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# The **OFF SHORE** RELEASE

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## Inside

Tips, Tricks and Techniques brought to you by  
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# THE FUNDAMENTALS AND FINER POINTS OF IN LINE BOARD TROLLING

BY MARK ROMANACK

One of the fastest growing segments of trolling falls into the category of in line planer boards. While these pint sized planer boards have been on the scene for decades, most trollers still don't use these trolling aids to their full potential.

For the purposes of this article we will divide in line planer boards into two categories including Standard In Line Boards and Mini Boards. Both of these in line planer board types are useful and have a specific niche in the world of trolling. Neither one of these board types is a "one size fits all" product that the troller needs to simply embrace. To get the most from in line board trolling requires learning about both board types, how they differ, how there are similar and more importantly how to get the most from them.

## STANDARD IN LINE BOARDS

The standard sized (approximately the length of a business envelope) in line planer board has been on the fishing scene for some time. A number of manufacturers have come and gone in this market, leaving Off Shore Tackle LLC, based out of Port Austin, Michigan as the dominate force associated with in line planer board fishing technology. The popular OR12 Side Planer comes in both a left and right version and is factory equipped with one OR19 (orange) planer board release mounted on the bracket of the board and (as of 2014) now with an OR16 (red) clip on the tail of the board.

This classic two point towing method of attaching an in line board onto the fishing line has proven the test of time. When a board is attached to the fishing line using the OR19 and OR16, the board not only tracks to the side better but, if the line pulls free of the OR19 release, the board remains on the line by way of the OR16 and can still be easily recovered.

The basic way these boards are fished is to first set a desired lure or live bait a predetermined distance behind the boat and then to attach the in line board to the fishing line using first the OR19 on the bracket and then secondly with the OR16 clip mounted at the tail of the board (always be sure that the spring is in the forward position – towards the pads and that your fishing line is place BEHIND the center pin protruding through the center of the OR16 pads). Once the board is mounted to the line, the board is simply lowered to the water and line played out as the boat trolls forward.

By engaging the line clicker function found on most trolling reels, the rod can be placed in a rod holder and the in line board allowed to work its way slowly to the side while another rod is made ready for trolling. It's common for a skillful troller to have two or more lines working their way out to the side of the boat at the same time. This line setting method saves time and allows the troller to cover copious amounts of water.

Stacking two or even three in line boards per side of the boat is common. By spacing the boards 20-50 feet apart, a massive amount of water is covered off each side of the boat.

Covering water and in turn contacting more fish is one of the chief advantages of fishing in line boards. Another advantage is that when a fish bites and is hooked trolling an in line board, the fish is never going to get an inch of slack line during the battle.

The moment a fish is hooked, the in line board telegraphs the strike by dragging backwards in the water. Depending on how big the fish is, trolling speed and how aggressively the fish may be fighting this backwards movement of the board can be either obvious or subtle.

When a hook up is determined, an angler grabs the appropriate rod and puts steady pressure on the fish by reeling in the fish and board together using a slow but steady pace. Avoid pumping the rod, but rather use a steady retrieve that keeps the board in the water and pressure on the fighting fish.

When the board starts to near the boat, lower the rod tip so the planer board does not get jerked out of the water. If the board pops clear of the water it may catch a wave and dive upon re-entering the water. Keeping

the rod tip at the water level until the board is just a few feet from the boat insures the board stays in contact with the water surface until the board can be hoisted cleanly into the boat.

At the last second the rod tip is raised swinging the board into the boat. It's best to have one person on the rod and a second person catching the board as it is swung into the boat. How the line is removed from the board also matters.

To avoid giving the fish any slack, grab the line between the board and the fish with one hand and hold on while removing the board with the other

hand. Once the board is removed from the line continue holding onto to the line with the other hand until the slack line can be reeled up. Reel until the rod tip is literally touching the hand holding the line. At that point the line can be released without giving the fish any slack.

These simple steps allow trollers using in line boards to fight fish and remove the board without the fish getting any slack line. Once the board is removed the angler simply fights the fish to net as normal. From the instant the fish bit to the moment it slips into the landing net the fish never gets an inch of slack. This is precisely why in line boards are so popular with tournament anglers. Rarely are fish hooked while trolling with an in line board lost during the fight.

## IMPORTANT FEATURES TO CONSIDER

Not all in line boards are created equal. While they all look similar, the performance and quality of in line boards varies widely. The best performing boards have a few important features worth noting.

Most importantly standard sized in line boards need to float and be ballasted so as to ride upright in the water at all times. Ballasting insures that even if the boat is stalled to fight an exceptionally large fish, the board will remain upright and level in the water. Boards that are inadequately ballasted tend to tip over and dive when fishing in rough water. In addition, Off Shore designed the OR12's nose to ride high on purpose to cut through waves.

The line release system employed on the bracket of the board is also critical. Most manufactures of in line boards use the "one size fits all" approach and provide only one bracket release option. This seriously restricts the ways an in line board can be fished.

Off Shore Tackle manufactures several different line releases that all fit the bracket of the Side Planer giving the angler almost unlimited choices for fishing a multitude of species, trolling speeds and line types. For example, the standard OR19 release that comes with the Side Planer can easily be replaced with an OR18 Snapper Release designed for fishing super braid and fused lines that have thin diameter and low stretch characteristics. Many anglers prefer to use the OR16 (red) Pro Clip when trolling with in line boards. This unique line clip has a specially designed pin that I mentioned above. When the fishing line is placed behind the pin and the release closed, the

line can't pull free of the clip insuring the board stays on the line even in rough water or when trolling at high speeds. Using the OR16 on the bracket and tail is added security.

Another overlooked feature is the flag that come with some boards and not with others. When fishing in line boards a flag on the board makes it more visible not only to the anglers in the boat, but to other anglers who may be fishing the area and not realize board lines have been deployed. As a courtesy to other anglers in the area, it's always best to fish in line boards with a flag as is practical and appropriate. The flag definitely helps to keep an eye on your in line boards while fishing in wavy conditions too!

## STACKING BOARDS

For the average angler fishing in line boards one or two boards per side of the boat is probably adequate. Charter captains, tournament anglers and other serious trollers aren't going to be happy unless they are stacking three or more planer boards per side of the boat.

The problem with stacking multiple planer boards on each side of the boat is the board most likely to get a bite is almost always the outside line. Depending on the trolling situation, if three boards are running on one side and the outside line hooks a fish, it's probably going to be necessary to clear the two inside boards so the fish on the outside line can be fought.

If the lead lengths being fished are moderate, say less than 80 feet, it's possible to simply free-spool the two inside boards and allow them to stall while the boat continues to troll forward. Once the boat has moved the 80 feet in question, the outside board is clear of those inside lines and that fish can be fought without clearing the lines. Simply put the reels back in gear and the inside two lines now become the outside two lines. The line that caught the fish is reset and becomes the inside board line.

This method of managing in line board lines works well with short to moderate lead lengths, but not so well when trolling leads longer than say 100 feet back. When using longer trolling leads it is best to clear inside lines while fighting fish hooked on the outside line.

When clearing a board line, just reel up until the board hits the rod tip. There is no need to remove the board, just set the rod and board on the opposite side of the boat to free up a place to land the fish which is coming to net.

When the fish is landed, take the board line or lines that were cleared and put them back into service before resetting the line that caught the fish. This simple regimen will keep lines from tangling and keep baits in the water the maximum amount of time.

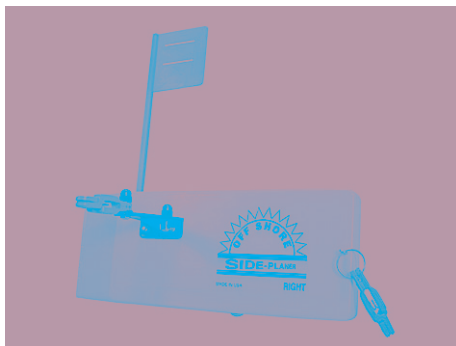
## TROLLING TIPS

Trolling with standard in line boards make it possible to troll both into and with the seas. In line boards will fish well in amazingly rough water when trolling with the wind. If it becomes necessary to troll into the waves, the OR12 in line boards do an amazingly good job at riding the waves as they are ballasted to run nose high. If the waves get rough enough that the boards are constantly rocketing out of the water, it's probably best to either troll downwind or to consider putting the boat on the trailer.

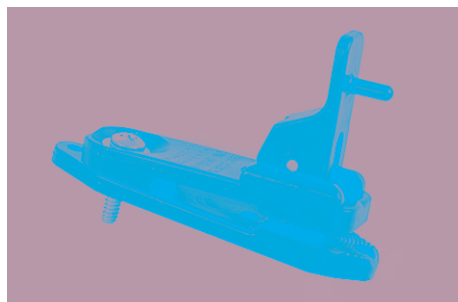
Another tip rarely shared about fishing in line boards is using fluorescent fishing lines as the main line. Fluorescent line is easy to see and it makes it a snap to monitor the boards at a glance. To avoid using fluorescent lines right to the lure, add a barrel swivel and about six to eight feet of clear fluorocarbon line as a leader.

It's worth noting that fluorescent lines are also going to be easier for other anglers in the area to see. Not much is worse than getting too close to another boat and snagging your in line board lines together. No one wins if this situation occurs on the water.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



The 2014 Version of the OR12 now comes with an OR19 (orange) release on the bracket and an OR16 (red) Pro Clip on the tail of every board.



OR18 Snapper Release is available as an aftermarket item as an option for those anglers who use super lines.

# IN LINE BOARD TROLLING – CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## FINAL THOUGHTS ABOUT STANDARD IN LINE BOARDS

The standard size in line boards are useful for trolling a wide variety of lures, live baits and even diving planers, bottom bouncers, sinking lines and other gear. These boards are big enough to handle heavy loads and still fish effectively even in rough water.

The work horse of board trolling, standard sized in line boards do lots of things well, but they are not the only in line board worth owning and using. The newer OR34 Mini Planer Boards also have a strong niche in the board trolling market.

## MINI BOARDS

The newer and smaller mini boards on the market are designed to fill some unique trolling niches. It's important to understand that these smaller boards aren't designed for trolling into big waves, trolling with large lures and or using excessively long lengths of sinking line like lead core or copper line.

All that stated, these small boards really do have some advantages when trolling in calmer water or when using lighter tackle. One of the chief advantages of mini boards are they can be fished with just about any rod and reel an angler might own. The small size of these boards makes them more portable, easy to fit in a tackle box and just as easy to rig and fish.

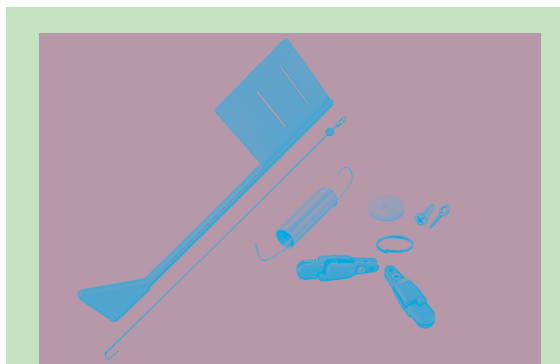
Another advantage of fishing with mini boards is the ability to stack multiple lines per side without having to clear lines when a fish is hooked. The OR34 Mini Planer Board produced by Off Shore Tackle comes with an OR10 (yellow) line release on the bracket and a snap swivel at the tail of the board. By simply adding an OR16 (red) Pro Clip to the back of the board in place of the snap swivel, the Mini Board can be rigged to release from the bracket, yet stay on the line.



OR34 Mini Planer Board

Start by setting the lure a desired distance behind the boat. Place the fishing line into the OR10 on the bracket of the board and then also place the line into the OR16 you had attached to the tail of the board. Make sure the line is behind the pin located in the middle of the OR16 clip pads. This insures that when the line releases from the bracket, the board will still remain on the line via the OR16.

Rigged in this fashion a hooked fish pulls the Mini Board backwards in the water. The second the line comes tight against the fish, the line will release from the bracket and the lightweight Mini Board pops right up out of the water dangling on the line by the OR16.



The original OR12TF Tattle Flag Upgrade Kit converts one OR12 Side Planer into a Tattle Flag Board, complete with hardware and OR16 Pro Clips & Flag.

From this position the fish starts to slide to the back of the boat, avoiding the other planer board lines and allowing the angler to fight the fish without clearing lines. The only secret is to reel on the fish slowly, giving the fish time to slide to the back of the boat and away from other board lines.

Mini Boards work very well with most crankbaits, lightweight trolling sinkers, the smaller sizes of Off Shore's OR36 Series Tadpole Divers and other modest sized trolling lures and gear. These trolling aids are often found in use for walleye fishing or targeting steelhead and other stream trout species. Mini Boards are also very useful for targeting panfish like crappie or white bass, plus other species like smallmouth, largemouth and even pike.

For example, trolling stick baits over shallow water weed flats is a great way to target bass and pike with the help of these pint sized planer boards.

## AFTERMARKET PLANER BOARD PRODUCTS

A few aftermarket accessories make fishing with planer boards a much more rewarding experience. Using these accessories can not only help catch more fish, but make the whole trolling experience more rewarding.

The popular OR12TF Tattle Flag Kits available for the Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planer Boards are an example of an aftermarket item that makes an excellent product even better. The Tattle Flag is a spring loaded kit that can be installed on the Side Planer in about five minutes. A wire linkage arm connects to the flag on the board and a spring that mounts to both the flag and the board. At the back of the board a second release is also attached to the linkage wire.

When properly rigged, anything that touches the trailing lure will cause the flag to pull down. Typically when a fish is hooked, the flag folds flat telegraphing the strike and making it possible for anyone to expertly read an in line board.

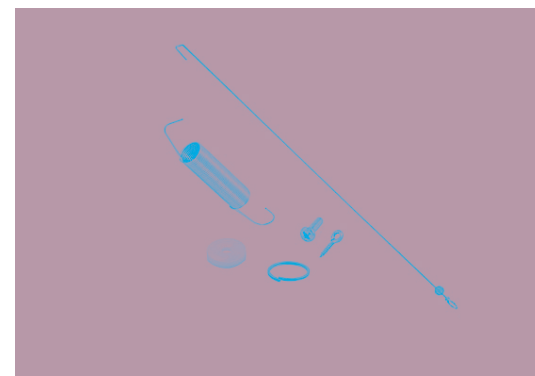
It's not always a fish that causes the flag to move. Simply hooking some weeds or other debris in the water will also cause the flag to pull down and indicate that the line

needs to be checked. The Tattle Flag also indicates when small fish or non-target fish are hooked, making the time on the water more productive.

