



Make your own fishing lures

by [Stever0812](#) on October 21, 2011

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Just a guy from Upstate NY, making the best of things!

Intro: Make your own fishing lures

After purchasing a lightweight canoe that fits on top of my car and spending most of the the summers of 2010 and 2011 fishing, I decided to expand my hobby by trying my hand at making some fishing lures. This is how I went about doing it!

This is a great idea to pass some time during long, cold winters (if you have them and don't ice-fish).



Step 1: Tools and Materials

Don't be alarmed, most of the specialty tools are cheap, and most people have tools they could substitute in.

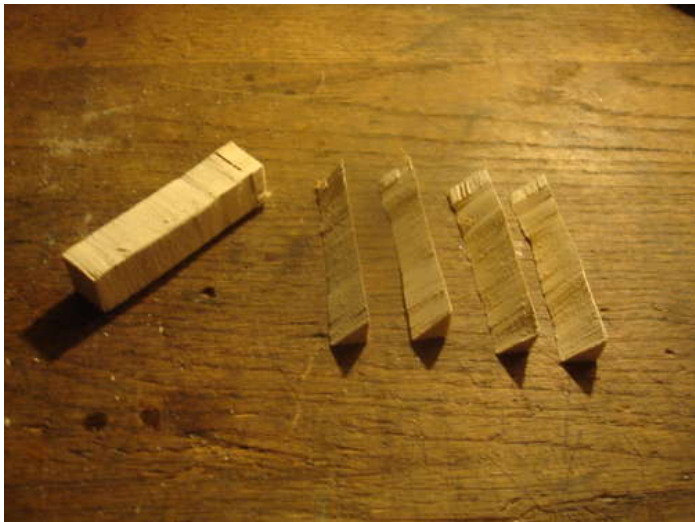
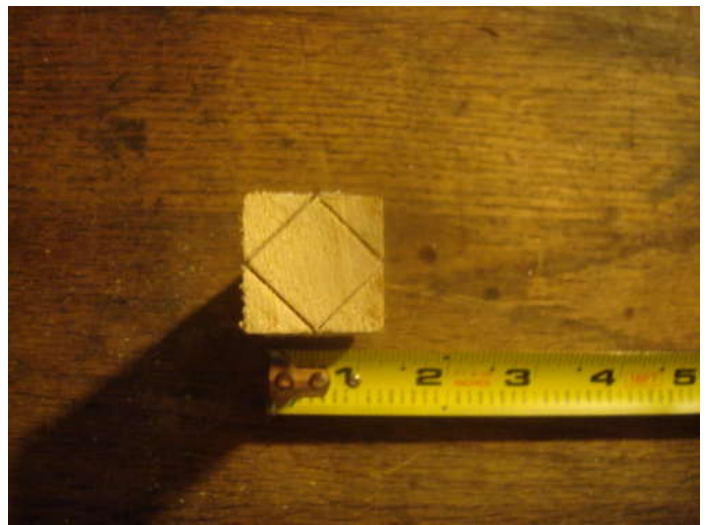
Tools List:

- Power drill
- Various drill bits
- Coping saw (for precision cutting)
- Roofing knife
- Knife for whittling (multitool)
- Tape measure
- Sharpies (fine and wide tips)
- Sandpaper (coarse and fine grit)
- Pliers or vice grips
- Small paintbrush
- Superglue of some kind (waterproof if possible)

Materials List:

- Wood of your choice (I used a 1"x1" piece of pine from home improvement establishment)
- Large popsicle stick or shim of wood (from craft store)
- Paint (I used craft paint-its gonna be clear coated)
- Wood sealant (Use polycrylic!)
- Wood putty (for filling in holes/mistakes)
- Large nails
- Googly eyes (from craft store)
- Small eyelets (use the smallest you can find or order from lure parts supplier online)

<http://www.instructables.com/id/Make-your-own-fishing-lures/>



Step 3: Polish it up

Use the coarse sandpaper to smooth out the roughness of the whittling and finish with the fine sandpaper to make a good painting surface. Also helps the lure run straight and true in the water.



Step 4: Optional step

I had the crazy idea of adding small wings in the back of the lure to help the lure not spin wildly during the retrieve (as my first iteration did). I haven't seen a lure with this feature so I figured it would make my creation even more unique!

I cut a small piece off the end of the popsicle stick and cut that piece in half.

I used the roofing knife to carve out grooves that allowed the pieces to fit snugly, then superglued them into place.





Step 5: Make it life-like!

I drilled some small pilot holes where the eyes would be then drilled big holes so the craft eyes would fit snugly inside (try not to drill too deep!) There is a small tab on the eyes, I cut that off to make them fit in the round holes. After checking the fit, I superglued them in. Looks like bait already!

I put an eyelet in the nose for holding purposes.

Now to come up with a paint scheme!



Step 6: What do fish like to eat? Hmmmm...

Since I was making a topwater lure, I figured a frog would be a good pattern. Grabbing the lure by the eyelet with vicegrips, I started with a base coat of white (optional, depending on the paint you choose).

The back was to be a rich green color.

I put some goldenrod yellow under the mouth.

Then I added some spots to the back. Not too shabby!

Let your creative juices flow here, you may just discover the next hot bass-fishing color pattern! Or, you can even copy some well-known lure patterns.



Step 7: Waterproofing

Tie some spare fishing line to that front eyelet, about 2 feet of it. Stir the polycrylic well, and submerge the lure. Let the excess drip off for a few minutes and hang to dry over some newspaper to catch drips.

Two to three coats will more than suffice, just make sure to let it dry completely between coats.



Step 8: Now for the pointy bits...

When the clear coat has dried for a day, its time to add some hardware.

Add an eyelet to the back end, and one on the belly, near the middle, but closer to the front.

Attach a split ring between a treble hook and the eyelet on the rear and on the belly.

You are now ready to fish!

This lure can be fished walk-the-dog style, twitched, or burned in on a straight retrieve.

I added a propeller to the back after my first test for some added splashing effects.



Step 9: Extra tricks/tips

I included a photo of some of my other creations.

Add scales using a fine point sharpie (on the dried paint, before the clear coat). Add some crazy stripes. Or appendages. Or feathers. Or a propeller or two for more splashing.

If the lure seems too light, you may have to add a modification for more weight. I used a piece of a large nail.

All you have to do is hollow out a cavity for the nail piece to fit in, cover with wood putty, sand smooth, and repaint/clear coat (see second picture). If you have some lead from a jighead, or one of those pieces of lead that fell off a car tire, you can hammer it into a thin rod you can use to get more weight into a smaller cavity.

The bottom lure in the first picture has a concave nose in the front to make it a popper. I actually caught bass with it this summer, seen in the third picture!

Don't be disappointed if your designs don't always catch fish. That's why they call it "fishing", not "catching"!

Let me know if you have any cool designs or paint schemes! Post photos of any monster fish you might have caught using your own lures.

