

INSTRUCTIONS: THE POCKET MINNOW BUILDING SYSTEM

TRANSPARENT “LIP” PLACEMENT: Unless you are painting your lure, it is probably best to first go through the steps necessary to put the transparent, “lip” onto the bare crankbait lure body. If, instead, you wish to paint the lure body, you will want to wait until **AFTER** the paint (not included) has dried before putting the transparent lip into place.

Upon close examination of the transparent “lips,” you will notice that the two holes on the upper portion of the lip are tapered. Orient the lip so that the narrower ends of the two tapered holes are facing you, thus positioning the narrower side of the holes to be reamed out with the included snippers.

FIGURE 1



FIGURE 1: If you have difficulty determining which side of the transparent lip contains the smaller holes, simply insert an included aluminum dowel in one of the holes and hold the lip straight up and down as shown above. The dowel will sag downward in the direction of the side with the smaller holes (to be reamed out) whereas the side with the larger holes will cause the dowel to sit nearly perpendicular to the transparent lip.

FIGURE 2



FIGURE 2: Close and orient the snipping tool (included) as shown above. Ream out the narrower side of both holes by applying firm pressure and using both hands to repeatedly twist both the snipping tool and the transparent lip in opposite directions at the same time. You will only be able to twist about 180 degrees before switching directions. Continue this bidirectional twisting motion until you no longer hear

the subtle “crunching” noise associated with reaming out the holes. Use your fingernail or the snippers to scrape off the shavings from the reamed-out holes.

FIGURE 3



FIGURE 3: Inserting the aluminum dowels can be complicated by bit(s) of plastic on the flat end of the transparent lip. Use a “blade” of the snippers to scrape off and smooth out the flat facet.

FIGURE 4



FIGURE 4: Push the transparent lip into the slot from the SIDE...not from the bottom. Although it is a tight fit, it becomes easier with some practice and patience. Also, it is VITAL to orient the lip so that the narrower, reamed-out portion of the holes face the “tail-end” of the lure.

FIGURE 5A



FIGURE 5B



FIGURE 5C



FIGURE 5: With the lip precisely slid into place, the included aluminum dowels can be pushed through each “eye hole” of the lure body (**Figure 5A**). The dowels can be pushed flush (**Figure 5B**) with the lure body by applying force using a hard surface such as a flat portion on the snipping tool itself. Occasionally an aluminum dowel may become tightly jammed (**Figure 5C**). Excessive force may even bend the dowel, but this is not problem because the tightly jammed dowel stays in place very well. In such cases, simply use the snipping tool to cut off the excess dowel flush with the lure body. **CAUTION:** Use eye protection. You will be surprised at the velocity attained by a snapped off portion of the dowel! In addition to using eye protection, I personally prefer to snip jammed dowels on the inside of a garbage can to catch the dowel turned projectile.

FIGURE 6A**FIGURE 6B**

FIGURE 6: ONLY IF you choose to use scent, you will need to punch through at least one of the normally sealed pilot hole divots. To allow air to escape when injecting scent into the pocket, you should use the included “T” shaped pin to punch a small hole in other pilot divot(s). First, weaken the pilot divot to be punched through by punching several pin holes into the divot. With the blunt needle seated in the pilot hole, flip the lure so that the dorsal side (the spine or backside) is oriented downward and get an adult to secure the lure body with one hand on each end of the lure body (**Figure 6A**) and gradually increase downward force until the blunt needle breaks through the pilot hole (**Figure 6B**).

How to punch open the scent diffusion holes:

Use the included “T” shaped pin to punch hole(s) through the pilot hole divot(s) ONLY if you intend to use scent. If you are using a thin scent, you may wish to make only pin holes in the forward most pilot divots to slow the diffusion of scent from the lure. However, if you wish to refill the lure with scent (generally speaking, you should only add scent during the act of fishing) at least one of the holes will have to be punched open enough to allow refill of the scent using the included syringe tipped with the included blunt hollow needle. If you intend to punch out any of the holes “completely” (big enough to accommodate the insertion of the included blunt needle to enter the pocket cavity). You will likely have an easier time punching through the pilot hole divot(s) with the blunt hollow needle if you punch several pin holes (using the included “T” shaped pin) into the pilot divot(s). The several pin holes will weaken the divot to be punched through making it easier to punch out the divot using the blunt hollow needle.