Where the Tattle Flag kits really shine however is when trolling with live bait and at slow speeds. When live bait is used, lots of non-target species tend to get hooked. The Tattle Flag tells all in this situation.

When trolling slowly say early or late in the year when the water is very cold, the Tattle Flag really helps to detect bites that might otherwise go unnoticed. When trolling in line boards in rough water, the Tattle Flag is invaluable for its ability to telegraph strikes and help anglers better manage their trolling lines.

Since most anglers already have the OR16 (red) Pro Clips in their arsenal for using with the OR12's and/or OR20 Series Pro Guppy Weights, Off Shore Tackle LLC has introduced the OR12TFEK for 2014. This Tattle Flag Economy Kit provides all of the hardware you need to convert your OR12 to a Tattle Flag by using your OR16's and OR12 that you previously purchased!



The new OR12TFEK is our Tattle Flag Economy Kit for those anglers who ONLY need the hardware to convert their OR12 into a Tattle Flag Board. Note that this item does NOT come with OR16's or a flag.

Other aftermarket items worth noting are the OR18 Snapper Releases designed for fishing fused or super braid lines. This release fits right on the bracket of the OR12 Side Planer and OR34 Mini Planer Boards making them the ideal choice for anglers who fish low stretch lines.

The Snapper Release is cam operated and has a set screw that allows the tension to be adjusted for use with a wide variety of braids and fused lines. No matter what the line type or diameter the Snapper Release functions flawlessly.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

In line boards have become one of the "go to" methods trollers depend upon for all kinds of species. From crappie to muskie and just about everything in between, in line boards help anglers spread out their lures and contact more fish.

Catching more fish with the help of in line boards is about giving them a try and seeing for yourself how effective these simple trolling aids can be.

# COMPANY MISSION STATEMENT

*Our company's foundation is based on presenting products to the consumer that result in a more productive fishing experience by using the best materials available that are as eco friendly as possible. We have always set our standard's high for our consumers to have the best results. Our products are "Often Imitated but Never Duplicated." This is why Off Shore Tackle Company LLC remains, "Your Leader in Trolling Technology."*

# BUMPING BOTTOM WITH OR16 DROPPER RIGS

BY TERRY KUNNEN

Many walleye anglers use a bottom bouncer for fishing crawler harnesses or stick baits near bottom. The bottom bouncer sinker is an old favorite for its ease of use and effectiveness. Because the bottom bouncer rig is fished in contact with the bottom, it's easy to know approximately where the bait is in relation to the bottom.

Bottom bouncer rigs work very well on smooth bottom areas and places where the water depth remains consistent. In less friendly bottom structure fishing situations, the OR16 Pro Clip (aka Snap Weight Clip) can be used as a creative rig that helps to maintain contact with bottom even in areas where the water depth constantly fluctuates.

In place of a traditional bottom bouncer, attach a spinner rig or crankbait to the terminal end of your line and let the bait back 10-25 feet. Next pinch an OR16 on your line and tie onto to the OR16 a suitable length of dropper lead. To the end of the leader affix a single arm bottom bouncer, a barrel sinker or pencil weight. On average the dropper length is going to be 24-36 inches.

The height of the presentation over the bottom is controlled by how much line is used between the OR16 Pro Clip and the weight that contacts the bottom. Experiment with the length of the dropper until a productive presentation emerges.

This OR16 "Dropper Rig" is similar to a three way swivel rig except the OR16 can be attached to the line any distance desired in front of the trailing lure. This separation of the weight and lure helps to avoid spooking fish, especially when fishing in clear or relatively shallow water.

When a fish is hooked and fought to the boat, the angler simply removes the OR16 clip as it comes to the rod tip, then continues to fight the fish to net. By experimenting with different dropper lengths, along with how far the lure is positioned behind the OR16 clip, spinners and shallow diving crankbaits can be fished over irregular bottoms with few hang ups.

This same OR16 "Dropper Rig" is also a very effective way to target walleye that are suspended a few feet off smooth bottom areas. By simply using a longer dropper to raise the bait off bottom further, it's easy to dial in the depth and target fish that a traditional bottom bouncer rig would be fishing below.

## TADPOLES, TROLLING HEAVY METAL

BY MARK ROMANACK

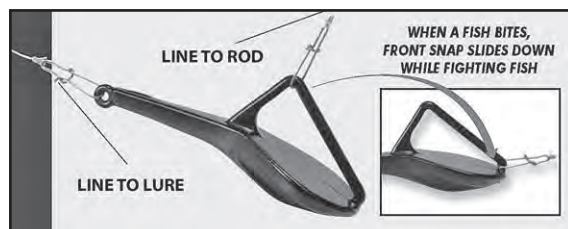
A few years ago when the Off Shore Tackle LLC OR36 Series Resettable Tadpole Diver Weights were introduced, these trolling aids cast of non-toxic metal created a new niche in the open water trolling scene. Designed to dive and then release when a fish is hooked without the need for complex or problematic trip arms or tension adjustments, the functionalism and simplicity of the Tadpole has quickly made them a favorite with walleye trollers.

### HOW A TADPOLE WORKS

The Tadpole functions by first attaching the fishing line to a supplied cross lock style snap that is in turn clipped to the tow arm on the front of the Tadpole. At the back of the Tadpole a second snap allows the angler to attach a crawler harness or leader length suitable for trolling spoons, shallow diving crankbaits and other popular lures.

When deployed, the snap on the tow arm slides to an elbow, locks into place and causes the Tadpole to dive in much the same way a crankbait dives with water pushing over the diving lip. The harness or other trailing lure is in turn dragged along for the ride. Like a crankbait the depth of a Tadpole is controlled largely by manipulating the lead length. For fishing harnesses, spoons and in line trolling spinners it's recommended to add a ball bearing swivel to the leader to prevent line twist. For trolling with stick baits and other shallow diving crankbaits, the supplied snap is ideal.

When a fish strikes and is hooked, tension on the line causes the snap to slide to the forward position on the tow arm, effectively converting the Tadpole from a diving device into an in line weight that has minimal resistance in the water.



### THE ADVANTAGES OF A TADPOLE

What makes the Tadpole unique is the angler only has to fight the fish, not the resistance of the diver. Also, the Tadpole dives much deeper than other trolling weights, giving anglers the option of reaching greater depths or fishing target depths using shorter more manageable lead lengths.

The simplicity of the Tadpole's diving and tripping mechanism makes this trolling aid literally fool proof and ideal for slow, moderate and normal trolling speeds making them useful for a wide variety of live bait and hard bait trolling

applications. Even better, the Tadpole Diver readily adapts to fishing with either in line planer boards or a planer board mast system, creating an "out and down" trolling system that's deadly on just about any fish species that suspends in the water column.

It's also important to note that a fish hooked on a Tadpole quickly rises in the water column as the boat moves forward. This phenomenon insures hooked fish are quickly clear of other lines making it practical to stack two, three or more lines on each side of the boat.

It gets even better. Because Tadpoles dive and have resistance in the water similar to a crankbait, fish that strike trailing lures get a more solid hook set compared to other in line weight systems. This means that fish that bite a lure trailed behind a Tadpole are more likely to be solidly hooked and landed than fish hooked behind other in line weight options.

The Tadpole Diver is an easy to fish and effective alternative to mini-disks, keel sinkers, lead core line, copper line and other sinking trolling/diving devices.

### SIZE OPTIONS

Originally introduced in a size No. 1 (OR36 1) and No. 2 (OR36 2), almost from the day these products hit the market anglers started asking for larger and deeper diving versions of these unique trolling products. New for 2014, the much anticipated No. 3 (OR36 3) and even larger Magnum (OR36 MAGNUM) Tadpole Divers have arrived. Designed as an alternative to sinking likes like lead core or copper line, the No. 3 and Magnum Tadpoles achieve significant depth with modest lead lengths, making them ideal for targeting trout, salmon, steelhead and deep water walleye.

What sets the Tadpole Divers aside from lead core line and copper line is they reach significant depth when fished on modest lead lengths. Also, Tadpole Divers can be fished with standard sized line counter reels instead of the extra large, heavy and expensive reels generally required to fish the copious amounts of lead core or copper line it takes to fish deep.

### GOING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Most anglers fish the Tadpole by simply attaching it to the end of their fishing line and playing out varying amounts of lead length to achieve target depths. Using planer boards helps to spread out lines horizontally, but what about tactics for getting maximum depth from Tadpoles?

A Tadpole can easily be placed at the end of a lead core set up. Tests conducted by Precision Trolling indicate that a No. 1 Tadpole fished at the terminal end of five colors of lead core line doubles the depth or equal to what would normally be achieved using 10 colors of lead core!

A Tadpole Diver can also be rigged in line by rigging an OR19 (orange) planer board release to the

tow arm of the Tadpole using a split ring and an OR16 (red) Pro Clip to the tail of the Tadpole also using a split ring. Let out the lure, leader and all the lead core line and then attach the Tadpole to the backing material. Rigged in this manner the Tadpole is positioned far from the lure eliminating any spooking concerns, but still functions to gain additional depth from lead core set ups.



All four size tadpoles shown above.

### TADPOLES WITH DOWNRIGGERS

A growing number of Great Lakes salmon trollers are fishing short lengths of lead core on their downriggers to position baits away from the cable hum associated with downrigger fishing. A No. 1 Tadpole fished just 100 feet behind a downrigger ball picks up an additional 20 feet of depth and works wonders for presenting spoons, plugs, cut bait and other gear down below the water disturbed by the downrigger ball and cable.

Even better a Tadpole can be fished on the same rod and reel used for downrigger trolling, eliminating the need for a dedicated lead core outfit. By using the Dive Curve created by Precision Trolling Data, LLC it's easy to control the depth of a Tadpole by manipulating lead lengths and literally aiming lures at fish marking on the sonar screen.

### TADPOLES HAVE NO LIMIT

Tadpole Divers are so new a lot of anglers haven't tried them yet and many of those who have tried them are just starting to understand how useful these trolling aids can be. With time no doubt many other rigging and fishing options for the Tadpole Diver will surface. In the meantime, these unique little divers have a lot to offer open water trollers who recognizes a good thing when they see it.

# OFF SHORE TACKLE WELCOMES TEAM CANADA

In 2014 Off Shore Tackle LLC is proud to announce a whole new pro staff division to be called “Team Canada”. All across Canada Off Shore Tackle LLC has countless retailers, customers and a growing number of professional anglers, guides, charter captains and fishing experts who have discovered that Off Shore Tackle LLC are the “Leaders in Trolling Technology”.

Heading up Team Canada is Greg Horoky a long standing Off Shore Tackle Pro Staffer, close personal friend and highly respected tournament professional from Ontario. Greg will be interviewing anglers and assigning pro staff positions for a select group of individu-

als who have demonstrated they are not only knowledgeable anglers, but also individuals willing to share their knowledge with others.

The responsibilities of these pro staffers will vary but may include participating in local tournaments, working consumer sport shows, doing in-store promotions, participating in video and still photography shoots, writing tips for future editions of The Off Shore Release, participating in social networking marketing efforts, making contact with local outdoor writers and other media types and acting as professional fishing ambassadors on behalf of Off Shore Tackle all across Canada.

The current list of anglers who have been invited to join Team Canada include Greg Horoky, Bob Devine, Jeff Anderson, Paul Powis, Richard Ofner, P J Bushey, Ed Mackenzie, Jamie Stothart, Ashley Rae, Joe Pickstock, Scott Walcott, Shane Turcotte and Bill Limage. No doubt this list will grow rapidly over the years as Off Shore Tackle’s sales and growth in Canada expands.

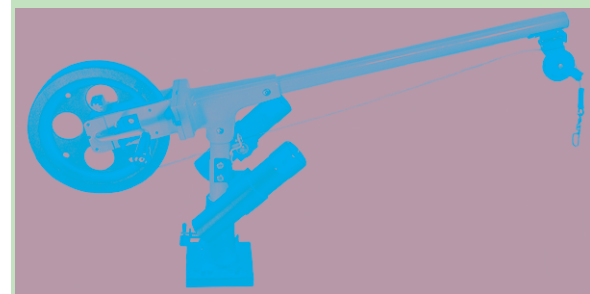
To make contact with Greg Horoky, send him an email at [greg@greghoroky.com](mailto:greg@greghoroky.com) to arrange for an interview or to submit a resume. Off Shore Tackle LLC is looking for a few good men and women to represent them in all the Canadian providences.

## DOWNRIGGER DOMINANCE

BY MARK ROMANACK

When I first started fishing Great Lakes trout and salmon the downrigger dominated the trolling scene. Touted as the ultimate in depth control, most charter boats had four or five downriggers on board.

Today the downrigger scene is much different. Instead of four or five riggers per boat, most captains and recreational anglers are only fishing two or three riggers these days. Sinking lead core or copper lines fished in combination with in line boards like the OR12 Side Planer have stolen the show in recent years. It’s common to see boats fishing three or even four board lines per side of the boat, a pair of diving planers and just a pair of downriggers as their primary trolling set up.



**Riviera’s Model 700 is their #1 selling downrigger. Economical and durable!**

### DOWN BUT NOT OUT

The glory days of the downrigger in the Great Lakes may be bruised, but this trolling presentation certainly isn’t beaten. Early and late in the day, riggers still account for a significant amount of fish. Also, during the middle of the day when salmon often seek out maximum depths, downriggers are the only practical way to reach these fish.

### GETTING CREATIVE

The downrigger can also produce numbers of fish any time of day by rigging them with an eye towards creativity. The biggest reason downrigger success has dropped

off in recent years is our Great Lakes fisheries have become much, much clearer due to the zebra mussel. The cable hum associated with downrigger fishing and also the ball slicing through the water tends to spook wary trout and salmon.

One way to get more from downriggers is to combine lead core line set ups with a downrigger. A set up that features three or four colors of lead core, a 25-50 foot leader of fluorocarbon and ample amounts of monofilament backing can be fished on a downrigger, effectively fishing below the cable hum and ball disturbance.

