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The Simple & Easy Way
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To

*Ledger & Feeder
Fishing*

Written & compiled

by

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Chapter One - First Steps

The very first thing that you will require if in the UK, (unless under the age of 12 years), is a **Rod Licence** available on line at;

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/fish/>.

A Standard licence will permit the use of 2 rods

Do you intend to fish all year, just for a couple of weeks or just for 1 or 2 days, you can purchase a licence accordingly.

Where do you want to fish:

Unless you have a particular water in mind, you will need to find out what's available in your region. These are often listed in various magazines, but usually only one or two per week. Yellow pages may have details of large commercial waters, but by far the best source of information is a tackle shop in your chosen area, their details can be found in yellow pages, or if going away on holiday www.Yell.co.uk

Day Ticket Still Water Venue

Open to General Public & available to fish often with no close season. Day Ticket charges vary. The venues Rules & Regulations will also vary double check before you commence fishing

River

Fishing on ANY river is NOT allowed between 15 March to 15 June inclusive. The coarse fish Close Season applies to all rivers, streams and drains in England & Wales, but does not apply to some still waters. There are, however, some exceptions that retain the Close Season - the Broads always check first.

Large proportions of rivers are governed by Private clubs and non-members are not allowed to fish, unless the club operates a day ticket scheme.

Club Water

12 month Annual Subscription will be required. Club waters often incorporate a Close Season, however there are exceptions ALWAYS check dates with the Club Secretary if there is a Close Season.

Chapter - Two Equipment

If you have not fished before then I strongly recommend you do not go mad in your local angling shop and spend lots of money. Feeder fishing can be achieved by using a Waggler rod (to save on the expense for the moment of buying 2 rods)

Choose from the very basics you will need as mentioned later from the listed below: -

RODS



LEDGER / FEEDER ROD

Ledger / Feeder Rod - . This does not need to be an expensive item, there are some great deals available, even now in supermarkets.



TELESCOPIC ROD

If going away on holiday you might consider a **Telescopic Rod**, easily packed away in a rucksack.



JUNIOR ROD & REEL

For an extremely cheap solution you can even purchase a **Small Rod & Reel** for as little as £10.00.



FIXED SPOOL REEL

A good general purpose **Fixed Spool Reel** with spare spools incorporating a line hook-up clip, will be adequate to begin with. This enables you to use different main line strengths.

MAIN LINE

A. 4 - 6lb - All fish up to 10lb.

B. 8 - 10lb - Suitable for specimen fish over 10lb.

When fishing the Feeder 4lb really is the minimum strength line to use.

Hook Length Line - this will usually be of a smaller diameter than the main line and usually slightly lighter in strength. This being for two reasons. A. The thickness of the line does not spook the fish & B. If you unfortunately get snagged on the bottom, it will snap and therefore you will only lose your hook. In other words

4 - 6lb main line use 3 - 5lb Hook Length

8 - 10lb main line use 6 - 8lb Hook Length.

HOOKS

There are basically two types of hook –



EYED HOOK



SPADE END HOOK

All are available Barbed or Barbless and in different size

Eyed & Barbless - This is by far the easiest hook to tie for beginners and as more & more fisheries are banning Barbed hooks now Barbless are very popular.

Eyed & Barbed - Easy to tie on, but please check if they are allowed where you want to go fishing

Spade end & Barbless - You will need to purchase and learn to use a Hook Tie (a tricky, but clever device)

Spade end & Barbed - As above & again check if allowed.

These hooks will need to be tied to your hook length, this can be done either by hand or with a hook tie.



HOOK TIE

If unsure about using a **Hook Tie**, pre-tied hooks are available from your local tackle shop.

The size of hooks again vary greatly, I would suggest as a beginner No.14 for larger baits, i.e. Luncheon Meat / Pellets/Bread. No.16 for Sweetcorn and a No.18 for Maggot / Worm.

I have never found barbed hooks to be any better, in fact the contrary, a Barbless hook is streamlined & sharper. If you always keep your mainline tight when playing a fish you will never allow a fish to become unhooked. The tying of your line to the hook is purely preference, I tend to use eyed for heavier line and spade when fishing 2 -3lb line.



