

The Serious Tackle Box

With Chris Gonzales

*Experienced Fishing Advice To
Make Fishing Great Again*



— Serious Tackle's CUSTOM Diamond Circle Jig — Jig - A New Deep Threat

I have used this in the past, and custom build them here in Serious Tackle. The standard chrome Diamond jig with the treble hook replaced by a circle hook. A 6" white curly tail is added to the hook (see drawing). The holding power of the circle hook is its obvious advantage, plus the added motion the curly tail gives.

Using a circle hook requires getting used to — like in bottom fishing, you can't "set" the hook; it must set itself. When the strike is felt, give a second for the line to tighten, then wind. Circle hooks hold like no other style and are especially good on head shakers like Amberjack, who could use the jig's weight to throw the hook.

To use circle hooks on Diamond jigs, the split ring must be

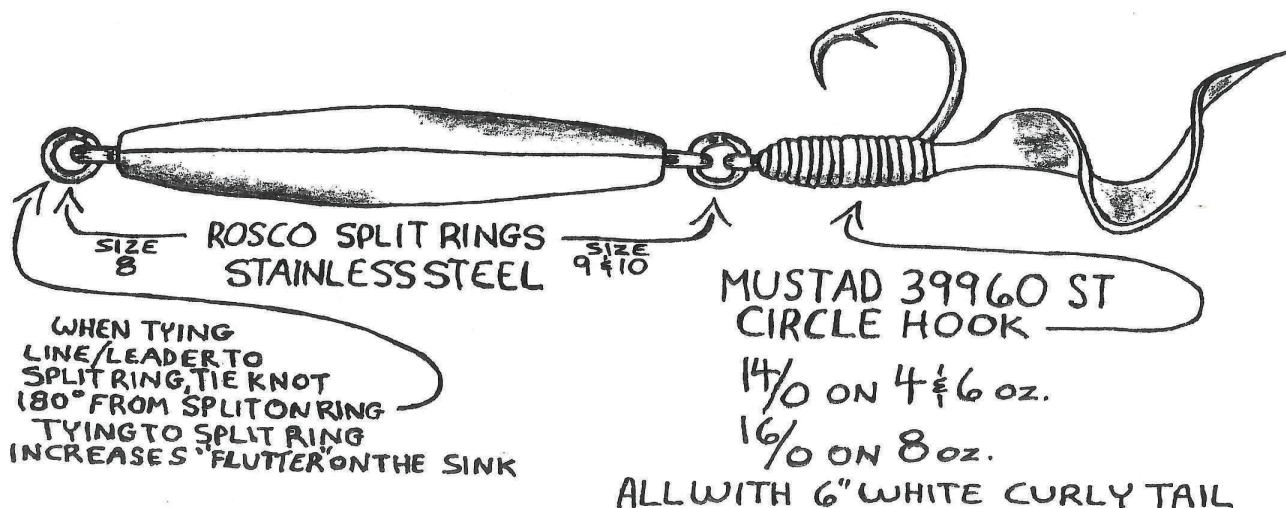
large enough— Rosco size 9 or 10 — so the hook eye passes through without distortion. Always sharpen circle hooks while they're still loose; sharpening them on the jig is asking for trouble if the jig slips in your hand. Circle hooks are dangerous to handle anytime, so don't add to it. Put the 6" curly tail on after sharpening for the same reason. Something I do to any hook after I sharpen is to coat the filled area with a Marks A Lot; it cuts down on rust/corrosion.

Try various curly tail colors: red, green, chartreuse, pink, etc.

Sometimes rattles in the tails help. Polishing Diamond jigs gives more flash and may enhance curly tail color reflection off the chrome jig. Glow tails may help in low light, and the jig will reflect that also. The vibration, flash, glow, and motion are a "let's eat" combination that gets bit!



Serious Tackle's CUSTOM Diamond Circle Jig Modifications for Increased Strikes & Hook-Holding Power



If your line/leader is tied directly to the jig eye, make sure it's burr free. Chrome plating flakes off, leaving sharp edges that can cause line failure. Remove all burrs before tying.

A better method is using a Rosco size 8 split ring in the jig eye; always tie the knot 180° from the split entry. The split ring adds motion on the fall/retrieve.

The best method is adding a 150–200 # Sampo ball bearing swivel to the lead split ring. That gives maximum action to the jig. Pay attention to welds on swivel rings; don't tie on at or near the weld, it may cut your line/leader.

When Diamond jigging for Amberjack, Sow Snapper, or Grouper in 100–200 ft of water, I use either a 6½' or 7' jig rod with a Shimano Ocea Jigger 2500 HGLQ reel.

The Ocea Jigger has a 6:2 gear ratio that gives a fast retrieve. Amberjacks in particular really like. Plus 44# of drag and spooled with either 80 or 100# Braid.

A 200# Sampo ball bearing swivel (black) connects the Braid to the 4', 100# leader.

Slow jigging near the bottom generally produces Snapper or Grouper. Vary the jig return speed; faster and more erratic retrieves seem to get the best results on Amberjack. A sizable Amberjack will "tie your shoelaces together" real quick if you're not careful. They will stay on with a circle hook in them — it just requires a slightly different technique to get'em hooked, again just let the line tighten, let the rod bow, then hang on and wind!

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

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