Simply let out a favorite lure, the leader, all the lead core line and then place the monofilament backing into an OR1 Medium Tension Single Downrigger Release. Bury the line to the back of the release and then lower the downrigger weight to a depth of about 20 feet above the target depth you expect to catch fish at.

This simple set up can be modified to be used with any length of lead core line and can also be used with similar lengths of copper line as dictated by the depth to be achieved.

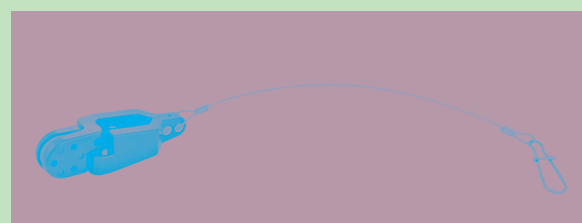
### TADPOLES AND DOWNRIGGERS

Another great option for fishing below a downrigger ball is rigging an Off Shore Tackle OR36 Resettable Diving Weight known as a Tadpole to fish 50-100 feet behind the downrigger weight. The Tadpole dives like a crankbait causing it to fish well below the downrigger weight where it becomes a more stealthy option for targeting deep water fish.

Tadpole Divers work well in combination with spoons, stick baits, body baits like the J-Plug, in-line trolling spinners and even with small rotators or dodgers.

### DOWNRIGGER RELEASE OPTIONS

Off Shore Tackle produces three different downrigger releases designed to cover all the common Great Lakes species and trolling situations. The most commonly used product is the OR1 Medium Tension Single Downrigger Release which is one of the oldest products in the Off Shore Tackle lineup. This is the downrigger release that set the standard on the Great Lakes. The OR1 is ideal for king and coho salmon, lake trout and steelhead trolling



**The OR1 Medium Tension Single Downrigger Release is the most popular release among downrigger anglers.**

applications when trolling at normal speeds and using typical lures like spoons, stick baits, plugs, etc.

The second noteworthy downrigger release in the lineup is the OR4 Light Tension Single Downrigger Release. The OR4 is ideal for targeting walleye, spring coho, browns, or in land lake trolling applications.

Last but certainly not least Off Shore Tackle produces the OR8 Heavy Tension Single Downrigger Release which is ideal for faster trolling speeds or when trolling with high resistance gear like large rotators, dodgers, lake trolls, etc.

The OR8 is a little heavy for normal trolling situations, but a simple trick when rigging lines will allow anglers to use this heavy tension release for a multitude of trolling applications. Before placing the line between the rubber pads of the OR8, fold the line over your finger and spin the line to form four or five twists of line and a small loop. Open the OR8 and place the twists of line between the rubber pads.

Rigged in this manner, the OR8 will hold the line securely and not trip even when a fish is hooked. When the rod starts bucking, the angler simply needs to remove the rod from the downrigger, quickly reel down tight against the release and give the rod a strong upwards pop. This motion trips the line free of the release and pulls tight against the fish all in one smooth motion.

### THE FUTURE

The future of downrigger fishing is bright for those anglers who understand how to get the most from these depth control aids. Following the suggestions outlined here will convert downriggers from rigs that work occasionally to ones that produce fish trip after trip.

## DOING NOTHING ISN'T THE ANSWER

How many times have you had a bad day on the water and simply accepted failure? We have all tossed in the towel sooner than we should have.

Part of what makes trolling such an effective fishing presentation is the ability to mix things up and give the fish something different to consider. Speeding up, slowing down, turning the boat to change lure direc-

tion, changing lures, changing lure depth, changing lure colors, pumping your boards, trolling into or against the waves and switching from artificial lures to live bait are just a few of the things a troller can easily do to “make things happen” on the water.

Too often we stick with what worked yesterday and forget that catching fish is an ever evolving process. What

worked yesterday is something good to start with today, but no guarantee of success. Remaining flexible and being willing to change in route if necessary are skills that separate the ordinary angler from the exceptional angler.

Stay focused, keep changing things up and most of all remain confident that sooner or later good things will happen when you work hard at trolling.

# PLANER BOARD RELEASES

BY MARK ROMANACK

They say the devil is in the details. Arguably, it's those important "details" that make the difference in fishing most days. Some kinds of fishing like, planer board trolling are literally riddled with important details to consider. Take for example choosing planer board line releases based on the target species.

To set the record straight, no single line release is capable of functioning flawlessly in all trolling applications. The release that works well for catching two pound walleye just isn't going to get the job done on king salmon or muskie. This is precisely why Off Shore Tackle LLC is an industry leader in producing a multitude of planer board releases designed for every trolling need.

## OR10

Hands down the most popular "walleye" specific planer board release on the market, the OR10 (yellow) Adjustable Light Tension Planer Board Release is hugely popular because it works so flawlessly for the majority of walleye planer board fishing situations. The unique design of the OR10 allows the spring to be slid forward toward the pads to increase the spring tension or away from the pads to lighten the tension; making this release ideal for catching those "eaters" and the many bigger walleye an angler is likely to encounter when fishing Lake Erie and other popular destinations.

The OR10 also functions perfectly with the line diameters most anglers favor for walleye including 10-20 pound test monofilament. All that's required is to pinch open the release and bury the line to the back of the rubber pads. If the pads start getting worn, they are inexpensive and can be easily replaced, making this release even more desirable.

## OR14

The OR14 Adjustable Medium Tension (black) line release is the same size as the OR10, but the spring tension is a little heavier. A heavier spring tension helps when trolling at faster speeds or when using deeper diving lures like the always popular 800 series Reef Runner. Like its brother, the OR10 the OR14 can be adjusted for tension by simply sliding the spring forward to increase the tension or backwards to lighten the tension.

The OR14 is ideal for trophy sized walleye, brown trout, spring coho, kokanee and other smaller trout and salmon species. This release functions flawlessly with 10-20 pound test monofilament lines.

## OR3

The OR3 Light Tension Planer Board Release is white in color and much larger than the OR10 or OR14. The increased pad diameter enables this release to firmly, but gently secure the line and is a favorite of professional charter captains who fish planer boards day in and day out.

The OR3 functions well with all common line diameters and provides a somewhat stronger release tension than the name suggests. Ideal for fishing walleye, coho, pink salmon and other smaller species, often the fish striking will not trigger this release. A simple snap of the rod tip will complete the release and help pull the line taut against the fish. This extra release pressure helps to insure that fish that bite are securely hooked.

## OR19

The OR19 (orange) Adjustable Heavy Tension Planer Board Release is the same release that comes standard on the bracket of the OR12 Side Planer board. This release has a firm spring tension and is ideal for trolling in rough water, at higher trolling speeds and when dragging larger lures.

Popular with salmon and muskie anglers; the OR19 is small, but it packs a punch in terms of the spring tension.

## OR17

The OR17 (black) Medium Tension Planer Board Release is the same release used on the OR1 downrigger release. This release has made a name for itself among dedicated salmon anglers and is ideal for trolling at high speeds, rough water and when targeting big fish. Ideal for fishing lead core or copper line rigs on a planer board mast system, the large rubber pads do an excellent job of gripping the line and insuring a solid hook set strike after strike.

## OR30

The OR30 (red) Heavy Tension Planer Board Release is the same release used on the OR8 Heavy Tension Downrigger Release. The double spring on this release is the heaviest in the Off Shore Tackle line up and best suited to high speed trolling, toothy critters like muskie and saltwater fishing applications.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Planer board releases are, generally speaking, the most important "link" in any board trolling set up. If the release is too light the angler's ability to hook fish securely is compromised. If the release is too heavy, tripping the release becomes a problem and there is always the problem of dragging fish needlessly.

Like in the story of Goldie Locks, the best line release is one that is "just right" in spring tension. Thankfully, Off Shore Tackle LLC makes a host of line release models and one is sure to meet the needs of every planer board troller.

# WAY OUT THERE SMALLMOUTH

BY JP BUSHEY

I'm about the furthest thing you'll ever find from a bass angler. I love to troll, and I love fishing for muskie, pike, walleye and lake trout. My spinner baits, plastic worms and top waters are downriggers, Dipsy Divers and lead core. I spend nearly all of my season on huge, deep bodies of water, and haven't targeted smallmouth bass since I was a teenager.

In the summer of 2013, I started an experiment with smallmouth bass on my home waters of Georgian Bay. During July, August and September, I spent a considerable amount of time hunting for open water smallmouth using the Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planer boards and a handful of my favorite crankbaits. It didn't take long for some interesting patterns to emerge that bass enthusiasts everywhere can benefit from.

The fish I discovered were big, well-fed and aggressive. Trolling for them with in line boards has proved to be highly effective day in and day out. Not only is this a really fun way to fish, it's also worth noting that the open water board trolling pattern produced all up and down the eastern coast of Georgian Bay. No doubt this trolling approach would work just as well in other bodies of water with ample smallmouth and a suspended forage base.

## THE FORAGE CONNECTION

By and large, the presence of bait fish in the water column dictated the location of smallmouth. Most of the time finding bait from the surface down to about 30 feet down almost guaranteed success. I caught bass over water as deep as 90 feet!

As summer wore on, the density and type of bait fish changed, but the fishing remained the same. From early June through mid-July, staggering numbers of alewives invade the near shore waters to spawn. Smallmouth, along with other species like walleye and pike shadowed these huge schools of alewives.

By late July the alewives started disappearing, but emerald shiners began occupying the same types of areas. Mostly the alewives and shiners turned up in open water, but in the vicinity of bottom structure. Both of these bait fish are constantly on the move, making trolling the only practical way to keep up with moving schools of bait and game fish.

## DAILY TIMING

Targeting open water smallmouth began as an afterthought. I'd spend my prime fishing hours targeting muskie, lake trout or walleye and simply check a few spots for bass on my way in. I quickly learned that some of the best open water trolling takes place from late morning right through the middle of the day. High skies with a little wind to break up the surface of the water produced the best bass trolling conditions.

The typical school of suspended bass were large enough that I could make multiple passes and continue to catch fish almost at will. Even better these are populations of fish that see next to zero fishing pressure. Most of the fish I caught sucked back the boards within minutes of setting them out, making for easy fishing and fast action.

## RIGGING WRINKLES

Bright sun and wave action really seems to energize suspended smallmouth. In clear water especially, I've come to believe that bass will move great distances in the water column both vertically and laterally to target suspended forage. Targeting specific depth zones isn't as important as simply being over fish.

I recommend trolling with the Off Shore Tackle OR12 with an OR16 (red) Pro Clip rigged to the front of the board and an OR19 (orange) release mounted to the rear of the board. Be sure to bury the line behind the pin on the OR16 and near the back of the rubber pads on the OR19 releases to prevent airborne smallmouth from tearing the boards off the line. Because smallmouth make such vicious runs, slow action rods, monofilament line and sticky sharp treble hooks become essential elements of trolling for these fish.

I spooled my reels with board friendly monofilament as my main line and added a six foot leader of 15 pound test fluorocarbon at the terminal end. Because smallmouth are so acrobatic some fish come unbuckled during leaps, but the majority of hooked fish come to net.

## A WORD ON CRANKBAIT

Smallmouth will strike a wide variety of crankbait types and colors. My confidence lures are Reef Runner 800 series, Rip sticks and Deep Little Rippers, No. 9 Rapala Shad Raps, Deep Husky Jerks and Cotton Cordell C.C Shads. Metallic finished lures that throw lots of flash around are the best producers on bright days. I've had bass come vertically over twenty feet to pick them off. More opaque patterns, natural perch and other bait fish schemes seem to produce better when there's some cloud cover.

Get your crankbait close to fish you're marking on the sonar screen and it's usually "game on"! Smallmouth more so than other species, seem very willing to change depth levels while feeding.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Georgian Bay is just one of many places anglers can target smallmouth by trolling crankbait in open water. Just about any Great Lakes body of water that harbors smallmouth has potential for a similar bite. It's also important to note that the open water smallmouth bite isn't just limited to Great Lakes fisheries. Many inland lakes that have suspended forage types like emerald shiners or gizzard shad have the potential to yield similar bites.

Editor Note: \*\*JP Bushey is a multi-season, multi-species fishing writer living in Barrie, Ontario. You can follow his stories and enjoy tips and photographs on his Face Book Page, The Bushey Angle, or in the pages of Ontario Out Of Doors Magazine, Hooked Magazine, The Ontario Fishing Network Newsletter and Angling Authority Online\*\*



# RIVIERA'S SWIVELING ROD TOWER

BY LARRY HARTWICK

New in 2013 and still being introduced in 2014, Riviera is producing a new Swiveling Rod Tower (SRT). While rod towers or trees as some refer to them aren't new, the design and function of the SRT- Swiveling Rod Tower takes them to a whole new level.

## THE FACTS OF RIVIERA'S SRT

1. The unit incorporates our proven base that allows the tower to swivel and lock up every 90 degrees. Removal of the tower is as easy as pulling out a spring loaded pin and lifting. A 3 second chore or lack of being one.
2. The same tower can be used in either a port or starboard application as the rod hold-

ers can be used on either side of the tube.

3. ALL of the rod holders are adjustable in 15 degree increments, so you could have 0 degree, 15 degree, 30 degree, 45 degree, 60 degree, and a 90 degree rod holders on one rod tower. This will allow for great separation of your rods and eliminate confusion and tangles.

4. Utilizing both sides of the tower, up to 7 rod holders can be used on a SRT. The SRT is available in 3 rod, 4 rod or 5 rod versions. However, additional rod holders with the indexing brackets are available for customizing your SRT.

5. There are no welds to worry about. Every rod holder angle is adjustable.

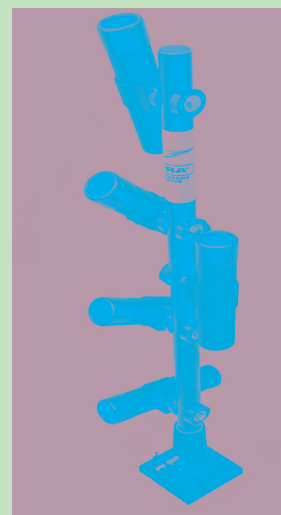
6. Strength. No wimps here. I stood on the end of a 60 degree rod holder with no ill

effects to any component. If it will hold my 240# weight on a rod holder end, there won't be any concerns about placing an expensive rod and reel combo in it.