Another method that allows you to customize the size of the pilot divot holes is to first use the “T” shaped pin to punch a hole in the pilot hole divot. Then use one “blade” of the snipper tool to ream out the pin hole to the size of your liking. If you choose to put a thick scent such as Power Bait into the pocket, you may want to use this method for reaming out larger holes in one, two or all three divots. Conversely, to further prolong the diffusion rate of thin scents, you can use scissors (not included) to clip off pieces of the included sponge to be placed in the pocket before it is sealed.

FIGURE 7A**FIGURE 7B****FIGURE 7C**

FIGURE 7: Before putting on the decals, the pockets are normally sealed with the included water-resistant foam inserts. The included foam inserts can be used unaltered (if you do not wish to add anything to the pocket) or two quick snips with the snipping tool allows for the removal of a section of foam (**Figure 7A**). If you choose to make use of the pocket, any of the included materials (or non-included materials...be creative) can be added to the pocket space such as included lead BBs to produce a rattling crankbait and/or to increase the weight and running depth of the crankbait. Liquid scents can be injected through the punched-out hole(s) by fixing the included blunt hollow needle to the included syringe. If you choose to use a semi-solid attractant such as Power Bait, you may choose to omit the use of a foam insert altogether, instead opting to fill the entire pocket with Power Bait or other semi-solid attractant. There are at least two ways to do this. Firstly, you can put the decals on as normal, but exclude the foam insert. From there, you can use a pen knife, razor blade or very sharp knife (not included) to cut out the decal section that normally covers the pocket (**Figure 7B**) and pack attractant into the pocket as shown on the top lure of **Figure 7C**. Secondly, you can paint your own lure and pack the pocket with attractant as shown on the bottom lure of **Figure 7C**. NOTE: Although both lures in **Figure 7C** are color matched as concerning the Power Bait color and lure color, gamefish can be attracted to color contrast as well. Similarly, mixing and matching decals can be a fun way to both increase lure variety and perhaps catch more fish.

FIGURES 8A and 8B



After getting the decals in place, you will need to heat-seal the decals to the crankbait bodies using an ordinary hair blow dryer set to the highest and hottest setting. Use the included clothes pin to grip the lure by the transparent “lip” to keep from burning yourself. The hair dryer should be used to heat-seal the decals at “point blank range”. Although all surfaces of the decals should be heated-sealed aggressively with the hair blow dryer, allocate more time on both sides of the nose and both sides of the tail end of the side decals. Although properly heat-sealed decals tend to adhere very well, the occasional decal flap may need to be super glued back into place. To accomplish this, the lure must be bone dry and you should use only a tiny quantity of super glue. Hold down the flap with something other than the fleshy portion of your finger until the glue sets. In some cases, the decals may not stick strongly enough to the lure body to proceed with the heat-sealing process. In this case, simply clip the included clothes pin to the decal sheet in question (to keep the decal sheet from flying away) and use a hair blow dryer on high at “point blank range” to briefly heat a single decal sheet for 10-15 seconds.

FIGURE 9



FIGURE 9: Thread the extension of our patented Easy-to-use Split Ring through the eyelet of an included treble hook. Then, thread the same extension through one of the lure eyelets. Push the coiled portion of the split ring toward the eyelet. This motion should cause the eyelet wire-form of the lure itself to act like a wedge to get the split ring started on the eyelet. Rotate the split ring extension and coil to thread the split ring most of the way onto the eyelet. It is vital to learn to use your fingernail to push the final bit required to get the split ring and treble hook the rest of the way onto the eyelet. Pull the split ring extension slightly up, then slightly down at an angle that exploits the weakness produced by the notch in the extension. If this does not cause the extension to break off at the preformed notch, repeat this same motion up to a dozen times. However, a fraction of the split rings are too stubborn to be broken off, no matter how many times the extension is wiggled up and down. It is for this purpose that we have included wire cutters in kits that contain a fraction of stubborn split rings. To deal with the occasional stubborn split ring, force the extension up to about 70 degrees. To avoid fighting against leverage, use the innermost portion of the wire cutters near the “mouth” (as opposed to using the wire cutter tips) to clip off the extension close to the main body of the split ring. We sincerely apologize for the occasional stubborn split ring! In fact, the problem has now been fixed but we lack sufficient inventory to put the new split rings into every kit.