

The Serious Tackle Box

With Chris Gonzales

The Diamond Jig

The Diamond Jig is a versatile old standby that's been around for many decades. Of the many imposters in the tackle industry, they are one of the most adaptable. Their flash and baitfish shape along with strike-triggering vibration has a look and sensory signal that calls predators in. I started using Diamond Jigs in 1991 at the suggestion of Captain Johnny Williams while fishing for blackfin tuna on the party boat *Texsun II*. My hookup and catch rate went up dramatically over the normal use of cigar minnows, soon after they were commonplace on these overnight trips out of Galveston.

Just as a matter of history the first ones used had "cut eye" treble hooks on them and they occasionally broke at the eye. After a few of those break-offs by others and myself, I came up with a solution that eliminated the problem. The original treble hooks were replaced with similar-sized, 3X strong 7794-B Mustad attached to the Diamond Jig body with a size 8 Rosco split ring. In 1995, I suggested heavy-duty split rings. A year or so later, coincidentally, the Bead Company started making a Diamond Jig with this hook/split ring combination. It was, and still is, called Diamond Jig-For-Rigs by Bead. I guess the solution was also obvious to others.

Many times, the Diamond Jigs are referred to as "chrome". Actually, they have a nickel finish that is more durable and has greater flash than Diamond or similar jigs by other manufacturers. Those "others" out there include those by AHI. They come in an assortment of colors and finishes including chrome, blue chrome, and glow. They also have split ring attached treble hooks - 4-to-16-ounce sizes are the most widely used.

Speaking of used, getting them ready simply requires tying on your mono main line or leader. Wire leaders of 10 to 12 inches are a good choice when targeting toothy species such as kingfish or wahoo.

Experienced Fishing Advice To
Make Fishing Great Again



Diamond Jig For Rigs

Nickel Finish
4 to 16 oz.



Optional
SPRO 230# Swivel,
185# Split Ring

Heavy Duty Split Ring
Holding Solid - Eye
Mustad, Owner, BKK, or
VMC Hook



The majority of the use I've seen and done with Diamond Jigs has been in fishing for blackfin and yellowfin tuna. Sizes on these two in particular range from small to say seventy pounds or so, casting or spin tackle capable of putting up 20 to 25 pounds of drag and having a capacity of holding 300 yards of 65-to-80-pound braid will do the job. When tuna fishing at night the norm is to cast to the outer edge of the light from the boat or platform and let the Diamond Jig sink, either vertically free spool or a reel in gear, arc sink. Tuna on the edge of the darkness and below can sense the jig's vibrations through their lateral line, see its silhouette or flash, and home in on the target...your Diamond Jig. Any tick, slack, or anything out of the normal requires a quick tightening of any slack and a hard hook-setting rod sweep. You can bet that you're not on the bottom as this overnight tuna fishing is generally done in thousands of feet of water. Any slack is probably a tuna trying to eat your Diamond Jig. It's likely in a tuna's mouth and it's swimming toward you, a second or so and the tuna will spit the Diamond Jig, wind tight, and hang on for a strong run.

While casting to the edge of the light was mentioned, vertical jigging from 50 to 400 feet is when many tuna are hooked. Speaking of hooked, helping a tuna to see your Diamond Jig comes with a couple of things to do. Keep your jigs finish clean; Wipe them off occasionally to retain all of its reflectability or glow. Glow finishes can be activated by holding them next to one of the powerful, overhead tuna lights, with an LED flashlight, or quicker and brighter with an ultraviolet flashlight. These UV lights are available at hardware and computer stores ... they are worth the money.

Once at depth or anytime while on the sink you can start a strike-inducing retrieve which could be straight up or back as fast as you can wind or with big or small rod upsweeps, stops, and drops. As with any lure fishing, it's a matter of finding what the tuna want, if your retrieve isn't working watch and ask those who are having success.

While tuna have been the species mentioned to this point others from near the surface to deep bottom will try to eat a Diamond Jig. I have caught or seen others catch kingfish, groupers, amberjack, snappers, ling, and dolphin on Diamond Jigs. If it eats live fish, it will eat a Diamond Jig, believe it.

About five years ago, just before sunset while on our first drift, at a deep-water platform, a guy had a hit, hookup, and big run. It was a blue marlin estimated at 400 pounds, it jumped once and pulled the hook!... Now that's versatility and luck.

Other lures have their history, reputations, and followers, like the spoon, but the Diamond Jig is a hard-to-beat piece of fishing history with its successful hookups and gaffing. Fishing with a flash, get your Diamond Jigs trend on and hooked up.

If you have any questions, stop by Serious Tackle or email me at

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