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Coarse Fishing for Beginners

Your friendly, illustrated guide to a confident first day by the water



FREE EIGHT-PAGE SAMPLE

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Let's get you fishing

Your friendly, illustrated guide to a confident first day by the water

A practical guide, at your pace

You don't need a mountain of tackle to enjoy coarse fishing. We'll start with a manageable stillwater, a float and a few simple choices. Once that feels comfortable, there are other methods to try.

How to use this book

Try the waggler setup and depth-setting lesson. You'll need an assembled float rod, a suitably spooled reel, matched ready-tied hooklengths, a small unloaded waggler, non-toxic shot and a plummet. This sample covers building, balancing and positioning the float; the full book also explains knots, casting, landing, unhooking and release. Read those skills and your venue's rules before fishing. The diagrams are enlarged to make the components clear, not actual-size tackle templates.

Make it your own

No book can promise a catch. What it can do is make your choices clearer and help you learn from each trip. Keep the bits that work for you, and enjoy finding your feet.

About this sample

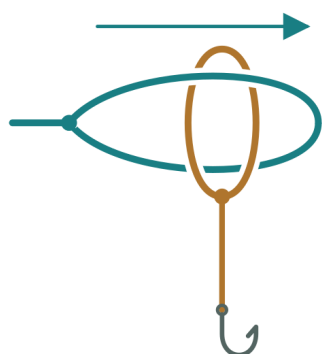
These eight pages give you a complete small lesson from the book. The full guide is coming soon; there is no purchase link or release date yet.

Join a ready-tied hooklength

A ready-tied hooklength has a hook at one end and a small loop at the other. Practise this join now, but thread on your float before attaching the hooklength for fishing.

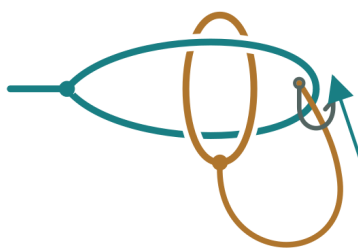
Join two pre-tied loops without another knot

1. Main loop through



Pass the teal loop through the gold hooklength loop.

2. Hook through main loop



Pass the hook and the whole hooklength through teal.

3. Draw the join together



Loops meet end to end.

Do not let one loop fold back over its own line.

Teal: mainline loop. Gold: hooklength loop. Loops and crossings enlarged for clarity.

Mainline loop through hooklength loop; hook and entire hooklength through mainline loop; draw together end to end.

Make a loop in the mainline

Double back the end to form a small loop. Tie a loose overhand knot in the doubled section, pass the loop through the opening a second time, then wet and tighten steadily. Trim the spare end and test the knot. Keep the finished loop small and tidy, rather than leaving a large ring of line.

Seat the two loops

Pass the mainline loop through the hooklength loop. Next, pass the hook and the entire hooklength through the mainline loop. Pull the mainline and hooklength apart gently until the loops seat snugly against one another. Check that neither loop is merely draped over the other. Keep spare ready-tied hooklengths dry and stored straight, with the hook points protected.

A sensible first hook

A small barbless size 18 hook with one or two maggots suits many small-fish situations. Sizes vary by pattern; a higher number usually means a smaller hook. Match the bait, fish and venue rules.

The simple waggler setup

A waggler attaches at its bottom end only. That lets the line between rod and float sit below the surface, out of the worst of the wind.



Follow the continuous line through the bottom eye. Larger shot lock the float; small droppers sit below. Enlarged, not to scale.

Put the pieces in order

Start with a small unloaded waggler, around 2 g for a short cast in sheltered water. Thread the mainline through its bottom eye before tying on the hooklength. Hold the float in position with suitable soft non-toxic shot above and below its eye, or a purpose-made adapter fitted exactly as instructed. Leave the float adjustable so you can set the depth.