7. We are producing an adapter so it can be slid into an existing track. Easy on and off with positive holding power. The only limiting factor will be the track.

8. All of our aluminum components are powder coated for years of good looks and function.

Whether you are using in line planers or dual and triple planer boards, the SRT will out perform anything else available on the market. Check it out, you'll like it. It was designed with the help of a Wisconsin friend that wanted something better and I think that you'll agree; IT IS.



## TADPOLE FLATLINES

BY DARRELL WOOD

The OR36 Series Resettable Diving Weights, AKA Tadpoles, see a lot of action used in combination with planer boards. I find that the Tadpole also works exceptionally well rigged and fished as a flat line fished straight out the back of the boat. This set up allows me to make rapid lead length changes while I'm trying to pattern the most productive depth zone. It's amazing how often this simple flat line set up catches fish.

## IT'S IN THE DETAILS

BY KURT DOLLER

What's the difference between a good NFL quarterback and a great NFL quarterback? The answer is the small details. Over the years of fishing walleye tournaments I have learned to pay attention to the small details.

During a past tournament my partner and I had talked to a fellow competitor about the Off Shore's OR36 1 and the OR36 2 Resettable Diving Weights (AKA Tadpole's) and explained to him how much success we have had using them. His reply to us was "Ok, well I have regular leaded in line weights, and can do the same thing as you can." The weather the morning of the tournament was overcast and very cool, and the walleye were deep in the water column and wanted crankbaits. Our setup of running OR12 Side Planer boards with deep crankbaits produced three very nice fish, but as the morning cleared and the temperature rose, so did the walleye and our presentation needed to change with the conditions. Since we knew the fish were going to spook easy and not be as aggressive, we changed to using Off Shore Tackle's OR34 Mini Boards and running worm harnesses off of Off Shore's OR36 1 Resettable Diving In Line Tadpole Weights. It turned out that we fished near the competitor that we had talked to about the OR36 1 and OR36 2 weights all afternoon.

At the weigh-in we weighed our fish and the competitor that was fishing near us in the afternoon approached us and asked what we used to catch our fish, we explained to him our presentation and he seemed very confused, I asked why he looked puzzled. He replied to me that he ran the same program as us but caught fewer and smaller fish. My reply back was that we used Off Shore Tackle LLC products and that the small details made the difference between a great day on the water and an ok day on the water. His final question to us was "Where can I get Off Shore Tackle products?" I smiled and handed him a copy of the Off Shore Release.

## YEAH BABY... FACEBOOK ROCKS

BY MARK ROMANACK

One of the best things to hit the sport fishing scene in decades is the advent of social networking. Any angler worth his hooks and sinkers understands the benefit of sharing information with a network of trusted anglers. Thanks to social networking sites like Facebook, that network can be as large and inclusive or small and intimate as you choose.

When Fishing 411 jumped into the television game back in 2007 it quickly became apparent that our personal resources on fishing destinations wasn't going to be adequate to maintain a steady stream of TV episodes. Through Facebook we have been able to stay on top of minute to minute fishing reports all over the Great Lakes region and

beyond. Currently about 50% of the fishing adventures that make it to TV involve research conducted as part of our social network contacts.

The moral of this story is simple. If you haven't already discovered that sharing fishing information on the internet can and does benefit the recreational angler, you need to get involved. Create your own Facebook page and touch base with others as often as possible. Literally every major manufacturer of fishing tackle offers a Facebook page that invites anglers to communicate and share information. A good place to start is with the Off Shore Tackle LLC's page.

In addition, most professional tournament anglers also maintain a Facebook page which makes them more accessible to anglers seeking tips and other fishing insights. All of

the top Off Shore Tackle pro staffers have Facebook pages and stand ready to answer fishing questions on demand.

On these sites and others you'll find posts that are designed to share critical information needed to be successful on the water. If you have questions, there is no better place to ask than on a social networking site. Chances are you'll get more answers than you ever dreamed or hoped for. The information provided on social networking sites is free and all that's needed to tap into this bonanza of fishing information is to establish a Facebook page and get communicating. Who knows, you might learn something, catch a few extra fish or better yet meet a new fishing buddy. When it comes to finding more fish, Yeah Baby... Facebook Rocks!

## DRIFTING FOR PANFISH WITH THE OR34 MINI PLANER BOARD

BY MARK ROMANACK AND TONY PUCCIO

Have you ever wondered what happens to bluegill after the spawn is over and those big roaches disappear from the shallows? Conventional wisdom suggests that those fish take up residence on the deep water weed line, but that wisdom is being challenged by Joe and Tony Puccio of Bait Rigs Tackle.

"Big bluegill are different," says Tony Puccio. "The adult fish eight inches and bigger spend little time on the weed edges and instead suspend in open water and feed on daphnia and other zooplankton that are found near the surface. Drifting is one of the best ways to present baits ideally suited to catching saucer-sized gills."

Tony and Joe Puccio started targeting these open water bluegills by simply drifting in open water with No. 0 spinner rigs baited with red worms and small minnows. Over time they refined this presentation to include the OR34

Mini Planer Board from Off Shore Tackle LLC to cover a little more water with every drift.

"When it's calm I use my electric motor to move the boat along slowly and fish an OR34 Mini Planer Board on each side of the boat and two flat lines straight out the back of the boat," says Puccio. "I rig my OR34's with an OR16 Pro Clip on the front of the board so the board stays on the line. When a fish hits I simply reel in the board, remove it, and finish fighting the fish."

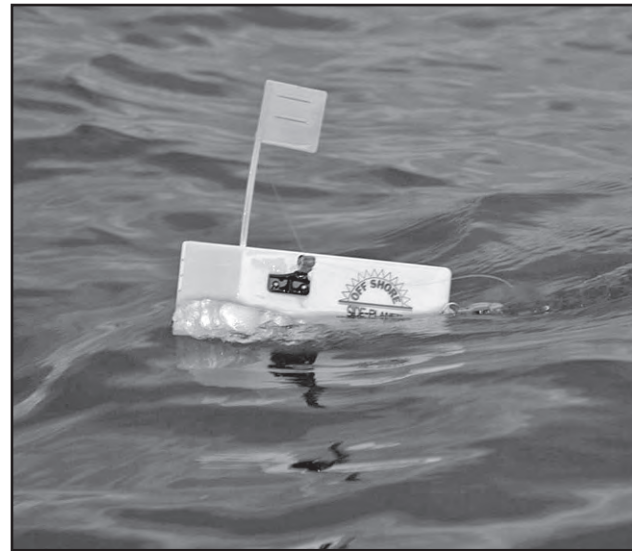
Puccio has a little different set up for those days when a gentle breeze makes for a perfect drift. "If there is a good "drifting" wind, I'll drift sideways to the wind and run an OR34 off the bow and one off the transom of the boat and three flat lines spaced along the upwind gunwale of the boat."

Inland lakes that harbor lots of largemouth bass and bluegills tend to be the best lakes for targeting these open water gills. The best times of year are after the spawn is completed through July and August.

# TROLLING Q & A FROM THE NEXT BITE

BY KEITH KAVAJECZ  
AND GARY PARSONS

As professional tournament walleye anglers and Fishing TV Show hosts, we get a ton of questions on various tactics from anglers everywhere. Many of those questions have to do with trolling big water, and below are 2 that we are sure will help everyone troll up their Next Bite.



Using the correct in line planer board such as the OR12 Side Planer makes all the difference in the world in your daily catch.

#### Question:

Do I really need to use planer boards when trolling big water for walleye?

#### Answer:

To catch “big water” walleye, you need to cover water efficiently, so spreading your trolling program out is a must. In line boards like Off Shore Tackle’s OR12 Side Planers are essential to get the baits well out to the sides of the boat. These boards are ideally suited for walleye trolling because they’re ballasted for perfect balance (with nose running high on purpose), making them suitable for a wide range of trolling speeds, particularly the slower range speeds needed to trigger walleye in cooler water temps. This feature also makes them good trackers in heavier seas which is a big plus when fishing big water.

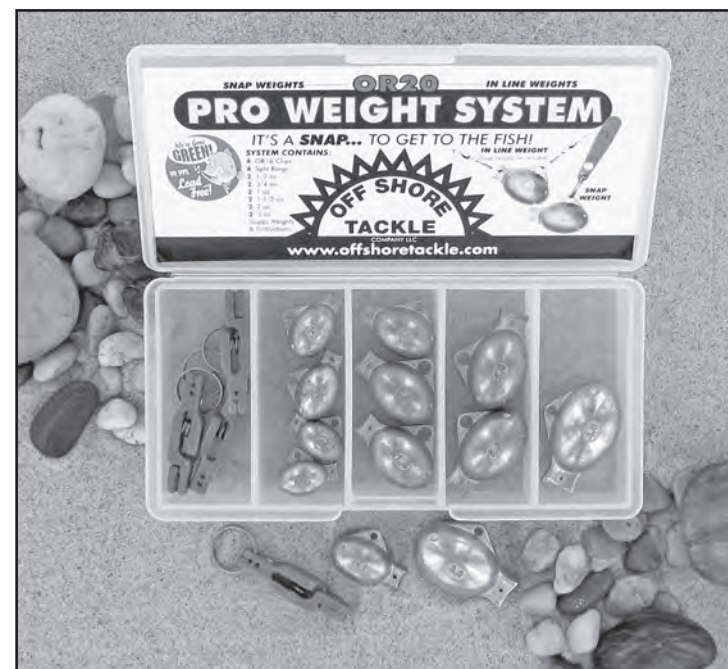
#### Question:

When fishing spinners in open water, how do you determine what weighting system to use between in line weights as opposed to Snap Weights?

#### Answer:

The big difference between inline weights and Snap Weights is the action they put on your spinner. In lines are run right ahead of your spinner with a 2 to 6 foot snell. When you get in waves, and the boat or boards are surging, the in line weight will move up and down and the spinner will follow in its path quickly - an erratic action. With Snap Weights, you can put out any length leader you want (typically 25 to 50 feet). Now when the weight surges, the spinner follows slowly - an undulating action. Of course you can also run the Snap Weights on a short leader to get the erratic action.

Which is best? Let the walleye tell you. I’ve seen days when one way out produces the other — but can’t say I



All your in line and snap weight needs are met when you use the OR20 Pro Weight System and it is 99.99% lead free as well!

can give exact conditions that dictate one over the other. I almost always start with 2 in lines, 2 Snap Weights and go with the bites.

The beauty of the Off Shore Tackle OR20 Pro Weight System is that it gives you both styles of weights in one convenient package. The unique Pro Guppy Weights can be easily rigged as both in line or snap on style weights and come in a variety of sizes to fit any trolling scenario; a product to ALWAYS have on your boat!

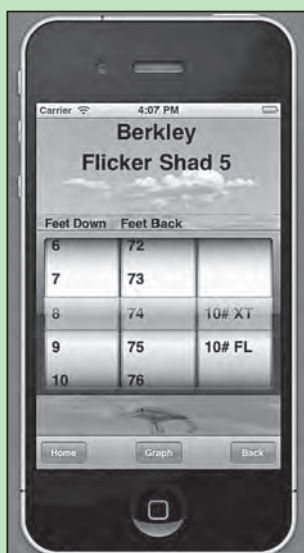
## PRECISION TROLLING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

BY MARK ROMANACK

The much anticipated Precision Trolling Data, iPhone app was released in October of 2013. Hundreds of anglers have already signed on and are enjoying Dive Curve data for 182 different lures and trolling devices on either their iPhone, iPod or iPad device. Anglers who purchase the app data can use it at no additional cost on any or all of these approved personal devices.

The 182 lures and devices featured in Version 1 represent the best of the best in crank bait brands and models plus a host of new lures never before published. Version 1 of the PTD iPhone app also features popular trolling devices like Off Shore Tackle OR36 Series Tadpole Divers.

An Android version that features the same data and options is under construction and will be available soon. Both these app options



allow anglers one free sample Dive Curve and also an opportunity to check out the new “Depth Wheel” function that essentially allows an angler to pick a target depth and the app will indicate the lead length needed to achieve that depth. The same “Depth Wheel” allows the angler

to pick a lead length and the app spits out the target depth a lure will reach on that particular lead.

The Depth Wheel was designed to spit out fast and accurate trolling data, without having to scrutinize the normal Dive Curve graph featured with each lure and trolling device.

#### HOW DO I PURCHASE ADDITIONAL DATA?

Additional Precision Trolling Data information can be purchased in a variety of ways. Each of the 182 lures and trolling devices featured in the app can be purchased individually for \$1.99 each. The complete set of 182 Dive Curves offered in Version 1 can also be purchased for \$49.99 or anglers can purchase the Lifetime Version for \$99.99 which includes all the lures in Version 1 and as new data (Version 2, Version 3, etc.) is added to the app no additional fees will be charged for the life of the app.

The same purchase options and pricing will apply when the Android version is made available. When new data is added and Version 2 is released, Lifetime members will receive this information at no additional cost. The cost of Version 2 has not been determined as yet and will be based on how much information this version contains.

The cost of Lifetime memberships will go up slightly with the introduction of each Version as more information will be included in this option.

#### WHAT IF I CHANGE PHONES?

If a Precision Trolling Data customer loses or purchases a new phone, data they have purchased can transferred to the new phone at additional cost to the customer. Customers who purchase an iPhone version and then switch to an Android version will have to purchase both versions as they function using different operating systems.

#### HOW OFTEN WILL VERSIONS BE RELEASED?

Complete versions will be introduced approximately once or twice a year. However, as important new lures are tested, many of these will be released as individual lure purchase options and made available to Lifetime Members at no cost. The reason for this is to make important data available as fast as possible and also to reward Lifetime Members for investing in this option.

#### WHAT WILL BE INCLUDED IN NEW VERSIONS?

New versions will feature popular crankbaits, including the latest baits from Rapala, Storm, Reef Runner, Matzuo, Salmo, Berkley and many other brands. In addition, new versions will offer more speed and line options for popular devices like the Off Shore Tackle LLC OR36 Series Tadpole Divers and OR20 Pro Weight System.

