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Balsa wood crankbait template

Balsa Crankbait Blanks Making your own wooden crankbaits is a little more work than making other lures, but as you can see it is rather simple -- Just follow the steps listed below to make your balsa wood crankbait. Quick Material List: Balsa-wood (1/4" thick), brass or stainless steel wire (0.020" to 0.030" in diameter), lead sinker (1/8oz. to 1/4oz.), water proof glue, clear coat paint, aluminum foil , acrylic paint (any colour you like), cutting board, tracing paper (pattern paper), sand paper, cutting knife, crankbait lips, split rings and hooks. To enlarge the photo simply click on the photo, then click the button or to return to this page. All the components used to make this wooden crankbait are available from Real Pro's SportFishing. Step 1: Draw a simple lure pattern on the tracing paper, (should be between 2 to 4 inches long). Glue 2 pieces of balsa wood together temporarily and place the paper pattern on the top. Gently mark the balsa wood with the pattern for cutting with your cutting knife. Now cut the wood as for the pattern. Round the edges with sand paper, now separate the two pieces of wood. You should now have two symmetrical halves of the lure. Step 2: Using the cutting knife gently carve out a small groove for the wire and lead ballast weight as shown. Glue the two halves together and sand smooth. Apply several coats of clear coat over the unpainted body. Step 3: Gently draw desired patterns on the aluminum foil tape. Now gently apply the foil to the lure being careful not to wrinkle the foil. Step 4: Apply several more coats clear coat over the foiled body. Step 5: Paint or leave silver. Glue on eyes and match lip to bait Step 6: Attach lip by gently cutting a small groove into the lure and glue in position. Now attach split rings and hooks. Completed Crankbait with crankbait treble hooks attached US: \$5.00 FLAT RATE SHIPPING AND FREE SHIPPING ON ORDERS OVER \$50. Canada: \$15.95 FLAT RATE SHIPPING AND FREE SHIPPING ON ORDERS OVER \$100 Bagley Bait Co. has been crafting high quality balsa and resin fishing lures since 1954 and today its lures are valued by serious fishermen worldwide. Generations of anglers have used Bagley Baits within the bass, walleye, pike and in-shore waters. Delivering performance that has made Bagley Baits a staple among avid bass anglers since 1960, the Bagley Balsa Wake 1 Wake Bait utilizes the newest balsa wood technologies to give anglers the ultimate shallow water search bait. Made using Bagley's exclusive Heat Compression Molding process, which allows for a full wire through design and precision internal weighting, the Bagley Balsa Wake 1 Wake Bait is much more durable and provides longer more accurate casts than traditional balsa wood baits that are carved out of a single piece of wood. SHOP NOW Designed to put a larger "pro sized" fast-action balsa wood bait into the hands of anglers looking to find the big mamas. The new for 2018 square lip Bagley Pro Sunny B is a precision weighted lure that casts easily and gets to a consistent 5-6 foot running depth every time. This bait has a higher body profile with tremendous buoyancy but also has a deliberately designed tighter action for when fish are more docile. Equipped with a square lip to allow you to work it in heavy cover and around laydowns - where we all know the big ones hang out. SHOP NOW The original balsa badass: square lip, super buoyant, unstoppable, built to raid timber and pull shoulder-wrenching bass right out of their root holes. The square-lip design slips through junk, sassing fish to their faces until they explode. Two BassMaster Classics later, it's still looking for trouble. SHOP NOW This is the fastest-diving crankbait made: big bodied and lead-lipped, with a dive-bomb descent angle that gets straight to hanging bass and a thumping balsa body action that ignites a violent strike. Unleash over a dropoff for suspended fish, or crank along a rocky bottom to draw eager predators like a free lunch. SHOP NOW Designed with large dual front and rear props that create maximum water disturbance that incites explosive strikes. Fish it over grass and laydowns. Use a steady retrieve or rip it and pause--then get ready. Designed with large dual front and rear props that create maximum water disturbance that incites explosive strikes. Fish it over grass and laydowns. Use a steady retrieve or rip it and pause--then get ready. SHOP NOW Get the most