Finish the fishing end

Below the float, add a few small dropper shot on the mainline and a 20-30 cm ready-tied hooklength. Keep those droppers above the hooklength join. Most of the float's required shotting belongs at its base, with a smaller share spread below. Squeeze shot gently using a proper shot tool and check that it hasn't crushed or cut the line.

Loaded or unloaded?

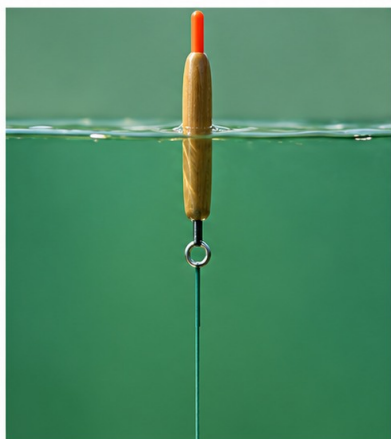
An unloaded float needs its casting and balancing weight added to the line. A loaded float already carries weight at its base. Follow that float's marking and instructions; don't add a full 2 g to a float that is already loaded.

Let the tip do the talking

Shooting means adding small weights until the float sits correctly. Too much float showing can make a gentle bite hard to spot.

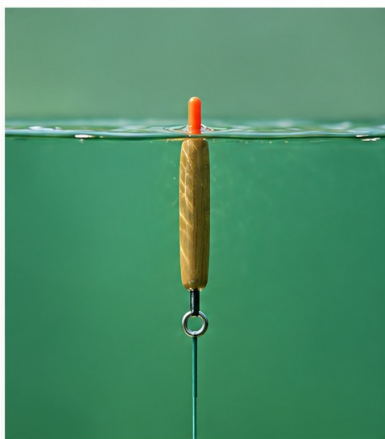
Balance the float before you plumb

Too little shot



Body shows above water

Balanced



Only the tip is showing

Too much shot



Float sinks below surface

Balance the float with the rig hanging clear of the bottom. Keep enough tip showing to see it comfortably.

Balance it in the water

Set a shallow depth for this test so the hook and all shot hang freely, clear of the bottom. Start below the float's stated loading and add small shot gradually. Aim for the coloured tip to show clearly while the body stays under. If it sinks, remove a little weight. If the bait makes a noticeable difference, balance again with that bait on.

Keep the first pattern simple

On our unloaded waggler, put roughly four-fifths of the required weight around the float base and use the rest as two or three small droppers spread below. This is a starting pattern, not an exact formula. Don't slide tightly pinched shot along the line; loosen it first, move it, then recheck for damage.

Buy non-toxic shot

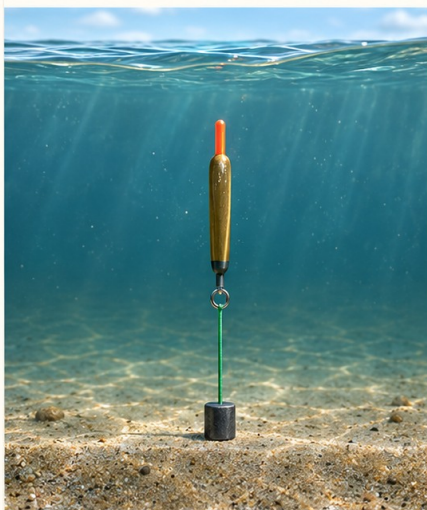
Choose legal non-toxic coarse-fishing shot. Lead weights are restricted in England and Wales, including many common shot sizes. Using a suitable non-toxic selection keeps this simpler.

Find the bottom before you feed

Plumbing the depth means measuring how far it is from the surface to the bottom. It stops you guessing where the hookbait is fishing.

