

Damian Clarke:

Spodding

Or too 'Spod' as it is commonly known, is a method employed by successful carp anglers to deliver bait in to a 'swim' using a large plastic phallic like object.

CARPology dictionary, Vol. 1.



AN IDIOT'S GUIDE TO SPODDING



AN IDIOTS GUIDE TO... DAMO DID A SPLENDID JOB LAST TIME ROUND WITH HIS SUPER-CHARGED HOOKERS, BUT FROM THIS MONTH, OUR MAIN MAN WILL BE RUNNING A MONTHLY COLUMN WHERE HE TELLS HOW TO GET THE BEST FROM SOMETHING.



GETTING GOIN'

To be able to 'spod' properly we shall need the right tools for the job. Of course there are a few spods available that are small enough to be used with a standard type of carp rod, but we want you to do it properly! So we'll start as we mean to carry on. Early spod rods came in all manner of disguises: cut down carp rods, up-tide sea rods or beach casters, and I've seen them all used - badly.

You need a powerful rod capable of casting a weight of 3 to 6ozs and there are loads of rods that are perfect for the job, and are not too much of a burden on your pocket. Free Spirit has a selection ranging from £89 all the way up to £200.

Needless to say really, but you should spend the same sort of money on this rod as the other three you have sitting on that designer pod. It's going to have its work cut out blasting out that spod and it'll catch you far more fish than any other rod you might own. My rod is a true beast: a 13ft 3¾lb Daiwa Infinity. Expensive,

but does exactly what I want it to do. The same can be said for the reel and my advice would be to buy the best that you can afford. My favourites are the Daiwa Emblems. The 'S' range is available for around fifty quid and will serve you well, although the Emblem X comes with a spare spool and with the reverse taper may well add a few more yards. It's really important that whatever reel you buy it has a decent line clip on the spool, more about that later.

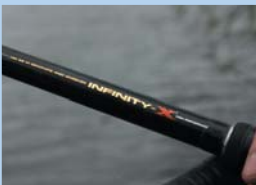
IDEOLOGY - UR STRING

Without a doubt, the biggest advancement to spodding in the last few years was the invention of the braided main line. It makes spodding easy, however you must choose wisely. The Berkley Whiplash is the best by miles; 30lb straight through for 99% of all the work. Should you need to be casting past the horizon, then I would suggest that you step down to the 20lb version with a braided leader or buy a bait boat!

THE LEATHERS

Right, you've got your new super duper spod rod, go faster reel loaded to the gunnels with enough Whiplash to land the spod anywhere on the planet, what do you need now? A fingerstall, that's what, or the first cast you make will be your last! Listen for a dull thud just before the pain hits you and the top of your index finger is laying in the mud! No stretch in ultra fine braid can result in painful consequences should you not be wearing the little leather 'glove'.

Leather fingerstalls are available from most chemists at about £1.50 or some tackle shops stock the MCF version, which is very similar. **Top tip:** don't wear a black one in the rain or you may have a tricky time explaining where you've been sticking that finger for the next couple of weeks! The dye comes out when it gets wet! I have some neoprene jobs that were intended for sea fishing, but they look like they will last forever. The only shop that has them is Gary Evans in Newport. He imports them from Italy and at a tenner they are quite expensive, but I think they're worth it.





ROCKETS

Right this just leaves the spod... The one that I use the time is our very own Skyliner Spod, as you'd expect. Available in three different coloured nose cones, yellow, orange and black for differing light conditions. There are loads of other spods and rockets available and it's really up to you which one you use. I use a lot of particles in my fishing, mainly hemp and other small seeds and without the use of a spod that would be impossible.

FORE!

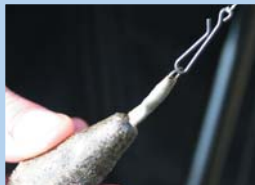
The most important factor in spodding is accuracy; if you're going to spread it over the size of a tennis court, then don't fish near me! All you will do is upset the person fishing next to you and fish very ineffectively. The most efficient way of getting the bait bang on the money is by using the clip that is attached to the spool on your reel. What I do is to cast out the marker float to my chosen area and pop it up.

I remove the spod, clip on a lead and cast the lead out to

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the side of the float. Once I'm happy that it's close enough, I'll clip the braid into the spool clip and wind the lead in. Once reeled in I will remove the lead and attach the spod back on. Fill the spod up and whack it

out. As the spod flies out bring the rod tip up so that it is at 90° degrees to the bank. When the spod hits the clip, allow the rod to take the force of the cast; this will bring the rod forward.