out of your Bagley Baits with these articles and videos Meet our amazing Bagley Pro-Staff Team. At Bagley we pride ourselves on our overall experience and knowledge. Wal-Mart FLW Tour pro Craig Powers Angler: Craig Powers. Wal-Mart FLW Tour pro Craig Powers of Rockwood, Tenn., has a strange way of showing his love for crankbaits. It is perfectly normal for him to buy a dozen "store-bought" crankbaits, only to rip them apart and rebuild them to his own specifications. After years of sawing, sanding, gluing and painting thousands of crankbaits, Powers arrived at one conclusion: When it comes to shallow-running crankbaits, nothing beats homemade. Lately, the words "homemade" and "handmade" seem to be on the lips of successful bass pros when referring to crankbaits. For the most part, homemade crankbaits are made for pros by an individual or small lure company. The baits do not often get much publicity because the pros who use them are usually in no hurry to divulge their "secret" bait, and the companies that produce them simply do not have the resources for large-scale promotional efforts. But Powers, who thrives on handcrafted baits, is willing to break the silence on homemade plugs. "When I talk about homemades, I'm talking about wooden crankbaits that are hand-carved and hand-painted and made for shallow cranking - mostly 6 feet or less," he said. "If I'm deep cranking, like in the summer, I'll usually use a store-bought plug." Powers relies on shallow-diving crankbaits for a majority of his shallow-water fishing because he has a general dislike for spinnerbaits and rattling crankbaits. "I grew up fishing tournaments on Boone Lake in Tennessee," he said. "It's a river impoundment, and nearly all the bass live on the bank. It's also a heavily pressured lake, and everybody throws spinnerbaits and Rat-1-Traps. I discovered that if I was going to catch bass behind 50 other boats on Boone, I had to find something different to throw." And so Powers' longtime obsession for shallow-running crankbaits began. "Once I learned how to cast a crankbait to the same places other guys cast spinnerbaits or pitched jigs, I started catching a lot of bass behind them," he said. What he discovered about crankbaits was that he could make them "hover" in the strike zone a lot better than a jig or spinnerbait. "You have to keep a spinnerbait moving, and a jig just goes to the bottom," he said. "But a crankbait is buoyant - you can twitch it, pause it and make it hover right in the strike zone a second longer, and that makes a tremendous difference, especially in finding fish. "I've noticed that bass show themselves a lot more with a crankbait," he said. "They might not always commit to it, but they seem more likely to flash on it, and that tells me where they live. Ninety-five percent of this game is finding fish, and crankbaits allow me to cover water quickly to find shallow fish." With much experimentation, Powers eventually took a liking to wooden crankbaits because of their silence and ease of customization. "Most plastic plugs have a built-in rattle, and I don't like rattles in shallow crankbaits," he said. "Wood is quieter, and it lends itself to modification much better than plastic. "I can take a wooden body and put the bill, line tie and belly weight anywhere I want," he said. "I might put in 10 different bill designs at 10 different angles and switch the belly weight around several ways before I come up with the right combination. I like being able to tweak the action of plugs - you just can't do that with a plastic bait where the bill is permanently molded into the body." But the trade-off is that wood is much less durable than plastic. Once a wooden bait dents and water leaks into the wood, it swells, the paint cracks and the bait loses its performance. "That's the problem with wood; it just doesn't hold up," he said. "If you fish a wooden plug hard, you're lucky to get a couple of days' use out of it before the bill breaks, the line tie loosens or the paint begins to chip off." Several years ago, Powers teamed up with crankbait designer Sonny McFarland of Lenoir City, Tenn., to produce longer-lasting wooden plugs. "Sonny has been hand-making plugs for about 27 years," Powers said. "He has developed a process for making balsa-wood plugs much more durable. Before the baits are painted with any outer coating, he dips them multiple times in a solution to harden the wood. He also makes his bills from circuit board, which withstands the abuse that comes