Future versions of Precision Trolling Data will also start sharing important pieces of data from the “Big Water Edition” including devices like the Luhr Jensen Jet Diver, Lurk Rundown Diver, Big Jon Mini-Disks, Luhr Jensen Dipsy Divers and many other divers and diving planers.

In addition, PTD has done extensive testing on Dacron, Microdyneema and Spectra fiber based brands of lead core fishing line. These lead core products vary greatly in diameter and depth data will be provided on the most common sizes including 12, 15, 18 and 27 pound test versions. All of these lead core products have been tested in segments ranging in length from one color to 10 colors and at various speed ranges.

Also included in future versions will be copper line data for 30 and 45 pound test copper line products including the most popular lengths of copper line.

Future Dive Curves for PTD apps will also include specific combinations of popular trolling products, like combining lead core line and diving crankbaits, Tadpole Divers and lead core line and other creative combinations that promise to explore uncharted waters.

#### PRINTED VERSIONS

Many anglers still cry out for the printed Precision Trolling books that have become so popular. No more books will be printed, but the same information contained in previous books and in our current and future apps is available as Precision Trolling Data Stickers. These stickers are essentially the Dive Curves anglers have come to love printed onto waterproof vinyl similar to bumper stickers. Just peel and stick the Dive Curve Sticker to the inside lid of your 3700 style tackle storage boxes and the data will always be handy.

Precision Trolling Data Stickers can be purchased individually for \$1.99 each on line at [www.precisiontrollingdata.com](http://www.precisiontrollingdata.com) or packages of stickers organized by brand and lure type are sold at popular retail outlets.



# WORLD WALLEYE ASSOCIATION THANKS OFF SHORE

## 6th Annual WWA Fishing Tournament and Family Day



Dear Off Shore Tackle;

Another year has passed and our Chain of Lakes Youth and Family Day was again a huge success! The days saw a total of 89 youths fishing from boats and shore. Included in the days were seminars on fish identification, fishing techniques and proper bait applications. Volunteers set the kids up with bobbers, new line, bait and hooks. After the rules meeting, the National Anthem was played and the boats took off for 4 hours of fishing and fun. At the 1:00pm weigh in, the entrants had the opportunity to get "on stage" and show their catch. Trophies or plaques were awarded to every participant and all won a variety of prizes which were donated by companies and sponsors for the event.

As you know, this event is a put together and made possible by volunteers, donors and sponsors. We want to take the time to thank you for your continued support and generous donation; We just can't express our gratitude enough. The memories you

helped create and the happy faces captured will always remind us of how special our kids are and how wonderful it is to be a part of bringing the outdoors to our youth. PLUS, we were able to rent new games, get a sno-cone machine and more because of your help to make it the best event yet.

Again, thanks for your support!!!

Sincerely,

*Theresa Meade*

Theresa Meade  
and the WWA crew,  
Joe Baron, Lisa Baron  
and Bill Meade



## PICKING DOWNRIGGER WEIGHTS

Downriggers are the ultimate in depth control fishing. Riviera produces several models including the Model 300, Model 500 and Model 700 designed for anglers who want a downrigger that will last a lifetime without investing a fortune.

The weights used with downriggers depend on a number of variables including trolling speed, water depth and even the fish being targeted.

For smaller species and modest depths, a weight in the 8 pound range is normally ideal. Anglers can fish up to about 80 feet using a rigger equipped with weights in the size range. For deeper water or faster trolling chores, a 10 weight recommended.

Another important consideration is the shape of the weight; round balls create more drag than a torpedo shaped weight. A slimmer, longer, style weight will cut the water better with less drag and be much easier on the demands placed on electric motors. Consider the fact that a 10 pound round ball will have about 50% more surface area than an 8 pound round ball. This transmits directly to more drag or basically an aerodynamic brick. Keep the drag down and you will be much happier when fishing extremely deep.

## BALLAST FOR LEAD CORE SUCCESS

BY GARY PARSONS & KEITH KAVAJECZ

Trolling with lead core line is one of the deadliest walleye fishing techniques. Lead core does a great job of covering water vertically. This tactic can be even more effective when you spread your lines out using planer boards to help cover more water horizontally. The problem is, not all boards work with lead core line. The weight of the line is enough to render some boards useless. The Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planer is ideal for trolling weighted lines like lead core or copper wire. These boards are weighted in the bottom, allowing them to counter-balance the weight of the sinking line. Since the OR12 always rides upright in the water, they easily carry weighted presentations out to the side as needed. You will also notice that the OR12 is designed to ride nose high to aide in side bite, cuts through the waves and eliminates the tendency for the board to flip over in rough conditions.

# STOP AND GO TROLLING

There are many different ways to trigger bites when trolling with Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planer boards. Whether you are running with the waves, across the waves, or just running "S" patterns, the boards are going to make your lures do different things.

One of the most productive ways to trigger bites is to completely stop and stall the boards. Yes, stop. Shut the motor off and put the kicker in neutral to allow the boat to slow until the boards are completely dead in the water. Depending on your trolling speed, this can take up to 10 seconds. Keeping a close eye on the

OR12 Side Planers equipped with the OR12TF Tattle Flags, engage the throttle on the kicker and accelerate to set the hooks when I see a flag going down or a board drifting back. This method has been extremely effective for me when pulling cranks and also works well pulling spinners.

## GETTING THE MOST FROM PLANER BOARD MAST SYSTEMS

BY MARK ROMANACK  
AND LARRY HARTWICK

Anyone who has ever witnessed a planer board mast system at work knows that this trolling technique is literally a fish harvesting system. Designed to deploy multiple lines per side of the boat, this planer system can be adapted to a wide variety of species and trolling applications.

When several lines are working on each side of the boat, the potential for contacting and catching fish is amazing. It's common for anglers who troll with a planer board mast system to have several fish on at once. Like a Chinese fire drill, working the back of the boat equipped with this trolling system can seem a lot more like work than fun.

There are several options available from Riviera Trolling Systems Incorporated on the mast system and full size board style that is right for you; just check out the product pages for more information.

### SETTING THE PLATE

To understand how a planer board mast system works, anglers need to first understand the fundamental parts of this planer system. A mast (usually six to seven feet tall) is typically mounted near the bow of the boat. Attached to this mast are two wheels that store approximately 150 feet of planer board line or what is often called tow line. At the terminal end of the planer line are heavy duty snaps that in turn attach to a pair of either double or triple planer boards.

For recreational fishing a dual or double (DPB) board is normally adequate. These boards can handle normal trolling chores and up to three or four lines per side of the boat. If more lines are to be set per side, the triple (TPB) board option makes a lot of sense. Because these boards pull harder in the water, they keep the tow line taut making it easier to get crisp releases even when fishing with up to five or six lines per side of the boat.

Fishing a planer board mast system begins by deploying the boards 75-100 feet to the side of the boat. How many lines are going to be fished and the wave conditions dictate the distance the boards can be set to the side.

Once the boards are set a "tether line" must be clipped to the tow line and the cockpit of the boat. The tether line allows the angler to pull the tow line in close enough to place a line release over the tow line when setting lines. Without the tether line, it's virtually impossible to reach the tow line most of the time.

With the tether line installed and the boards running properly it's time to put the mast system into gear by setting two, three, four, five or even six lines per side of the boat. The process starts by letting the desired lure back behind the boat a pre-determined distance.

Once the lure is deployed behind the boat, grab the tether line and pull the tow line into reach. Take a line release attached to a shower curtain hook and clip the shower curtain hook over the tow line. Now open the reel bail, grab the fishing line and open up the line release. Bury the fishing line near the back of the rubber pads on the line release and let the release close solidly on the fishing line.

Let the release start to slide down the tow line allowing line to play off the fishing reel. The first line set is going to be the furthest out to the side or closest to the planer board.

This rod will in turn be placed in a rod holder. The outside line needs to be positioned in the rod holder that is furthest forward in the boat.

Once the first rod is set, repeat the process over and over again keeping in mind that each successive rod will be placed in the next rod holder back. Organized in this fashion, a fish can bite and trigger the line release without tangling with other lines.



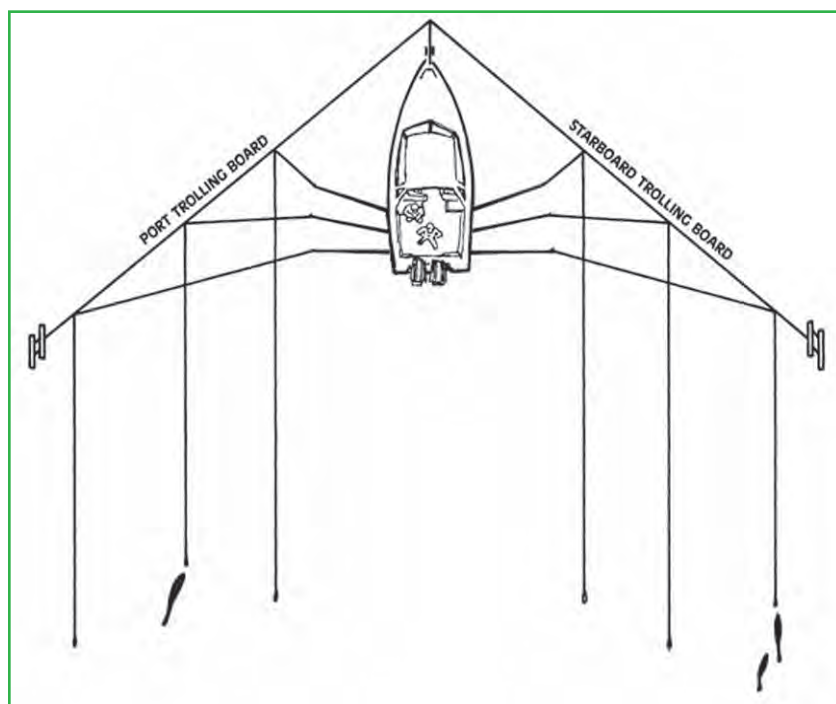
All an angler needs to do when a fish bites and triggers the line release is to reel slowly so the fish has a chance to slide to the back of the boat and out of the way of other lines. When a fish is hooked and landed, the rods that have not caught a fish are simply moved forward, making a spot nearest the boat for the line that caught a fish to be reset. This leap frog method of setting and resetting rods occurs over and over again until the boat catches a limit or the pile of line releases runs dry.

The way to judge an exceptional day of planer board fishing is the need to stop fishing and retrieve the planer boards so the line releases can be recovered and used over again! Most serious mast system planer board users buy their line releases 100 at a time to avoid this situation!

### UNDERSTANDING LINE RELEASES

The line releases used in a planer board mast system are the weakest link in the system. If the release fails the expensive planer board system is also dead in the water.

All sorts of "homemade" line releases turn up on the water, but none of them can match the performance of com-



mercially produced products made for the sole purpose of catching fish.

That stated it's also important to note that no single line release can function properly for all trolling situations. Different trolling situations call for different speeds, line diameters, depths, etc., which means anyone serious about fishing with a planer board mast system is likely going to invest in a number of different line release models.

The leader in this department is hands down the folks at Off Shore Tackle LLC who produce line releases for literally every conceivable trolling chore from light tension walleye release to extra heavy muskie/saltwater fishing releases. To help anglers these various line releases are color coded. In Off Shore's smaller, half size releases, the lightest tension adjustable release is the OR10 (yellow) model that is popular with walleye anglers. The next medium tension adjustable release is the OR14 (black) release which is also a good choice for walleye and/or slightly larger and more aggressive fish like brown trout or coho. The OR19 (orange) release is also popular with trout and salmon anglers and for light duty muskie and pike trolling applications and is the heaviest tension adjustable release in the small, half size releases.

Off Shore's line of full size releases includes the OR3 (white) which has the larger pad design with a lighter spring setting that's ideal for trophy walleye fishing, coho, browns, trout, kokanee, spring salmon and other small to medium sized species. Also included is the OR17 (black) medium spring tension release that is perfect for most salmon and muskie trolling applications. While the hard core muskie angler will find the OR30 (red) extra heavy spring tension release is just the ticket for trolling at high speeds with big and deep diving lures.

It's also worth noting that the OR10, OR14 and OR19 releases are adjustable for tension settings. By simply sliding the spring to the forward (toward the pads) setting the release tension is increased. Sliding the spring to the backward (away from the pads) position lowers the tension setting.

Between the different releases and the various tension adjustments there is a perfect set up for literally any kind of freshwater or saltwater trolling situation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



# OFF SHORE TACKLE

## Your Leader In...

### Side Planer Boards



SCAN.  
TROLL.  
CATCH FISH.

Model # OR34 Mini Planer Board



Each OR34 Mini Planer includes an OR10 release, black bracket, split ring, snap swivel, nylon nut, 6/32 x 1/2" screw, and instructions. One board...Dual Purpose...It's Reversible and runs directly off of your rod line! Ideal for light tackle fishing.

Model # OR34B2 Bracket 2 Pack

Model # SS BE Snap Swivel

More replacement parts are available for the OR34: see order blank for details.

Model # OR12L Side Planer Left

Model # OR12R Side Planer Right



Each OR12 Side Planer includes a stationary flag, one OR19 (orange) release, one OR16 (red) clip, instructions and is carefully ballasted to run flawlessly in rough water off of your rod line. Ideal for several species of fish.

Model # OR12P2 Pigtail And Split Ring

More replacement parts are available for the OR12 Side Planer: see order blank for details.

### Tattle Flag Upgrade Kit



SCAN.  
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CATCH FISH.

Model # OR12TF Tattle Flag Upgrade Kit



Each kit includes flag, 2 OR16 clips, wire, spring, washer, screw eye, split ring, 6/32 screw and instructions. One kit will upgrade one OR12 Side Planer.

Model # OR12TFEK Tattle Flag Upgrade Economy Kit



This kit will only work by using an OR12 Side Planer and two OR16 (red) clips that you previously purchased as this kit just contains ONLY the hardware which consists of a wire, spring, washer, screw eye, split ring, 6/32 screw and limited instructions.

Model # ORS2 Spring

More replacement parts are available for the OR12TF and OR12TFEK: see order blank for details.

### Planer Board Releases



SCAN.  
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Our three full size planer board releases come with a quick clip for use on dual planer boards. Also available without quick clips as shown on order blank. Their large diameter pinch pad design holds monofilament lines securely. Tension can be adjusted further by how deeply the line is placed into the pads.

