

"HISTORY OF THE #300 SPOONPLUG"

In 2003, Mike Moran sent me this interesting history of the #300 Spoonplug, which later became the #500 Spoonplug.

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From: Mike Moran

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Reference: 300 SERIES SPOONPLUG

The recent explanation of the numbering system has sure generated a lot of interest. The Email Box has been going off the wall. This interest has also revealed some facts on the 300 series Spoonplug in a copy of an early "Spoonplug Brochure" sent by Mrs. Perry.

The 300 series Spoonplug was in production, for a few years, closest we can tell this is around 1947 - 1948 and into the mid 1950s. There were three distinctly different styles; 300-M, Medium Weight; 300-L, Light Weight; and the 300-H, Heavy Weight.

All three Styles were sold at the same time as the 100 - 200 - 250 - 400 series Spoonplugs. We will get back to that point later, as this is really the key to the numbering system and part of the reason for the crossed wires in the earlier explanation.

The 300-M - Medium Weight series Spoonplug came in three colors and used a #6 Treble hook. They were ordered by these numbers; '301-M' was Nickel; the '302-M' was Brass; and the 303-M was Copper. The description in the "Spoonplug Brochure" said, *"Flyrod or spinning rod size, for use in very fast water where a stable swimming lure is needed. Trolled for all game fish and especially for slow CRAPPIE trolling."* Three items in this description are worth noting, the mention of the 'Flyrod,' the 'spinning rod,' and the slow trolling to catch 'Crappies'.

The 300-L, Light Weight series Spoonplug came in seven colors, and had a #8 Treble hook and was made of aluminum. They were ordered by these numbers; '301-L' was Silver; '302-L' was Gold; '303-L' was Yellow; '304-L' was Orange; '305-L' was Red; '306-L' was Green; and the '307-L' was Black. The description of the 300-L in the "Spoonplug Brochure" said, *"For slow Flyrod work-both stream or lake. Very effective for pan fish and trout. Stable enough for slow cold weather trolling for crappie, bass, etc."*

Some of us Spoonplugger's do have this 300-L; we just may not know it. At a Chattanooga Jamboree, Buck's Baits had sold some earrings. These tiny Spoonplug earrings were made out of aluminum. Buck's Baits had found these Spoonplugs in a box, stuck away in some corner of the old shop, and added the wire hoops for the 'Ladies' to use as earrings. Now, all you have to do is just try to talk your wife's out of them. I wish you Good Luck; you're going to need it.

Last, we have the 300-H, Heavy Weight Spoonplug came in three colors and with a #4 Treble

hook. They were ordered by these numbers, '301-H' was Nickel; '302-H' was Brass; and the '303-H' was Copper. The description of the 300-H in the "Spoonplug Brochure" said, *"A heavy duty casting, spinning or trolling lure. Especially designed for fast trolling for bass in shallows. Troll along shoreline, weed beds, ECT, changing speeds and colors. If no strikes or catches are made, it is clear the fish are not in shallow water, but are lying deep and a larger, deep running, 'digging' lure (100 or 200 Series) is needed."* We should note the first words in the description are mention of the gear used 'casting, spinning, or trolling lure.' The heavier 300 series could be used 'with casting gear.'

In Mr. Perry's youth and as a young man, he did a fair amount of fishing on the streams of the Blue Ridge Mountains, catching trout. This explains the 300-M and the 300-L series Spoonplug, with the use of the Flyrod and spinning tackle. However, these two sizes were discontinued in the early 50's, probably because of the poor sales. At that time, the 300-H had its name changed to the "500 series Spoonplug."

So it was not that the 300 series did not work just right, fact was it worked perfectly. In the early years, we had the 100-200-250-300-400 series Spoonplugs. All five sizes did the job. Only the 250 should have been named the 300 and the running depth of the 'original 300' dictated it should be after the 400. However, when Buck's established customers ordered the 300, how would you know if they were talking about the old 300 or the new 300 (old 250)? It is confusing, even to write about. Only answer to this dilemma was to leave the 250 alone. Therefore, Buck dropped the '300' name, and just renamed it the 500 series Spoonplug. We know the 500 series Spoonplug has been catching fish ever since.

Good Fishin,
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