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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 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 I 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 I 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 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 a single piece of wood. 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 you 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-crunching bass right out of their root holes. The square-lip design slips through junk, sassasses right to their faces until they explode. No BassMaster Classics here, still looking for trouble. SHOP NOW This is the fastest-diving crankbait made: big bodied and lead-tipped, with a dive-bomb descent and a hard get straight out of the rigging mess and a thumping bass body action that makes every strike look like a rocky bottom to an earthenware collector like a free lunch. SHOP NOW Designed with larger dorsal and rear plugs that create maximum water disturbance that induces explosive strikes. Fish it over grass and laydowns. Use a steady retrieve or rip it and pause...then get ready. Designed with larger dorsal and rear plugs that create maximum water disturbance that induces 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 tips 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 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 crankbaits. "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 foot 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-running 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-L-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 likely to get a couple of days' use out of it before the bill breaks or 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 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 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 techniques work 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 "PI" 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-test line to make accurate presentations around heavy cover. "I'll put that bait anywhere a spinnerbait or jig will go," he said. 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