with cranking rock and riprap." The result is McFarland's Flat-Shad crankbaits, a series of flat-sided balsa-wood crankbaits, which have earned Powers' stamp of approval. But having a good homemade plug is only half of the equation; the other half is knowing when and where to use it. Over the years, Powers has perfected his homemade brand of cranking on reservoirs in the southeastern quadrant of the country. According to Powers, the technique works best in the cold-weather months from November through April, when water temperatures range from 47 to 70 degrees. "Fall is absolutely the best time for homemades," he said. "When the water temperature starts dropping and the fish move up on the flats, that's my favorite time to fish them." When cranking shallow flats, Powers uses a Flat-Shad "PT" crankbait, which runs 3 to 5 feet deep. He fishes the bait on a 6 1/2-foot medium-action spinning rod with 10-pound-test line. He reasons that a spinning rod casts the baits farther. "Speed is the key on the flats," he said. "I crank it as fast as I can without any pauses. It is a total reaction bite." However, in the spring, as fish start moving toward the bank, Powers switches tactics. "When the water gets around 60 degrees, I'll move up into any shoreline cover I can find and begin throwing a Sonny 'B,' which is a little fatter and more buoyant." He fishes the Sonny "B" on a short 6-foot casting rod and 17-pound-line to make accurate presentations around heavy cover. "I'll put that bait anywhere a spinnerbait or jig will go," he said. "But instead of burning it, I'll finesse it more - twitch it and pause it to get the fish to react on the bait." Once fish start spawning, Powers usually puts his homemades down for while. "On some lakes, there's a small period of time right after the spawn when bass will get on the first break in about 3 to 6 feet of water and I'll use a homemade then, but once they start moving out to the deeper ledges, I'll switch to a store-bought plug." Purchasing homemades Homemade crankbaits can be hard to find. Mass production of "handmade" plugs is difficult because wood is so temperamental and the manufacturing process is so labor-intensive. Several lure companies have moved beyond making plugs solely for the pros, and now their homemade balsa-wood baits are available through the Internet. Be forewarned, though, these baits are expensive. Be prepared to pay upwards of \$20 for these exclusive plugs. Sonny McFarland's Flat-Shad crankbaits used by Craig Powers can be found at flatshad.com. FLW Tour pro Rick Clunn of Ava, Mo., a longtime advocate of wooden crankbaits, endorses the Thunder Shad series of crankbaits made by Awesome Bait Company in Eufaula, Ala. (thundershad.com). His favorite models include the "Grandfather," a fat-bodied balsa bait with a square lip. Kellogg's pro Clark Wendlandt of Cedar Park, Texas prefers Brian's Bees made by Brian Huskins in North Carolina (brianscrankbaits.com). Wendlandt uses the Bee 1, Bee 2 and Bee 3 models. Texas Fishing Forum Posted By: Bois d'arc Tools for making wooden lures - 09/30/16 02:13 PM Recently started getting into making wooden lures. Seems like getting the right tools might be a good starting point so I ordered a set of chip knives and chisels. Wire bending pliers are part of my spinnerbait building toolset so thru-wire forming is no problem. I have a nice scroll saw and a razor saw for cutting forms. What else is necessary? Any help is appreciated. Posted By: Bois d'arc Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 10/06/16 09:00 PM So nobody on this forum makes any wooden lures?? Posted By: bulldog21 Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 10/06/16 10:20 PM I make my own wood lures. Seems like you have a good list going. It's a lot of work but I enjoy it. Don't forget sandpaper...Ryan Posted By: Rocket Surgeon Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 10/06/16 10:20 PM For crankbaits, I just use a scroll saw, sandpaper, files, and a pocket knife. I use a drill for adding weight, and I have a drillpress for that. For a lot of other type baits you can of course use a large, for things like topwaters. Posted By: Bois d'arc Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 10/07/16 12:54 PM Thanks for the responses...sandpaper Posted By: Rocket Surgeon Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 10/07/16 02:55 PM Thanks for the responses....sandpaper Posted By: Tree Fish Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 10/18/16 02:43 PM A forstner bit for the eyes and a 4 way file. I also use a mini hand drill to pilot my holes, don't have a press and don't trust myself with a cordless drill. Posted By: Bois d'arc Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 10/20/16 02:44 PM A forstner bit for the eyes...a mini hand drill to pilot my holes good idea, thanks Tree fish Posted By: Bois d'arc Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 11/29/16 06:49 PM Thanks to everyone who responded to this post. Here are a few pictures of the 1st attempt at a wooden lure.Balsa wood for the body.I used an old fat free shad for my template...