Model # OR3, OR3BWW, or OR3BWOW Light Tension Planer Board Release —White

This release is ideal for Walleye fishing in choppy water or Brown Trout using 10-25 pound test monofilament line.



Model # OR17BWW or OR17BWOW Medium Tension Planer Board Release —Black

This release is ideal for Salmon, Steelhead, Trout and Muskie using 10-25 pound test monofilament line. It can also be used to pull lead core, Snap Weights and deep diving crank-baits.



Model # OR30BWW or OR30BWOW Heavy Tension Planer Board Release —Red



This release is ideal for Muskie, trophy Pike and salt water fish using over 20 pound test monofilament line.

Model # OR18 Snapper Adjustable Tension In Line Planer Board Release—Black

The OR18 is a full size release designed with an adjustable cam action locking arm that can be set to release at a range of tension settings or tightened down to hold even super braid lines and lead core securely. This release is made to attach to the bracket of our OR12 Side Planer. With the wide range of tension settings this release is ideal for Walleye, Striper, Salmon, Steelhead, Trout, and Muskie.



Our three half size adjustable tension planer board releases come with quick clips for use on dual planer boards and split rings for use on in line planer boards. They are also available without quick clips and split rings as shown on the order blank. Tension can be further adjusted by simply sliding the spring toward the pads to increase tension or away from the pads to decrease tension.

Model # OR10, OR10BWW or OR10BWOW Adjustable Light Tension Planer Board Release—Yellow

This release is ideal for light biting fish such as Walleye or smaller fish using 10-25 pound test monofilament line. Our three half size adjustable tension planer board releases come with a quick clip for use on dual planer boards and split ring for use on in line planer boards.



Model # OR14, OR14BWW or OR14BWOW Adjustable Medium Tension Planer Board Release—Black

This release is ideal for dual planer board trolling for Walleye and Salmon using 10-25 pound test monofilament line. This is the release most commonly used for rigging add-a-lines or fixed slider lines among downrigger anglers.



Model # OR19, OR19BWW or OR19BWOW Adjustable Heavy Tension Planer Board Release—Orange

This release comes as standard equipment on the OR12 Side Planer and is ideal for Striper, Salmon, Trout, and Muskie using 10-25 pound test monofilament and lead core.



### Pro Weights



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TROLL.  
CATCH FISH.

Model # OR20 Pro Weight System



Each system includes instructions, four OR16 Pro Clips, four split rings, two of each of the following guppy weights: 1/2 oz., 3/4 oz., 1 oz., 1 1/2 oz., 2 oz., and 3 oz. all contained in a plastic tackle box. Use as Snap Weights or In Line Weights - you decide. This system is used off of flat lines, dual planer boards and side planer boards.

Model # OR16, OR16BWW or OR16BWOW Pro Weight Clip—Red



This half size clip has an extra heavy spring tension and includes a split ring. They are also available without split rings as shown on the order blank. You simply position your fishing line behind the pin that protrudes through the center of the pads to hold your snap weight securely on the line.

The OR16 comes as standard equipment on the tail of the OR12 Side Planer and in our OR20 Pro Weight System. It is ideal for use with snap weight fishing, super braid lines and with our tattle flag system.

# PRODUCT SHOWCASE

## ...Trolling Technology



### Replacement Pro Guppy Weights



Model # OR20 1/2  
1/2 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

Model # OR20 3/4  
3/4 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

Model # OR20 1  
1 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

Model # OR20 1 1/2  
1 1/2 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

Model # OR20 2  
2 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

Model # OR20 3  
3 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

### Resettable Diving Weights



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CATCH FISH.



Model # OR36 1  
Tadpole Size 1

Model # OR36 2  
Tadpole Size 2

Model # OR36 3  
Tadpole Size 3

Model # OR36 MAGNUM  
Tadpole MAGNUM Size

Model # CS BE  
Coast Lock Snap

### Downrigger Releases



SCAN.  
TROLL.  
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Our downrigger releases are all full size and therefore have the large diameter pinch pad design that holds monofilament lines securely. Tension can be adjusted further by how deeply the line is placed into the pads.

Model # OR4  
Light Tension Single Downrigger Release, White



This release is ideal for Walleye, spring Coho, or other small to medium size fish using 10-25 pound test monofilament line.

Model # OR1  
Medium Tension Single Downrigger Release, Black



This release is ideal for Salmon, Steelhead, Striper and Trout using 10-25 pound test monofilament line.

Model # OR8  
Heavy Tension Single Downrigger Release, Red



This release is ideal for Muskie, Salmon, trophy Pike, and salt water fish using over 20 pound test monofilament line.

Model # OR7  
Light Tension Stacker Downrigger Release, White



This release is ideal for Walleye, spring Coho, or other small to medium size fish using 10-25 pound test monofilament line and allows you to run two lines off of the same downrigger.

Model # OR2  
Medium Tension Stacker Downrigger Release, Black



This release is ideal for Salmon, Steelhead, Striper and Trout using 10-25 pound test monofilament line and allows you to run two lines off of the same downrigger.

### Replacement Pads



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Model # ORRP8

Replacement pads for OR1, OR2, OR3, OR4, OR7, OR8, OR17, and OR30 releases.



Model # ORRP8SN

Replacement pads for OR18 releases.



Model # ORRP16

Replacement pads for OR10, OR14, OR19 releases along with OR16 clips WITHOUT the pin protruding through the center of the pads.



Model # ORRP16HL

Replacement pads for OR16 clips WITH pin that protrudes through the center of the pads.

### Promotional Items



SCAN.  
TROLL.  
CATCH FISH.

For promotional item updates, go to [www.offshoretackle.com](http://www.offshoretackle.com).



Model # DCL



Model # HT



Model # LYND



Model # CLR



Model # PN



Model # FRSB



Model # OYTSHRT



Model # OATSHRT



Model # OASWSHRT



Model # OYPOLO



Model # OBHWSHRT (frontside)



Model # OBHWSHRT (backside)



Model # PRO (frontside)



Model # PRO (backside)

# ABOUT THE EDITOR



Mark Romanack is a Michigan based outdoor writer and host of the popular television show Fishing 411 seen on World Fishing Network. In addition, Mark is the founder of Precision Trolling Data, LLC the folks who pioneered the “Trollers Bible” series of guide books and now the Precision Trolling apps. An ardent troller, Mark has represented Off Shore Tackle LLC products since the mid 1980s.

## LET'S GO FISHING

R	H	N	H	R	A	B	W	H	I	T	E	F	I	S	H	S
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LAKE TROUT  
TUNA  
PINK SALMON  
BROOK TROUT  
PIKE  
WHITEFISH  
MUSKIE  
CRAPPIE  
RAINBOW TROUT  
LANDLOCK SALMON  
COHO  
BLUEGILL  
LARGEMOUTH BASS  
WHITE BASS  
CATFISH  
SAIL FISH  
SHEEPHEAD  
PERCH  
BROWN TROUT  
ATLANTIC SALMON  
SPLAKE  
MARLIN  
BASS  
STRIPED BASS  
WALLEYE  
CHINOOK SALMON  
STEELHEAD  
REDFISH  
SMALLMOUTH BASS  
WIPER

Answers on page 16



**Be prepared when you hit the water – purchase your Off Shore Tackle Company LLC products at your local dealer or send in your order today!**

Prices in effect January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014



# Order Blank

MODEL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PACKAGE	NUMBER OF PKGS. ORDERING	PRICE	EXTENDED AMOUNT
<b>OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC SIDE PLANER BOARD PRODUCTS</b>					
OR34	Mini Planer Board; One Board...Dual Purpose...I'm Reversible	Pkg. of 1		\$17.15	
OR34B2	Replacement Bracket For OR34	Pkg. of 2		\$2.90	
34SCR BE	Replacement 6/32 x 1/2 Screw For OR34	Pkg. of 1		\$0.20	
SS BE	Replacement Snap Swivel For OR34	Pkg. of 1		\$0.65	
OR12L	Side Planer Left	Pkg. of 1		\$39.25	
OR12R	Side Planer Right	Pkg. of 1		\$39.25	
OR12P2	Pigtail and Split Ring For OR12L and OR12R	Pkg. of 2		\$3.85	
FLGSCR BE	Red Flag and 6/32 Screw	Pkg. of 1		\$3.35	
GFLGSCR BE	Green Flag and 6/32 Screw	Pkg. of 1		\$3.35	
SCR BE	6/32 Screw For OR12L, OR12R, and OR12TF	Pkg. of 1		\$0.20	
NN BE	Nylon Nut	Pkg. of 1		\$0.40	
BRKT BE	Bracket With Two Pop Rivets For OR12L and OR12R	Pkg. of 1		\$2.95	
RVT BE	Pop Rivet	Pkg. of 1		\$0.40	
FOAM BE	Foam Insert For OR12L and OR12R	Pkg. of 1		\$0.85	
TAB BE	Tab To Hold Foam Insert In and Two 6/32 Screws For OR12L and OR12R	Pkg. of 1		\$0.85	
BLSTSCR BE	Ballast Weight Screw	Pkg. of 1		\$0.20	
BLSTWGHT BE	Ballast Weight and 8 x 1/2 Screw	Pkg. of 1		\$1.90	
OR12TF	Tattle Flag Upgrade Kit	Pkg. of 1		\$27.10	
OR12TFEK	Tattle Flag ECONOMY KIT (No OR16's or Flag Included)	Pkg. of 1		\$9.99	
ORS2	Tattle Flag Replacement Spring	Pkg. of 2		\$7.75	
WIRE BE	Tattle Flag Replacement Wire	Pkg. of 1		\$2.10	
NW BE	Tattle Flag Replacement Nylon Washer	Pkg. of 1		\$0.40	
SCREYE BE	Tattle Flag Replacement Screw Eye	Pkg. of 1		\$0.20	
SPLTRNG BE	Tattle Flag Replacement Split Ring	Pkg. of 1		\$0.15	
<b>OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC PLANER BOARD AND SIDE PLANER BOARD RELEASES</b>					
QC BE	Quick Clip	Pkg. of 1		\$0.20	
OR3	Light Tension, White With Quick Clip	Pkg. of 2		\$16.00	
OR3BWW	Light Tension, White With Quick Clip	Pkg. of 50		\$380.60	
OR3BWOW	Light Tension, White Without Quick Clip	Pkg. of 50		\$377.60	
OR17BWW	Medium Tension, Black With Quick Clip	Pkg. of 24		\$182.50	
OR17BWOW	Medium Tension, Black Without Quick Clip	Pkg. of 24		\$181.06	
OR30BWW	Heavy Tension, Red With Quick Clip	Pkg. of 6		\$54.85	
OR30BWOW	Heavy Tension, Red Without Quick Clip	Pkg. of 6		\$54.49	
OR18	Snapper Adjustable Tension, Black	Pkg. of 1		\$15.60	
OR10	Adjustable Light Tension, Yellow With Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 4		\$22.50	
OR10BWW	Adjustable Light Tension, Yellow With Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 100		\$545.80	
OR10BWOW	Adjustable Light Tension, Yellow Without Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 100		\$536.80	
OR14	Adjustable Medium Tension, Black With Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 4		\$22.50	
OR14BWW	Adjustable Medium Tension, Black With Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 100		\$545.80	
OR14BWOW	Adjustable Medium Tension, Black Without Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 100		\$536.80	
OR19	Adjustable Heavy Tension, Orange With Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 2		\$11.60	
OR19BWW	Adjustable Heavy Tension, Orange With Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 100		\$545.80	
OR19BWOW	Adjustable Heavy Tension, Orange Without Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 100		\$536.80	
<b>OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC PRO SNAP WEIGHT PRODUCTS</b>					
OR20	Pro Snap Weight System	Pkg. of 1		\$47.70	
OR16	Extra Heavy Pro Snap Weight Clip, Red With Split Ring	Pkg. of 2		\$13.45	
OR16BWW	Extra Heavy Pro Snap Weight Clip, Red With Split Ring	Pkg. of 100		\$596.00	
OR16BWOW	Extra Heavy Pro Snap Weight Clip, Red Without Split Ring	Pkg. of 100		\$593.00	
OR20 1/2	1/2 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 3		\$4.10	
OR20 3/4	3/4 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 3		\$4.50	
OR20 1	1 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 3		\$5.00	
OR20 1 1/2	1 1/2 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 2		\$4.70	
OR20 2	2 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 2		\$5.20	
OR20 3	3 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 1		\$3.90	
<b>OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC RESETTABLE DIVING WEIGHTS</b>					
OR36 1	Tadpole Size 1	Pkg. of 1		\$7.30	
OR36 2	Tadpole Size 2	Pkg. of 1		\$7.55	
OR36 3	Tadpole Size 3	Pkg. of 1		\$12.87	
OR36 MAGNUM	Tadpole MAGNUM Size	Pkg. of 1		\$12.99	
CS BE	Coast Lock Snap	Pkg. of 1		\$0.40	
<b>OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC SINGLE DOWNRIGGER RELEASES</b>					
OR4	Light Tension, White	Pkg. of 1		\$9.95	
OR1	Medium Tension, Black	Pkg. of 1		\$9.95	
OR8	Heavy Tension, Red	Pkg. of 1		\$14.00	
<b>OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC STACKER DOWNRIGGER RELEASES</b>					
OR7	Light Tension, White	Pkg. of 1		\$16.20	
OR2	Medium Tension, Black	Pkg. of 1		\$16.20	

Check our website frequently throughout the year for sales!



Be prepared when you hit the water - purchase your Off Shore Tackle Company LLC products at your local dealer or send in your order today!

Prices in effect January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014



ORDER BLANK CONTINUED FROM PRIOR PAGE

Table with columns: MODEL NUMBER, DESCRIPTION, UNIT PACKAGE, NUMBER OF PKGS. ORDERING, PRICE, EXTENDED AMOUNT. Includes sections for REPLACEMENT PADS and PROMOTIONAL ITEMS.

Prices and packaging subject to change without notice.



Product Total, Shipping Charges, Subtotal, Total (Subtotal Plus Sales Tax) U. S. Funds Enclosed

\*For orders being shipped outside of the 48 mainland United States, please call for shipping charges. Duties and taxes will be your responsibility. Send THIS completed order form, along with your U.S.P.S. money order, check, (sorry, no out of country money orders or checks can be accepted), or COMPLETE credit card information to:

Off Shore Tackle Company LLC, P.O. Box 88, Port Austin, MI 48467-0088.

