

“THE BOAT: KEEP IT SIMPLE”



Outfitting a "new" boat is fun! Over the years, and many boats, I have learned to keep additions as simple as possible or my boat becomes too cluttered with mounts, brackets and add-ons. Often I found that these mounted items were in the way or not placed properly and had to be moved or eliminated for good function, especially if I used or changed too many "methods". One of the prime benefits of Spoonplugging is its' simplicity in both equipment and procedures. I use a portable and waterproof plastic storage box to help me keep things simple. For example, my depth sounder and Gps units are on a small but stable wooden base that can be placed in the boat where they are most convenient. I can place them so I can run the boat from either side or remove and use them on another boat if necessary. I like to put my transducer on a board clamped to the transom for the same reason and this allows adjustments to be easily made for better readings. My electronic units are disconnected and stored in the plastic box because I don't think that trailering the boat with these units mounted is good for them. Mounts for rod holders, downrigger, and electric motor are small flat plates that do not interfere with the cover and are not in the way. For summer fishing of trolling Spoonplugs and anchored casting, you don't need the electric motor anyway. Simplicity and flexibility have seemed to work best for me. Besides, I hate to see any beautiful or "classic" boat all cluttered up!

Buck Perry was simple tools personified! I don't use the "tin can or paper bag tacklebox" that he did, but the message in his writings was to keep tools simple at all times. His outstanding success at catching trophy fish of all species reconfirms for me that knowledge, not numerous pieces of specialized equipment, is most important. What is important with tools is to select the proper and most efficient ones for control of our depth and speed at the

same time, and **Mr. Perry has given us specific guidelines and tools to do just that.** The entire concept of Spoonplugging is geared for simplicity and the use of a minimum number of tools to most effectively fish for all species on all waters. **If we yield to all advertisers' recommendations, we could sink our boat with "needed" equipment.** The **more we specialize in certain species, the greater the variety of tools become "necessary"**. In addition, **more costs** in this difficult economy **are not welcome.** Just remember: a fish is a fish is a fish, and **all species are much more alike than they are different.**

Conveniences like comfortable and well placed **seats, storage** compartments, **cleats,** and other accessories are **nice to have** and **will vary with the boat selected.**

I have chosen to not have an electric anchoring device for several reasons. First, **I have an electric trolling motor mounted on the bow** and there is **likely not room for more.** It will add **more weight** to the boat, and it seems they are **agonizingly slow,** especially if you have just located a school of fish and want to get your lure back there in a hurry! I have been told that the day will come for me when I won't be able to handle picking up an 18 pound anchor. This may be true, but I have in storage a 10 pound one that I might try with a little longer rope. **If I can't pick up a 10 pound anchor, then I have no business fishing for 15-20 pound pike, musky, salmon, or catfish anyway!** I can be stubborn that way.

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