(I've caught boat loads of bass on fat free shad baits). I whittled the basic shape with a Flexcut chip knife.I haven't gotten the rough materials needed to make diving lips so I'm using a pre built diving lip from Netcraft.The body has been sanded smooth and the diving lip slot is done (easier if its done before shaping the body).I'm going to use a wood hardener on the raw blank before testing to determine the correct weight to add to the body. Once the wood is hardened I'll water test the body with the weight attached. If all goes well I'll drill the holes, re-harden the wood and glue the weight, tail hook hanger and diving lip in place. I'm planning on using Etex as a sealer before painting, then putting a shad pattern on the lure and follow that up with another coat of Etex. Posted By: Huckleberry Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 11/29/16 07:10 PM Good Job! ...1st cast will get hung on some old braid buried in a brush pile! Posted By: swalker9513 Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 11/29/16 07:51 PM Do you just eyeball the symmetry? Posted By: basscat dad Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 11/29/16 10:48 PM dr. bois you are one talented dude!! we have got to get together sometime soon. Posted By: Bois d'arc Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 11/30/16 01:58 PM Do you just eyeball the symmetry? I outlined the template lure, using a pencil, directly on the balsa. From there on its just chipping and sanding. I use a pair of calipers to help stay close to the shape of the template. Posted By: Bradshuffin aka hunter'sdad Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 11/30/16 02:13 PM Awesome! Posted By: Frank the Tank Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 11/30/16 02:18 PM Wow. This is impressive. Posted By: Chuck72 Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 12/09/16 01:07 PM I use a bench grinder to get my shapes and fine tune it with files and sand paper. What type of wheel stone do you use for wood as soft as balsa? Posted By: Bois d'arc Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 12/09/16 01:45 PM Two vibrating lures and a deep diver weighted and cleared with e-tex. The diving lure weighs 17 grams and the vibrating lures 7 and 10 grams each. Next step is a light sanding and then paint. I'm not sure what patterns to put on them? Thinking one of my most productive shad patterns but, still open to suggestions. All three will have triple grip hooks and stainless split rings attached when they're done. It took a while to get the lures balanced properly. The balsa diving lure sits nose down in the water just like the factory Fat Free shad. Since its balsa wood I expect it to have a lively action down to about 10-12 foot. The vibrating lures are silent, no rattles, the thinner one slowly sinks nose down and the thicker one suspends at about 18 inches deep. I intend to use them when the bass are skittish from fishing pressure or when they run away from plastic rattling baits...which happens more than you'd think. Next lure will be a smaller version of the Fat Free shad that runs at about 6-8 foot and maybe a flat sided squarebill with a circuit board bib. Merry Christmas to all. Posted By: Chuck72 Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 12/09/16 01:47 PM What type of wheel stone do you use for wood as soft as balsa? I don't use a lot of Balsa when I am making my own. I usually run a Medium grit around 60. I would imagine that a 150 would handle Balsa but again I haven't tried it. I have a habit of cutting off some limbs from an Oak or Mesquite tree and using it to make lures. I also use Dowel rods to make mold masters for soft plastics. Posted By: Bois d'arc Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 12/16/16 06:49 PM First try at handmade balsa lures on the right, hard plastic DDRT 