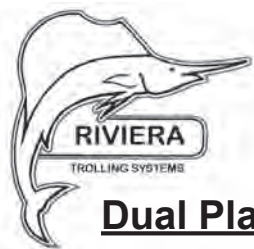
Orders will be released upon clearance of checks, please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. Credit card orders are normally shipped within 5 business days of receipt of order.

MAILING ADDRESS (Check here if this is an address change): Name, c/o, Address, City, State, ZIP, Telephone, E-Mail Address

SHIP ORDER TO (Must have street address for UPS/FedEx delivery): Name, c/o, Address, City, State, ZIP, Telephone, How did you hear about us?

Please check: Your mailing address MUST match the address that your credit card bill is mailed to - no exceptions. To charge your order on your MasterCard or Visa, enter your credit card number, expiration date, card ID number and sign below, or call 989-738-5600. MasterCard Number, Signature, Exp. Date, ID Number

# Riviera Product Showcase



## Dual Planer Board Masts

**Kachman Automatic Retrieval Reels With Collapsible Aluminum Mast, Base, Deck Plate and Four Hold Down Knobs (Shown right)**

Unit Includes:

- Aluminum Pulley Brackets
- 7' Collapsible Aluminum Black Powder Coated Mast
- Nylon Mounting Bracket
- Kachman Automatic Retrieval Reels
- 150' Fluorescent Orange 200# Planer Line On Each Reel Multidirectional Pulleys
- Stainless Steel Guid Bushings
- Two OR10 Adjustable Light Tension Planer Board Releases

This Unit Is Available in Different Base Options

**Model # DPMKA Has The Regular Base**

**Model # DPMKSA Has the Springfield Taper-Lock Seat Mount**

**Model # DPMKSLA Has The Springfield Spring-Lock Seat Mount**

**Model # DPMKSUA Has The Springfield Uni-Lock Seat Mount**

**Model # DPMKSZA Has The Attwood Swivi-Eze 2 3/8" Seat Mount**



**Aluminum Manual Retrieval Posi-Stop Reels, Collapsible Mast, Base, Deck Plate and Four Hold Down Knobs (Shown right)**

Unit Includes:

- Aluminum Pulley brackets
- 7' Collapsible Aluminum Black Powder Coated Mast
- Nylon Mounting Bracket
- Aluminum Manual Posi-Stop Retrieval Reels
- 150' Fluorescent Orange 200# Planer Line On Each Reel
- Multidirectional Pulleys
- Stainless Steel Guide Bushings
- Two OR10 Adjustable Light Tension Planer Board Releases

This Unit Is Available in Different Base Options

**Model # DPMPA Has The Regular Base**

**Model # DPMPSA Has The Springfield Taper-Lock Seat Mount**

**Model # DPMPSLA Has The Springfield Spring-Lock Seat Mount**

**Model # DPMP SUA Has The Springfield Uni-Lock Seat Mount**

**Model # DPMP SZA Has The Attwood Swivi-Eze 2 3/8" Seat Mount**



## Base Options



## Swiveling Rod Tower

This unit incorporates our swiveling base that allows the tower to swivel and lock up every 90 degrees with easy removal of the tower by simply pulling out a spring loaded pin and lifting. Unit is made of black powder coated aluminum for durability with all rod holders being adjustable in 15 degree increments. Tower can be used on both port and starboard sides!

**Model # SRT3 Has 3 Adjustable Rod Holders**

**Model # SRT4 Has 4 Adjustable Rod Holders**

**Model # SRT5 (Shown) Has 5 Adjustable Rod Holders**

**Model # SRT6 Has 6 Adjustable Rod Holders**

**Model # SRTRH Extra Rod Holder With Indexing Bracket**

**Model # SRTTA Track Adapter For SRT That Fits Most Tracks**



## Track Mount For RCPK And RCWIRE

**Model # TM Track Mount**

This 6" track permanently mounts to your, gunwale, hard top, fly bridge or radar arch of your boat. The RCPK or RCWIRE is mounted to the track's adapter and is easily put into use or removed.



## Planer Board Rail Clamp Mounts

**Model #RCPK Kachman Automatic Retrieval Reels With Rail Clamp Mount**

Unit Includes:

- Kachman Automatic Retrieval Reels
- 150' Fluorescent Orange 200# Planer Line
- Aluminum Clamp Bracket That Fits 3/4" to 1 1/4" Rails



**Model #RCPP Aluminum Manual Retrieval Posi-Stop Reels**

Unit Includes:

- Aluminum Manual Retrieval Posi-Stop Reels
- 150' Fluorescent Orange 200# Planer Line
- Aluminum Clamp Bracket That Fits 7/8" to 1" Rails



## Dual and Triple Planer Boards

**Model # DPB Dual Planer Board—Collapsible For Easy Storage**



**Model # TPB Triple Planer Board—Collapsible For Easy Storage**



The DPB's and TPB's are used in conjunction with a mast system. They are ballasted so the nose is slightly raised to cut through the waves easier and have a 3 position tow point to allow you to adapt to different water conditions instantly. To store, simply fold the outside board forward. Each board can be used on either port or starboard. A sample OR10 Adjustable Light Tension Planer Board Release comes with each DPB; a sample OR30 Heavy Tension Planer Board Release comes with each TPB.

## Hand /Wire Line Reels



**Model # RCWIRE Kachman Automatic Retrieval Hand Line Reel Kit**

Unit Includes:

- Kachman Automatic Retrieval Reel
- 200' Coated 60# Wire With Snap Swivel Termination
- 5' Pro Shank
- Aluminum Clamp Bracket That Fits 3/4"-1 1/4" Rails
- Tempress Rod Holder Adapter Replacement Parts Available

**Model # WGHT 1 1/4 Pound Weight**

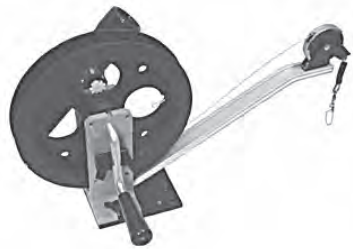
**Model # SHNK 5' Pro Shank**



# Riviera Product Showcase



## Manual Downriggers



### Model # 300-15

Unit Includes:

- 15" Flat Arm
- 200' Of 150# Stainless Steel Wire
- Retermination Snap Swivel Assembly
- Deck Mounting Plate
- Two Hold Down Knobs
- Gear Driven Depth Meter
- Safety Clutch
- Rod Holder
- Off Shore Downrigger Release

### Model # 500

Unit Includes:

- 200' Of 150# Stainless Steel Wire
- Retermination Snap Swivel Assembly
- Deck Mounting Plate
- Two Hold Down Knobs
- Gear Driven Depth Meter
- Safety Clutch
- Rod Holder
- Off Shore Downrigger Release

This Unit Is Available in Three Different Arm Lengths

#### Model # 500-18

Comes With An 18" Arm (Shown above)

#### Model # 500-30

Comes With A 30" Arm

#### Model # 500-48

Comes With A 48" Arm

### Model # 700

Unit Includes:

- 200' Of 150# Stainless Steel Wire
- Retermination Snap Swivel Assembly
- Deck Mounting Plate
- Swivel Base
- Four Hold Down Knobs
- Gear Driven Depth Meter
- Safety Clutch
- Dual Rod Holders
- Off Shore Downrigger Release

This Unit Is Available in Three Different Arm Lengths

#### Model # 700-24

Comes With A 24" Arm (Shown above)

#### Model # 700-48

Comes With A 48" Arm

#### Model # 700-72

Comes With A 72" Arm

For more information

call (989) 738-5700.

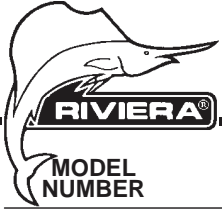
[www.rivieratrolling.com](http://www.rivieratrolling.com)

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Prices in effect January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014



# Order Blank

MODEL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PACKAGE	NUMBER OF PKGS. ORDERING	PRICE	EXTENDED AMOUNT
<b>RIVIERA DUAL PLANER BOARD MASTS</b>					
DPMKA	7' Collapsible Aluminum Black Powder Coated Mast With Kachman Automatic Retrieval Reels With Regular Base	Pkg. of 1		\$399.00	
DPMKSA	Fits With Springfield Taper-Lock Seat Mount	Pkg. of 1		\$399.00	
DPMKSLA	Fits With Springfield Spring-Lock Seat Mount	Pkg. of 1		\$399.00	
DPMKSUA	Fits With Springfield Uni-Lock Seat Mount	Pkg. of 1		\$399.00	
DPMKSZA	Fits With Attwood Swivl-Eze 2-3/8" Seat Mount	Pkg. of 1		\$399.00	
DPMPA	7' Collapsible Aluminum Black Powder Coated Mast With Manual Posi-Stop Reels With Regular Base	Pkg. of 1		\$295.00	
DPMPSA	Fits With Springfield Taper-Lock Seat Mount	Pkg. of 1		\$295.00	
DPMPSLA	Fits With Springfield Spring-Lock Seat Mount	Pkg. of 1		\$295.00	
DPMP SUA	Fits With Springfield Uni-Lock Seat Mount	Pkg. of 1		\$295.00	
DPMP SZA	Fits With Attwood Swivl-Eze 2-3/8" Seat Mount	Pkg. of 1		\$295.00	
<b>RIVIERA SWIVELING ROD TOWER</b>					
SRT3	With 3 Adjustable Rod Holders	Pkg. of 1		\$169.00	
SRT4	With 4 Adjustable Rod Holders	Pkg. of 1		\$209.00	
SRT5	With 5 Adjustable Rod Holders	Pkg. of 1		\$249.00	
SRT6	With 6 Adjustable Rod Holders	Pkg. of 1		\$289.00	
SRTRH	Extra Adjustable Rod Holder With Index Brackets	Pkg. of 1		\$49.00	
SRTTA	Track Adapter For SRT That Fits Most Tracks	Pkg. of 1		\$49.00	
<b>RIVIERA TRACK MOUNT</b>					
TM	Track Mount For RCPK or RCWIRE	Pkg. of 1		\$49.00	
<b>RIVIERA PLANER BOARD RAIL CLAMP MOUNTS</b>					
RCPK	Kachman Automatic Retrieval Rail Clamp	Pkg. of 1		\$159.00	
RCPP	Manual Retrieval Rail Clamp With Aluminum Black Powder Coated Posi-Stop Reels	Pkg. of 1		\$95.00	
<b>RIVIERA DUAL AND TRIPLE PLANER BOARDS</b>					
DPB	Dual Planer Board - Collapsible For Easy Storage	Pkg. of 1		\$73.00	
TPB	Triple Planer Board - Collapsible For Easy Storage	Pkg. of 1	\$95.00	\$96.00	
<b>RIVIERA HAND LINE REELS</b>					
RCWIRE	Kachman Automatic Hand Line Reel With Rail Clamp Mount, Wire, Weight, Shank, and Rod Holder Adapter	Pkg. of 1		\$189.00	
WGHT	1 1/4 Pound Weight	Pkg. of 1		\$6.00	
SHNK	5' Pro Shank	Pkg. of 1		\$5.00	
<b>RIVIERA MANUAL RETRIEVAL DOWNRIGGERS</b>					
300-15	Model 300 With 15" Arm	Pkg. of 1		\$175.00	
500-18	Model 500 With 18" Arm	Pkg. of 1		\$190.00	
500-30	Model 500 With 30" Arm	Pkg. of 1		\$200.00	
500-48	Model 500 With 48" Arm	Pkg. of 1		\$210.00	
700-24	Model 700 With 24" Arm ANGLERS PAC	Pkg. of 1		\$285.00	
700-48	Model 700 With 48" Arm ANGLERS PAC	Pkg. of 1		\$290.00	
700-72	Model 700 With 72" Arm ANGLERS PAC	Pkg. of 1		\$295.00	

*SHIPPING CHARGES WITHIN THE 48 MAINLAND UNITED STATES:	MERCHANDISE TOTAL	SHIPPING CHARGE
	\$0.01 - \$15.00	\$8.00
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\*For orders being shipped outside of the 48 mainland United States, please call for shipping charges. Duties and taxes will be your responsibility. Send THIS completed order form, along with your U.S.P.S. money order, check, (sorry, no out of country money orders or checks can be accepted), or COMPLETE credit card information to:

**Riviera Trolling Systems Incorporated, P.O. Box 507, Port Austin, MI 48467-0507.**

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(ID Number is located on the backside of your Discover, MasterCard or Visa after your credit card number [3 Digit Code]; on American Express it is located on the front of your card usually to the upper right of your card number [4 Digit Code]).

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDS, BRUCE DESHANO

I don't know where to begin this year. We had so many Off Shore Team members win tournaments, and I thank each and every one of them as well as the all the team members that fished hard and represented Off Shore Tackle LLC so well at these events.

There were tournament wins, Angler and Team of the Year titles and great finishes at every tournament by Off Shore anglers everywhere this year; from club tournaments to National events. Team members won Walleye, Striper, as well as a Crappie Championship in 2013. Congratulations to Robert Blosser for the AOY title at the Cabela's NWT, Korey Sprengel with 2 NWT wins and a Team of the year with teammate and fellow Team Off Shore member Derek Navis, Tommy Skarlis and Kyle Steinfeldt for winning the Crappie Masters Championship, Tony Kobringer and Dan Zwizick Masters Walleye Championship to Striper king, Richard James and the "James Gang" for their 6 straight team of the year with the Percy Priest Hybrid and Striper Club. This is just a few of the victories by the stellar team of anglers on our staff. Thank all of you for the professional manner you represent Off Shore and all of your sponsors.



This year we introduce 2 larger models of our successful OR36 Series Resettable Diving Weights known as Tadpoles, with the #3 and the Magnum. They can get you down deep and still trip when a fish hits so you don't have the pull of the Tadpole while fighting the fish. As with all Off Shore weight systems as well as the ballast of the OR 12 Side Planer, the new Tadpoles are made of a metal that is 99.99% lead free to help with the environment. As always, dive curves for the new Tadpoles are available on our website courtesy of Precision Trolling Data, LLC.

