

The Serious Tackle Box

With Chris Gonzales

*Experienced Fishing Advice To
Make Fishing Great Again*



Bent On Treble

Bent On Treble: it sounds like something determined to cause trouble, and this treble hook is trouble for your potential target species. The twice-bending puts it in that “trouble” causing category.

This rebent treble hook of mine is a marriage of Mustad’s “Triple Grip” design and the Heddon “Excalibur” offset with its bends, resulting in an offset, sort of bent point/circle, treble. It’s a marriage arranged and used since the mid-1990s, starting with various “Standard Trebles”. The offset is designed to help rotate another hook point into penetration while the bent-in point does their sort of circle imitation.

The triple-grip bend naturally puts the hook points in line to the hook-eye according to Mustad while that bend also forces fish to the hook elbow making it harder for a fish to throw, as does a circle hook’s elbow bend area. With these two features coming from different companies, there’s not a treble on the market with both of them; you have to twice bend your own. Is it worth the effort? In my opinion, it surely is.

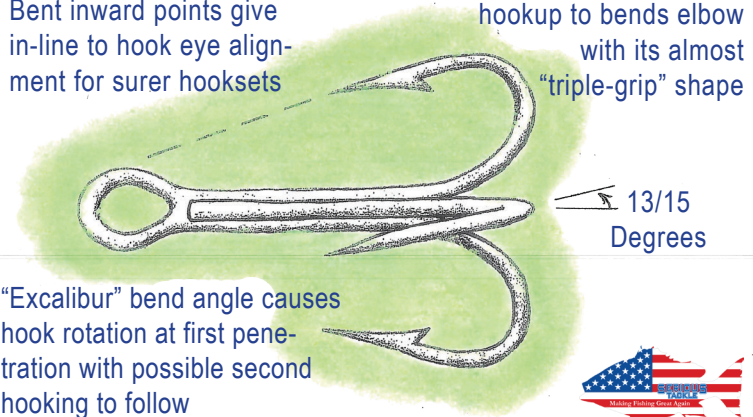
The reduction of missed hookups and thrown hooks are definitely plus factors. These benefits come into play wherever you use trebles, diamond jigs, speed jigs, poppers as stingers/trailers, etc. The combo of bends also makes these trebles a bit safer to handle as opposed to standard models. They also have less chance of “trolling out on the chew” by a yellowfin tuna or wahoo whose jaw-chewing movement can roll standard treble hooks out of penetration at times. This treble hook rollout can also be a problem with kingfish, blackfin, and other assorted tunas. Dolphins also use this dehooking trick at times. These treble hook modifications will positively increase the odds of your hookup staying that way.

BENT ON TREBLE

Bent inward points give in-line to hook eye alignment for surer hooksets

Closed gap forces hookup to bends elbow with its almost “triple-grip” shape

“Excalibur” bend angle causes hook rotation at first penetration with possible second hooking to follow



As is the usual, it takes longer to read how to do something than it actually does to do it, as is the case with this treble hook re-bending. Using care for the whole procedure, start with the hook sharpening if that’s required. Sharpen the points before bending starts as it’s a lot easier and safer at that point. This is important in that a twice re-bent treble is more difficult to hold and have easy access to the hook point areas. For the twice bending, hold the hook shank in a small vise or needle nose vise grips, and with another pair of pliers, offset each bend about 13 to 15 degrees in relation to the hook shank, each in the same direction. With the offsetting complete, you close each hook gap by squeezing with the needle nose vise grips aligning the hook points with the hook’s eye.

With these steps completed, you will be close to the Excalibur/triple-grip combination, close enough to work really well! See the illustration for the approximate angles and gaps. Once you have all of the essentials gathered, with a little practice, you should be able to rebend four trebles in about ninety seconds. Time well spent for the benefits you will see on your next outing.

The bending, to somewhat align the hook points with the hook eye, decreases physical the hook size a bit. If it becomes a concern, going to a treble of the next size up from your original will help maintain the point-to-shank gap as the original treble. I have gone with the original or a size up at times, both worked for me. If these trebles are to be used on a sub-surface, hard-body swimmer, a lighter wire treble might be the way to go if a larger hook is used, because of the gap reduction just mentioned.

Varying hooks weights upward affect the lure's swim motion, as in slowing it down a bit, something to think about. Check out the lure's swim motion at boat side, a slight retrieve speed increase might be needed to maintain the original swim motion.

A slight downside of these double-bent trebles is that they are harder for you, or the deck crew, to remove from a fish's mouth. It's another example of their increased holding power. Work with and use them safely as they are harder to get out of you as well as a fish.

If it has a treble or treble hooks on it, this hook-turning trick of mine is made for you. While the term "sort of circle" was used, they are not

circle hooks. Hit these bent point trebles like a bass fisherman when a tuna, wahoo, or whatever tries to eat your presentation. As I said earlier, they have worked for me for well over twenty-five years and counting.

The "Bent On Treble" modifications to an otherwise "box stock" treble hook is arguably one of my best in my over fifty-five years of offshore fishing. Bend some up, experience their hookups increase and holding power for yourself.

If you have any questions, stop by **Serious Tackle** or email me at chris@serioustackle.com.

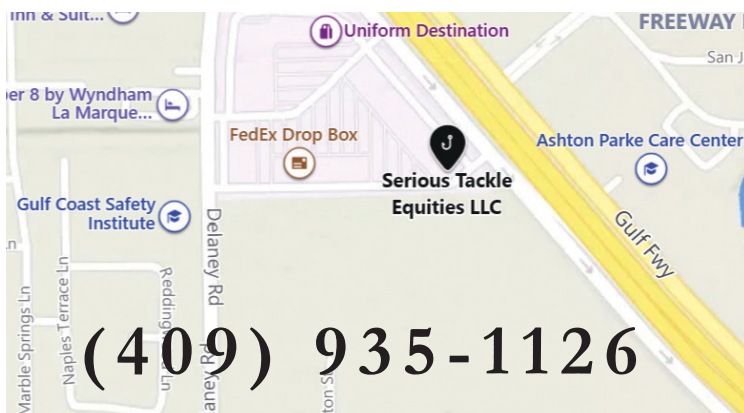
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