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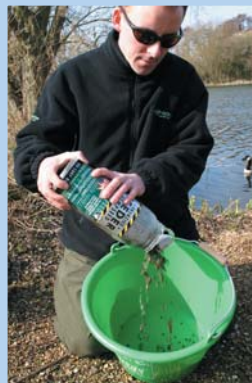
SWEETIES

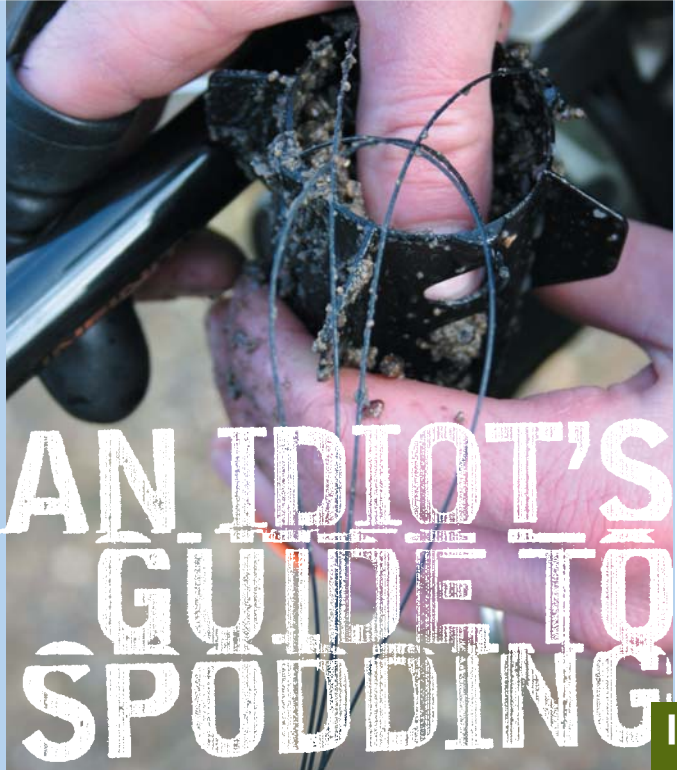
You can spod anything you like, but to me and the other members of Team Korda it's not just a matter of simply filling the spod up with bait and chucking it out. We like to add a groundbait of some sort to the mix of particle as this has two advantages. Firstly it will stodge up the mix so that if you compress the bait in the spod with a small amount of pressure, you are confident that all the bait lands in the swim, minimising any loss from the back of the spod. Secondly, and just as importantly the groundbait creates a clouding effect, which gives a 'stirred' up look to the water.

The groundbait that I use for this is mainly the Amino Black from Dynamite. Due to its colour it will also darken all the bait down making it a lot less blatant to the fish than a light mix. When adding the 'Black' to the mix, be wary of over doing it. If you're a bit heavy handed with it just chuck some lake water in. Once you have the consistency right, the bait should hold in the spod with just a little compression. Once cast out give the spod a couple of short tugs on the braid to aid the bait to release quickly.

When using the Skyliner Spod you should be aware that if it doesn't retrieve easily straight away then there is probably still bait in it. This is

Once you have mastered this little move, the spod will just come down gently on its side creating very little disturbance compared to that of one smashing down nose first. If the spod lands short of the float or past it, just unclip the line and make a small adjustment until you've got it right. If you've got anything to line your marker up with on the far bank, spodding after dark is easy to do; giving you loads more chances of catching some extra fish.





noticed when using boilies chopped or whole within the mix, as you'll see a few left in the bottom of the spod. What's happened is the rest of the mix has been washed out through the holes in the sides when you have retrieved, most likely spreading bait all over the place. To be sure that the bait has all emptied correctly, you'll notice that the spod sits a little higher in the water. When you retrieve it, it should come in effortlessly straightaway and if it doesn't, again, give it a couple of sharp knocks with the rod and wait a few seconds - that should do it.

FINISHING OFF

When you have sorted your first spot you'll need to get some bait over your other rods. All you need to do is mark your braid by using a thin piece of pole elastic. This stuff is brilliant as it won't hinder your cast; just use a Four-Turn Grinner and pull it as tight as you can. Trim the ends, not too short, though, just long enough so that they fold back easily and don't catch on the braid. Another good tip for accuracy

is, if space allows, to walk the spod out along the bank, then do the same with your fishing rods. They will be spot on every single cast.

Now your sorted, get out there and smash 'em up!

**Good Luck.
Damo**