We are constantly working on new products for introduction in the future that will help you cover more water easier and catch more fish. All of our products are 99.99% lead free to protect the environment and assure consistency of the weight that we could not do with lead.

Looking forward to the 2014 season. Tournaments had good attendance last year and should be even better this year. It is nice to see the live weigh-in on the computer.

Thank all of you for your support in the past and as always, send your tips and new product ideas to us. Photos of you and family with fish and Off Shore products are always appreciated. They don't have to be monsters, all fish are welcome.

# NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDS, NICK DESHANO

You Asked; We Listened!

The best and most popular planer board on the market just got better! For 2014, every OR12 Side Planer comes equipped with an OR16 (red) Pro Clip on the tail of the board. When the line is placed behind the pin that protrudes through the center of the pad, the board will not come off the line, even if the front release is tripped. After much input from our great customers, the one thing that was asked for the most was to have the OR12 Side Planer ready to run in the "Pro Rigged" method right out of the package, without having to buy the OR16 Pro Clip to put on the tail.

The board had evolved many times since its introduction in 1992. Some of the past changes have included new foam, an unbreakable bracket, and a foldable stationary flag. In addition, the medium tension OR14 releases that originally came on the OR12's were replaced with the heavy tension OR19's in 2009, giving the OR12 Side Planer a much firmer grip on the line. With the rising popularity in trolling with the super lines, the OR18 Snapper Release was developed to keep a firm hold on even the slipperiest of lines. Also in 2009, we made the decision to go 99.99% Lead Free! Not only do lead free materials have much greater impact on the environment, they are much more consistent than lead, which can vary in weight greatly.

In 1998, the OR12TF Tattle Flag Upgrade Kit was invented; forever revolutionizing the way people fish with planer boards and letting the first-time user tell a bite as well as the seasoned Pro. Now that the OR12 Side Planer comes equipped with an OR16 Clip, we thought it was only natural that we would offer a more economical version of the Tattle Flag Upgrade Kit. The new OR12TFEK (Tattle Flag Economy Kit), has all of the hardware you need to make your existing OR12 Side Planer and previously purchased OR16's into a Tattle Flag board. Remember, the OR12TFEK does NOT include OR16's or a flag. If you have the older OR12's, you can still purchase the original version OR12TF Tattle Flag Upgrade Kit that does include 2 OR16 Pro Clips.

Through all the changes over the years, as with all our products, the one thing that remains the same is our commitment to providing the highest quality, most versatile, and longest lasting products possible.



# GETTING THE MOST FROM PLANER BOARD MAST SYSTEMS — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9 —

## TRICKS OF THE RELEASE TRADE

There are a few tricks that will make using line releases easier and more efficient. In general, it's better to use a release that's a little too heavy than one that's too light. The release tension is what helps insure that when a fish bites there is enough resistance to insure the hook is set solidly.

Should a fish bite, but not trigger the line release this is no big issue. It's a simple matter to remove that rod from the rod holders and to snap or jerk the rod tip to free the line from the release. (The rod should sweep in a bow to stern motion as sweeping the rod back, overhead, will just move the release up the tow line). Many anglers actually prefer this situation as it insures that if several fish are hooked at the same time the back of the boat doesn't become a Chinese fire drill.

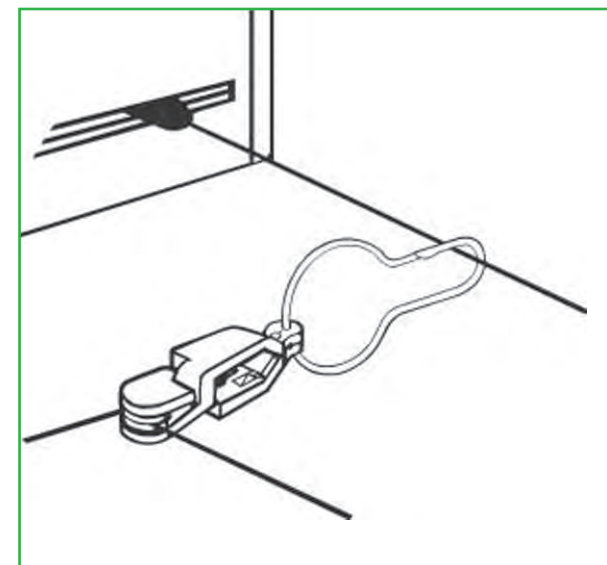
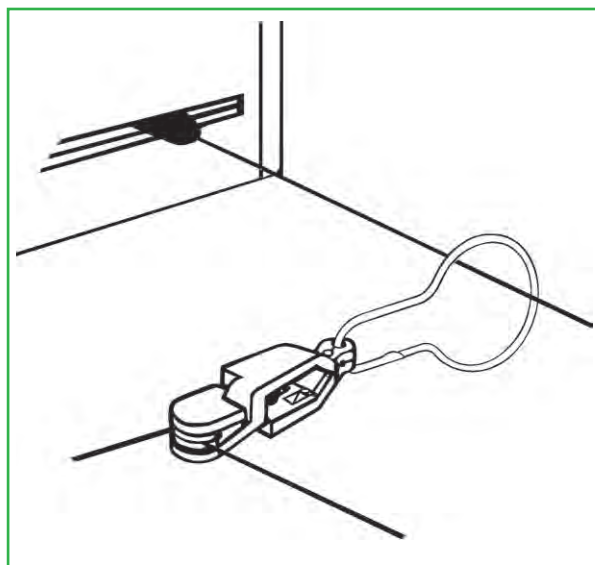
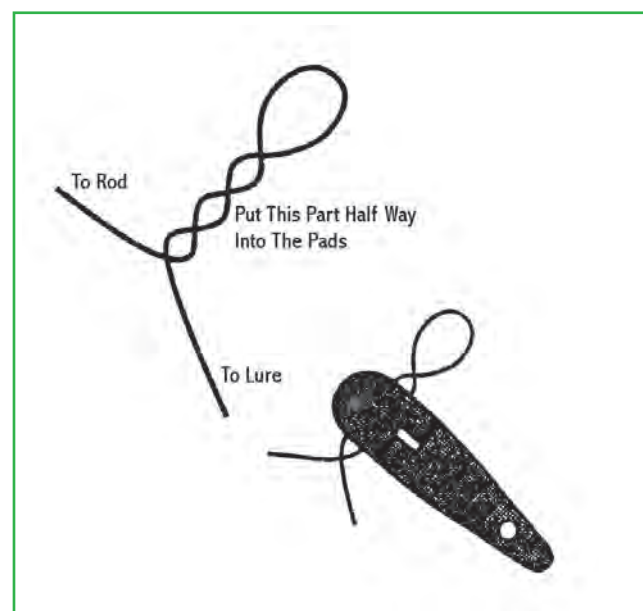
In addition to the different types and sizes of line releases and the adjustable spring tensions, where the line is placed between the rubber pads makes a difference as well. To get the maximum resistance from a line release, bury the line as far back in the pads as possible. To lighten up the release, simply move the line closer to the forward edge of the rubber pads.

Where anglers get into trouble is when they use line releases that are way too heavy for the trolling application at hand. In this case it becomes difficult or impossible to trip the release to change out lures. Human nature being what it is, lots of trollers try to get by using one style of line release for all types of trolling. This simply isn't practical and leads to all sorts of complications on the water. It's best to invest in a variety of line releases that are best suited to the types of trolling practiced most often.

## THE LINE TWIST TRICK

There is one trick that will allow anglers to use releases that are too heavy for the task and still get them to trigger smoothly. Before placing the line between the rubber pads on the line release, place a loop of line between your index finger and thumb; roll your thumb across your finger to create several twists in the line. Pinch the created twists between the rubber pads of the line release, leaving the loop of line exposed outside the release.

The twisted line trick works well because the extra surface area of the wrapped line helps the rubber pads grip and hold the line securely. When a fish bites and puts pressure on the line, it's very easy to pull the loop free which in turn causes the line to pop from the release.



You have two ways of hooking your planer board releases onto your planer board tow line.

This trick is commonly used on downrigger releases because anglers often find themselves fishing with gear that has a lot of resistance in the water. The twisted line trick allows a heavy tension release to be applied to a wider variety of trolling applications.

## RODS AND REELS

The rods and reels used with a planer board mast system are almost as important as the releases. Line counter style reels are the only practical way to monitor all the lead lengths that will be employed on any given day of fishing. It's best if every reel is the same size, model, brand and is loaded with the same amount and diameter of fishing line. This plays to consistency and ensures that when a fish is hooked on one particular lead length, it can be accurately duplicated on other lines.

The rods used for planer board mast systems must also be uniform. It's absolutely critical that all the rods are the same length and action. The reason for this is because in most cases it's the rod tips that will telegraph the strike. If one rod is stiff and another limp, the bend in the rod that indicates a bite will not be consistent.

When all the rods used are the same length and action, it's very easy to notice when one rod bends a little more indicating a fish has been hooked. Mixing and matching rods in a mast system trolling pattern is the kiss of death.

Unfortunately the rods suitable for trolling up walleye and those useful for king salmon aren't going to be the same. For walleye a medium/light or even light action rod is best. For targeting larger fish like salmon or muskie, a medium action rod makes more sense.

There is some cross over in rod actions that can allow anglers to use a similar set up for more than one species. For example, the medium/light set up suitable for walleye would also serve well for spring coho, brown trout, trout, kokanee, and spring salmon fishing. A medium action rod suitable for kings and trout would also double up well for muskie trolling chores.

## ROD HOLDERS

Because a planer board mast system is designed to handle multiple rods, the boat must be equipped

with lots of rod holders. The best location for rod holders with this presentation is towards the rear of the boat along the port and starboard gunwales.

Vertical tube style rod holders are the best option for a mast system. Keeping all the rods pointed straight up in the air makes it easy to judge when one rod gets a little extra bend in it indicating a fish is hooked. If the rods are angled away from the boat, it becomes much more difficult to read these rods.

## USEFUL ACCESSORIES

Riviera Trolling Systems Incorporated has an ideal vertical rod tower known as the SRT (Swiveling Rod Tower) that allows you to set up 3 to 7 rod holders per tower with adjustments for angling each rod holder in 15 degree increments! Made to last!

When fishing with a planer board mast system the worst thing that can happen is for the tow line to break and all the line releases to pour into the drink. A number of manufacturers produce catches that mount to the planer board. These catches allow the spent line releases to slide past a wire catch that will prevent the releases from being lost should the tether line break.

In case you don't figure the tow line will break, this is one of the most common complaints associated with fishing a planer board mast system. Since line releases cost from three to 10 bucks each, it's a sad day when the line does break and several hundred dollars in line releases are suddenly lost. The spring steel release catch clips that mount to the board are inexpensive and easy to install.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

The planer board mast system isn't inexpensive. Anglers who choose this system are obligated to purchase a mast with retrieval system, set of boards and an abundance of line releases. The rods and reels used for this style of trolling are also going to be specific and the average boat is going to want at least eight matched rod and reel set ups.

Getting set up to fish a mast system does involve considerable investment, but frankly this trolling presentation is as close to perfection as it gets in trolling. In the hands of an angler who understands how to get the most from a mast system, board trolling takes on a whole new meaning and is worth every penny invested.

## LOOKING FOR SOMETHING

Maybe you missed some of our past editions of the "Off Shore Release", or are in need of more information on our products and their usage. All of this information is always available 24/7 on our website, [www.offshoretackle.com/](http://www.offshoretackle.com/)



# SKARLIS AND STEINFELDT WIN CRAPPIE MASTERS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP ON LAKE GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI

BY MARK ROMANACK

Off Shore Tackle pro staffers Tommy Skarlis and Kyle Steinfeldt stunned a field of 192 contestants at the September 28, 2013 Crappie Masters National Championship. Of the 192 teams only seven teams managed a seven fish limit both days of the tournament.

With lake levels dropping rapidly to facilitate dam maintenance, most contestants struggled to find and catch crappie. “When we arrived in town the word was that the normally productive crankbait bite was literally non-existent,” reported Tommy Skarlis. “Everyone including the seasoned veterans of this region was convinced that crankbaits were not going to be effective at this particular event.”

On day one Skarlis and Steinfeldt weighed a seven fish limit weighing 13.13 pounds for an impressive third place. On day two Skarlis and Steinfeldt stunned the competition by coming to the scales with another seven fish limit weighing 14.70 pounds which turned out to be the biggest bag of the tournament and enough weight (27.83 pounds) to capture the 2013 Crappie Masters National Championship title.

“We came down to fish Lake Grenada with a mindset of trolling crankbaits and showcasing the Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planer boards and OR12TF Tattle Flag Kits,” said Skarlis. “Based on our pre-fishing success it was quickly obvious we were going to be able to catch 20-30 crappie per day fishing Salmo Hornets and Berkley Flicker Shads.”

One of the first things Skarlis and Steinfeldt did was lighten up the spring tension

on their Tattle Flags. “When crappie bite a crankbait and get hooked, they tend to swim along with the board,” explained Skarlis. “To detect strikes the Tattle Flag had to be set on the lightest possible spring tension, so just the resistance of the crankbait caused the flag to tilt a little. When fish would bite often the flag would straighten up before tilting down, tipping us off that a fish hit the lure and was swimming towards the boat.”

The second piece of wisdom involved in this major tournament win came in how far out to the side Skarlis and Steinfeldt fished their OR12 Side Planers. “We fished three lines per side of the boat and set the further lines out 200-300 feet from the boat!” says Skarlis. “The majority of the bites came on the outside lines that were furthest away from the boat.”

Skarlis and Steinfeldt also used the Precision Trolling Data, iPhone app to determine how deep their crankbaits were running below the surface. For more information on this new app visit, [www.precisiontrollingdata.com](http://www.precisiontrollingdata.com).

The only other team in the event fishing with crankbaits and planer boards was Cory and Cody Batterson, a father and son team from Iowa. Team Batterson weighed 25.71 pounds and took limits both days for an impressive second place finish. This team was also using Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planers.

“There is simply no way we could have won this event without the help of the OR12 Side Planer with the OR12TF Tattle Flag Upgrade Kits on them,” announced Skarlis. “The locally popular flat line trolling simply wasn’t producing and getting out away from the boat proved being the ticket in catching not only lots of crappie, but big crappie as well.”

## DISCLAIMER

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