BASS: Jigging spoons work

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ter Classic champion. “Bass in winter patterns like to be on vertical drops. I like to fish main lake structure such as bluff banks, riprap, bridges and structure like that. Main creeks where a channel swings against the bank with steep edges can hold a lot of bass in winter. On cold days, I might start out on a deep creek channel in 40 feet of water with a jigging spoon.”

For tempting bass in deep water, few techniques can beat vertically jigging 1/2- to 3/4-ounce chrome spoons. In really deep water, upgrade to a 1-ounce slab. Small, heavy and compact, a jigging spoon sinks quickly and flutters down like a dying baitfish. Light dancing off facets in the chrome simulates the flash from baitfish scales.

For vertical jigging, most people simply position a boat over a good spot and drop a spoon to the bottom. After the spoon hits bottom, the line goes slack. Then, people reel up the slack, lift their rods a foot or two and let the spoon plunge back to the bottom repeatedly. When the metal hits bottom, the impact sends out vibrations that fish can feel. Lucky anglers occasionally experience the thrill of watching the screen as individual fish grab their offering dangling far beneath the boat.

“A jigging spoon is probably more overlooked by bass fishermen than any other bait,” detailed Roger Stegall, a professional bass angler. “It’s about the most effective bait for fishing deep water. I have caught largemouth bass in 55 feet of water before, but most often, about the deepest I find bass is 25 to 28 feet deep.”

Spoons, like this Al’s Goldfish, can catch a variety of fish including bass in tidal marshes.