2.5 on the left. Painted but not epoxy clear coated. Before painting and after sealing the balsa lures I took them to a local pond and tested them...they worked as intended...the action was pretty good on all three. Beginners luck, I guess? Posted By: basscat dad Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 12/17/16 12:11 PM stellar work dr. bois!! can't wait to see the lipless after they're cleared. Posted By: Bois d'arc Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 12/17/16 03:18 PM stellar work dr. bois!! can't wait to see the lipless after they're cleared. Thanks BC. I sprayed holographic glitter over the back of the lures and it really makes them pop. The pictures don't show it but the color above the lateral line shifts as the bait moves past your line of sight...sort of a blueish/silver to silver back to blueish/silver. Anyway, I cleared all three with 2-part epoxy and let them spin for a few hours. When I went back to check on them the eyes had moved and weren't level in the sockets. I used an Xacto knife to get them out without damaging the paint and plan on reattaching and reclearing them today. I'll try to post a few pics after they're done. Posted By: basscat dad Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 12/18/16 01:09 AM i've gotten into the habit of always putting the tiniest drop of superglue in the eye sockets before i attach the eyes. just don't trust that sticky backing. i can't wait to see these new balsa creations in person. you're taking this bait stuff to an art form. i better step up my game. been working on a couple other projects in a completely different genre. almost finished with this one. Posted By: Bois d'arc Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 12/19/16 02:37 PM Beautiful wood on the guitar body. What is it? Old school record player and some vinyl in the background...nice.I used a forstner bit to cut the eye sockets into the balsa. Normally I use superglue to hold lure eyes in place, too. The adhesive that comes on them isn't always reliable. In this case I got in a hurry and forgot the superglue. Posted By: basscat dad Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 12/19/16 10:51 PM it's a mahogany body with a book-matched quilted maple veneer. yep still have the old faithful component stereo system and vinyl albums. nothing like the sound of the old analog recordings. Posted By: Bois d'arc Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 12/20/16 04:03 PM Tools...tools...more tools. Everything a person needs to make wooden lures...so far.Drew all my wooden lure templates on graph paper...measurements, weights, everything I can think of. Think I'll start on the jigs for each of them pretty soon. Awesome YouTube videos on building wooden lures...talented folks out there. Posted By: Bois d'arc Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 12/28/16 03:53 PM If you're willing to put in the time wooden lures are a great choice for creating a bait that has exactly the action you want in any paint pattern you want. Awesome hobby!...if you plan to use your band saw for cutting out your lures it works best if you use a smaller width blade...1/8 or even a 3/16 allows for cutting much more precise shapes. Also, I've found that drill bits with a Brad point made for wood working seem to be much better when putting weight and hook hanger holes exactly where you want them. Anybody know where to get medium density balsa wood in small quantity?? Just a few board foot. **Got some great responses back from HS bass clubs for the custom painted plastic lure donations. Thanks to those who helped make it happen. ** Posted By: Bois d'arc Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 12/30/16 03:13 PM This fat baby should get deep. Body, diving bib, and anchors all hand made. Lurepartsonline makes a neat little tool for twisting hanger wire easily." Which tool are you taking? That fat baby should get down there. Ole Posted By: Bois d'arc Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 12/31/16 02:46 PM On the Lurepartsonline site Google "wire forming tools"...there's several models...think its called a kwik twist tool.Do any of the very helpful luresmiths on this site who might read this post...know where to find various grades of balsa wood in or around Texas?? There's gotta be a place somewhere. Posted By: 1442 Re: Tools for making wooden lures - 01/14/17 08:27 AM RC airplane hobby shops should have it

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