiana, who first published them in *Backwoods Home* magazine. Give them a try. They'll save you money and save space in the local landfill. They also make fun children's activities. If you don't have all of the materials listed here, improvise and use whatever you have on hand. Half the fun is creating unique designs on your own.



Corncob float

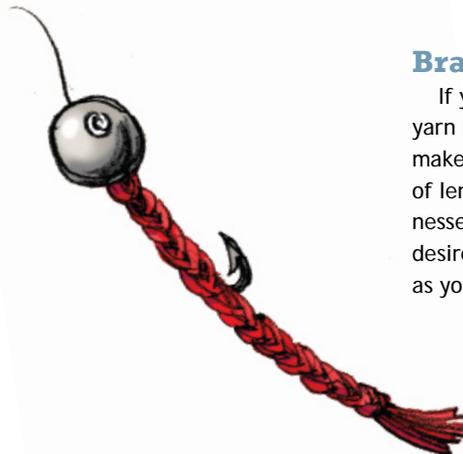
Dried corncobs make great homemade floats. First, sand them smooth with extra coarse sandpaper. Belt sanders work really well, giving your floats the same appearance as commercially made corn cob pipes. Next, saw the corn cob into appropriate lengths. Drill 1/4" to 3/8" holes through the center of the cob, then slot one end of a piece of dowel or smooth stick and insert it through the hole. (You can also omit the dowel center to create a slip bobber.) Finally, to extend the life of your floats, dip them in any sort of exterior paint or varnish and hang them up to dry.

Materials

- Hand saw
- Sandpaper of assorted grit and/or belt sander
- Drill with various bits
- Wooden dowels in various diameters and lengths
- Single and treble hooks
- Stainless steel wire
- Carving knife
- Glue
- Soldering iron
- Exterior paint or varnish

Braided worms

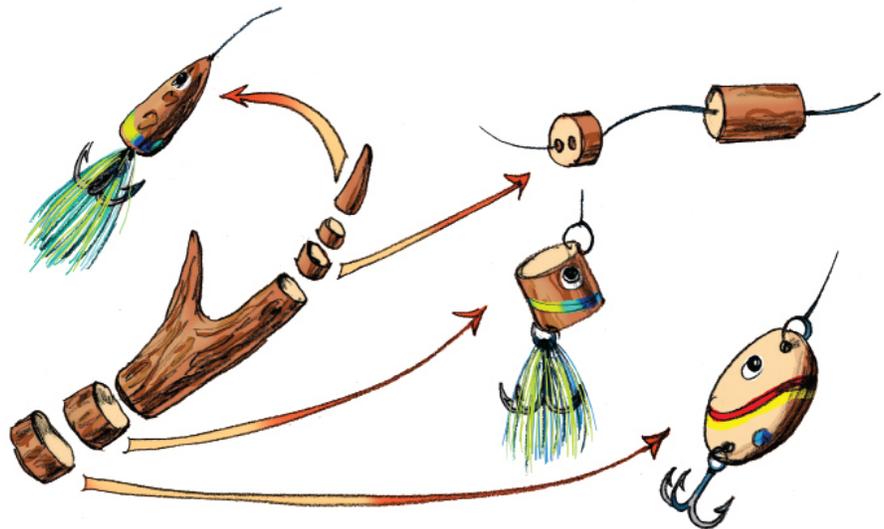
If you have scraps of acrylic yarn lying around, use them to make braided worms in a variety of lengths, colors, and thicknesses. Braid your worm to the desired length. Rig and fish it just as you would a rubber worm.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARIA RABINKY

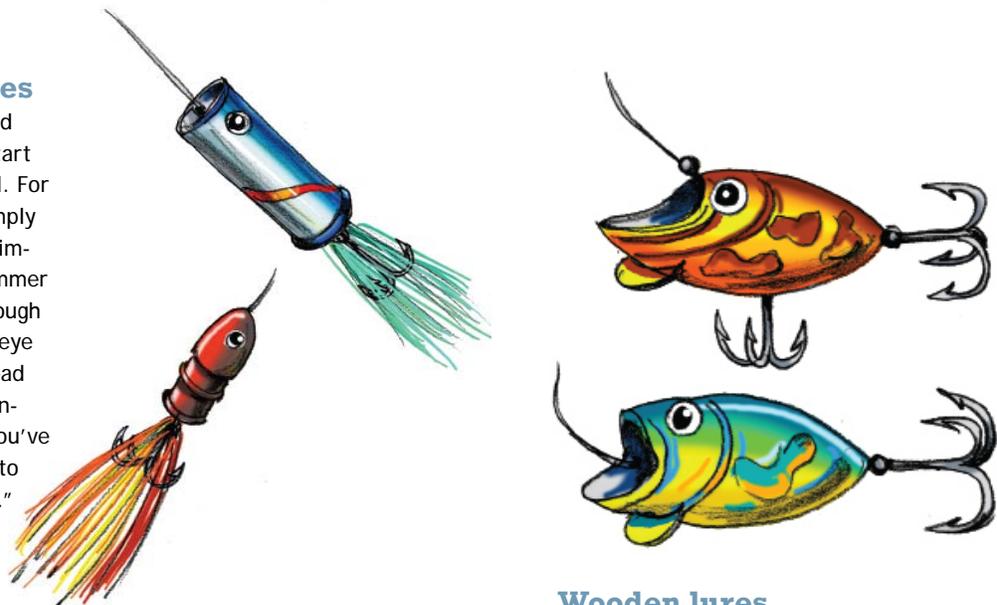
Deer antler lures

With the aid of a drill, hacksaw, and some sandpaper, a number of lures can be produced from a single deer antler. First saw off all of the tines. Then drill holes through them, paint them, and attach treble hooks. Saw diagonal slices of varying thickness from the remaining antler, sand them smooth, paint them in different patterns, and attach skirted hooks. Leftover antler pieces can be sawed into thin slices, drilled like buttons, and used as bobber stops.



Cartridge case lures

Spent ammo can be turned into effective lures easily. Start by making a hole in the shell. For centerfire cases, you can simply punch out the primers; for rim-fire cases, you can use a hammer and nail to punch a hole through the base. Paint some bright eye spots onto the case and thread it onto the line around a yarn-skirted treble hook. Voila! You've given a whole new meaning to the phrase "hook and bullet."



Rattling lures

First get some old plumbing fittings—two end caps and a short pipe, to be exact. Drill small holes in the centers of the end caps, then glue or solder one cap to the pipe. Run a length of stainless steel wire through the hole and make an eye for affixing your line. Drop in a few old BBs or buckshot into the pipe, run the wire through the other end cap, and glue or solder the second end cap in place. Make another eye in this end of the wire. Then attach a treble hook and tie on a skirt of horsehair, yarn, or feathers. Use paint or leftover nail polish to add some color.



Wooden lures

If you're handy with a pocketknife, you can carve a piece of scrap wood and paint it to resemble any lure you like. Use small eye screws to attached treble hooks. You can also use glass and beads from old costume jewelry to dress it up. Be creative.

Another wooden lure that doesn't require any carving is a clothespin lure. Simply set a large single hook into an old clothespin (the split kind, not the spring-action kind). Painted a variety of colors and patterns, these make great top-water lures.

REQUEST TO READERS:

If you build or create a project based on this or other Outdoor America articles, or if you have an idea for a good conservation project, please let us know: Outdoor America, 707 Conservation Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20878; oa@iwla.org