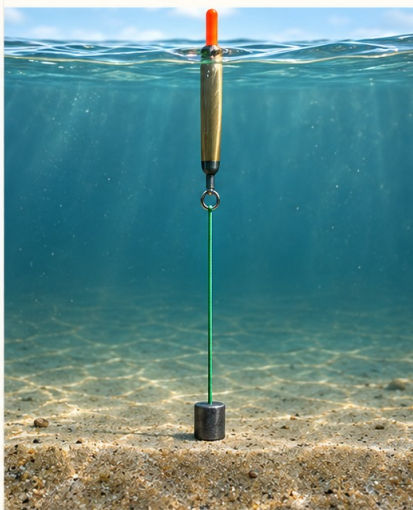
Find the depth with a plummet

Too shallow



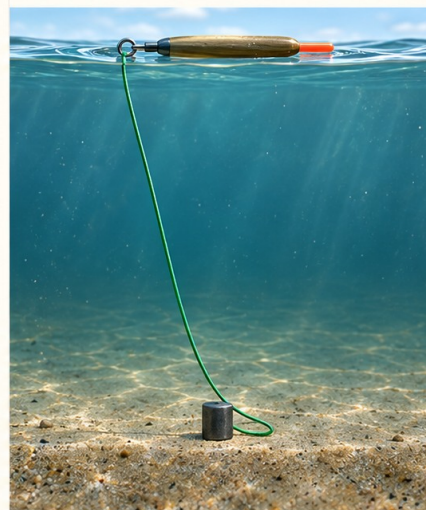
Float pulled under

Dead depth



Tip at the surface

Too deep



Float lies over; line slack

The same water depth with three float settings. Only the float-to-hook distance changes; the plummet rests on the bottom.

Use a plummet

Fit a small plummet securely to the hook using its intended eye and soft insert or clip. Lower or gently cast it to your chosen short-range spot. It must be heavy enough to take the balanced float under if the hook cannot reach the bottom. Keep the line loose enough that the rod isn't holding the float up.

Adjust in small steps

If the float sinks, increase the float-to-hook distance by moving the float towards the rod. If it lies flat or sticks unusually high, shorten that distance. Repeat until the plummet rests on the bottom and the float tip sits at the surface. Check a little left and right for slopes. Remove the plummet before fishing; begin with the bait just touching the bottom.

Dead depth

Dead depth is the setting where the hook just reaches the bottom. Move the float towards the hook to fish shallower; move it away from the hook to fish deeper. Recheck after changing spots.

Give the fish something easy to eat

Start with one simple bait. A small tub of fresh maggots is often a better first purchase than several bags of unfamiliar bait.



Simple baits such as maggots and sweetcorn are useful starting points. Groundbait is an optional extra, not essential for every trip.

Maggots and worms

Nick a maggot through a tiny piece of skin at its blunt end, leaving the hook point clear. One or two are plenty on our small hook. Replace burst or emptied skins. For a small worm, pass the hook through a short section once or twice, leaving some movement and the point exposed. Use a hook and bait size the likely fish can comfortably take.

Corn and bread

Soft sweetcorn suits a slightly larger hook: nick it through the skin and check the point is clear. With bread flake, pinch a small piece around the shank while leaving the fluffy edges and point free. Bread comes off more easily, so use gentle casts and check it regularly. Keep bait shaded, containers secure and food separate from fishing bait.

Hookbait and loose feed

Hookbait goes on your hook. Loose feed is the few extra maggots, grains or pellets you put around the spot to interest fish. Don't bury the hook point in a huge lump of bait.

There's plenty more to try

Keep this little lesson handy. When you're ready, the full book takes you further.

Inside the complete guide

- 01 · A good place to start
- 02 · Get your tackle ready
- 03 · Hooks, knots and bait
- 04 · Build your first float setup
- 05 · Turn your first cast into bites
- 06 · Land it, unhook it, let it go
- 07 · Meet the fish
- 08 · Try a feeder when you're ready
- 09 · Explore a little further
- 10 · Fish with the seasons
- 11 · Ready for your own first trip

Full guide coming soon

Find the latest book news and more free fishing help at carpanswers.com. Thanks for reading - enjoy your fishing.