SWIM FEEDERS

There are basically three types of **Feeders**.

Cage Feeder which is filled prior to casting with a ground bait & particle mix.

Block End Feeder this is filled with maggots prior to casting and ALWAYS after you have baited your hook.

Open End Feeder this is filled with a basic ground bait before casting

WEIGHTS



SHOT DISPENSER

The simplest solution to begin with is to purchase a **Shot Dispenser**. This holds different split shot weights.

LANDING NET & HANDLE

Absolutely Vital..... No one should even attempt to land a fish without one.



TACKLE BOX

In the beginning you could survive with a carrier bag and a tin box, but there are now many inexpensive **Tackle Boxes** available approx. £20.00. Sturdy enough to use as a seat waterproof to store away all your equipment & complete with a shoulder strap for easy carrying.

BAIT

The list for bait could be endless. There are no hard and fast rules, what will work one day, the next day will not. If you hate maggots, don't worry there's plenty of other baits, marshmallows are great in the summer for carp & angler or try some smelly cheese. Basically almost anything goes! You could spend a small fortune on bait, yet the best bread to use is supermarket value @ 20p! Pop about half a sliced loaf into a food processor to make great cheap ground bait crumb.

It is a rare thing to go fishing and run out of bait, usually at the end of the day it gets thrown in the bin, a bit of a costly waste when you think about it, so don't load up your box with too much bait. Even more important don't over feed your swim especially in the winter. Carp are about the only fish that will take a fair amount of bait, but even then usually only in the summer months if you're fishing waters where you know there is an abundance of fish.

The BEST bit of advice regarding Bait I would offer is to take a walk around the water you want to fish & TALK to other anglers. Anglers LOVE to talk fishing. (a small word of warning here, NEVER attempt this if there is a competition taking place).

ALL waters are different and you need knowledge of what works where you want to go fishing. Books and Magazines are great sources of information, but an article on a specific way to fish, when applied, just may not bring results where you want to go.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Catapult

Swivels

Scissors

Disgorger - Used to take out the hook from the fish, if not hooked in the lip.

Towel

Bait Boxes

Hook Tie if using spade hooks

Can Opener

It is important to note the above equipment is for general-purpose coarse fishing. All waters are different and it is recommended that you learn in clear open water and avoid snags. Lilies etc. Which will require knowledge and skill to negotiate the safe landing of a fish.

As with all sporting equipment there will be choices galore, however this is a beginner's list as you progress and become more confident so will your choice of tackle.

Chapter Three - Before You Start

ROD REEL & LINE SET UP

Unless you have purchased a rod already set-up with reel & line, you will need to firstly purchase mainline. I have chosen for now 5lb Main Line. Take your reel and attach to a fully extended rod. With the Main Line feed it through the eyes on your rod working from the top of the rod down to the reel. Lift back the bale arm, make a loop in the line large & fit over the spool on the reel. Tighten this loop and trim off any excess line, return the bale arm back into position. To wind the line on to your reel ask a friend to hold the spool, with the line slightly taught, (little tip, place a pen through the spool, this helps the line come off more smoothly) whilst you slowly reel in the line onto the spool. Now all that is required is to attach a weight to the end of your line.

CASTING

OK here goes, lets assume you have NEVER held a fishing rod before, the first thing you will need to learn is to cast.

Do you have a large garden or QUIET open area near you? There is no need to pay to go on a lake to practise your casting. Having got your rod, reel and line, you will need to attach a small weight about 1oz.(NEVER put on a hook). Then away you go.

It is VITAL before you swing the rod behind you to ALWAYS look behind to double check there is no one standing there, or a bush you could snag on.

Pick a target feature in front of you at some distance and use this as your marker for direction not your distance. For the moment don't worry too much about how far you can cast, more important is to keep your cast in a straight line out in front of you. If you imagine a 180-degree arc, you are aiming for 90-degrees. This does not happen overnight and can take many months to fine tune, all you are doing at the moment is learning how the rod, line & weight react when you cast. After an hour or so you should feel confident to start fishing.

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