

DIFFERENT: Beetle spinners great at catching crappie

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threw them out and wound them in and we caught tons of crappie and bass on them. Many people attach in-line spinners to swivels to keep them from twisting the line and troll with them.”

A perennial favorite, a beetle spinner typically consists of a harness spinner attached to a jighead. On the jighead, anglers can try infinite plastic trailer configurations. With harness spinners, anglers can also easily swap out colors, trailer shapes or even blades to find the best combination.

Anglers can fish beetle spinners almost anywhere, but they work particularly well around woody cover like fallen trees or grassy edges common in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. Toss a spinner to a likely place and let it sink. After it hits bottom or the desired depth, slowly retrieve

it. In cool weather, keep it just off the bottom, above submerged grass or other cover. In deeper water, add a split-shot about a foot or so above the lure to make it sink faster.

Anglers can also try the pop-and-drop retrieval method, which works particularly well around channel drop-offs. Run a spinnerbait parallel to the drop-off edge. Occasionally, pause the retrieve to let the bait sink. The spinner rotates as the lure sinks, creating flash like a dying shad. After it sinks a foot or two, pull it back up and repeat the process. Retrieval speed determines the depth the lure will run.

Everyone loves their favorite techniques, but every now and then, anglers just need to try something different. Who knows? They might just find a new favorite technique!



Photo by John N. Felsner

Jackie Van Cleve, a professional crappie angler, admires a crappie he caught on a spinnerbait. Spinnerbaits mimic the flash of shad, a prime crappie forage in the fall.

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