



TUBE JIG **ESSENTIALS**

Presented By: GSO Fishing

How to choose the ideal jig head style and weight for various fishing conditions, select the best colors and patterns to attract your target species, and master proven techniques to enhance your success on the water.

GSO Fishing

TUBE JIG SELECTION

What Are You Fishing For?

In a market with thousands upon thousands of tube jigs to choose from, the first question you need to ask yourself when selecting a tube is what are you fishing for? Answering this question will determine the top factors when choosing tube body.

Overall Length

Pick the length of the tube based on what the available forage is for your target species.
(Crawdads, leeches, minnows, baitfish, etc)
Example: Lake Trout Feeding On Kokanee

Profile/Diameter

Not all tubes are “created equally” there are both wide and narrow tubes on the market so a 5” tube jig from one company may be a different diameter size than a 5” tube from another company.

Color & Pattern Selection

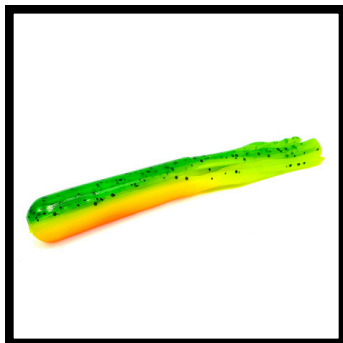
Color selection can vary by species as well as water conditions.

Some things to consider include: light penetration (including weather conditions, water depth, ice depth, water clarity (runoff, wind, etc.)

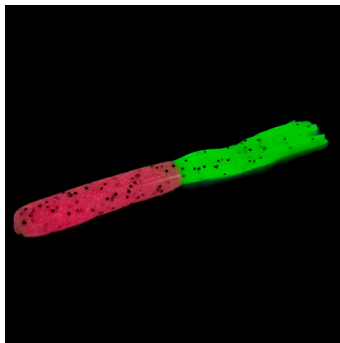
Color/Pattern Categories



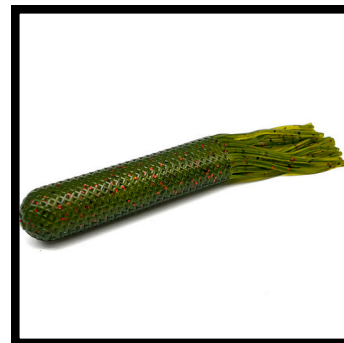
Natural



Bold



Glow



Non-Glow

Color/Pattern Based On Depth

Suspended Fishing

Pick a Two-Tone Color Tube
Match the Hatch, OR Bright and Flashy

Bottom Contact Fishing

Pick a Single Color Tube
Two Choices - One that closely matches the bottom color, OR one that stands out against it.

JIG HEAD SELECTION

Jig Head Styles

Each jig head is unique to the style of fishing you will be doing and the type of tube you're fishing with. Some are better for vertical jigging, some are better for casting, and others are better for digging in the dirt.



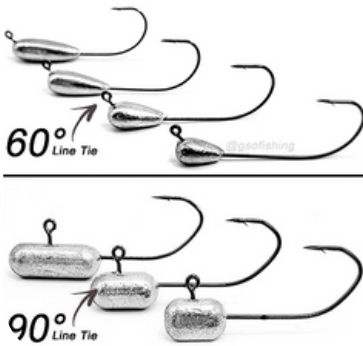
Line Ties

The line tie, also referred to as the "eye" of the jig head, comes in different styles/degrees. The degree of the line tie affects the descent of the jig, the position of the jig in the water, as well as the technique of fishing.

Two common line tie options are 60° and 90°.

The 60° heads are designed for casting and retrieving. The 60° line tie helps keep the nose of the lure down, giving it a life-like appearance as it glides down and climbs across rocks.

The 90° line tie is used when you want your bait to sit or swim horizontally. We use these heads for vertical fishing tube jigs.



Overall Length

The ideal jig head length positions the hook at the midpoint of the tube body. Most bites on a tube jig are either a T-Bone strike or a full inhale. With the weight positioned forward, a full inhale causes the tube to enter the fish's mouth tail-first. In both scenarios, a jig hook that is too short or too long can lead to missed hookups.

Small "crappie" tubes 1" - 2"

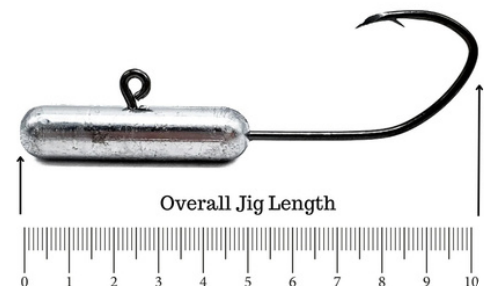
- Use an external jig head, like a Pill Head.

Standard Tube Sizes 2.5" - 6.5"

- You want the hook to come out of the tube body right where the tentacles start.

On larger tubes, 7" and bigger

- You'll have to poke the hook through the solid part of the tube body.



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JIG HEAD SELECTION

Jig Head Weights

Head weight is based on the fall rate. The heavier the head, the faster it will fall. It's good to have multiple weights in each head style. The fish will tell you if they want the jig to fall faster or slower, and you can adjust your fall rate by selecting a lighter or heavier jig head. If the fish "run" as soon as the jig gets to the bottom of the lake, your jig might be falling too fast and spooking them. Try a lighter jig weight and give it more time to get to the bottom. Other factors that affect your fall rate are the size of the tube and tubes with salt imbedded in the plastic.



***Keep In Mind:** Heavier heads create more detrimental motion as the fish fight. They swing harder and can pull the hook out or create a bigger hole where the hook penetrated.

Hook Features

The features of a jig head hook play a crucial role in determining your hookup success with the fish you're targeting.

Wire Gauge

The wire gauge determines hook penetration and holding power.

Hook Bend

The three most common types are round bend, wide gap, and sickle style hooks.

Hook Gap

This refers to the physical space between the point of the hook and the body of the lure.

Hook Point

Hook points range from standard points to premium chemically and surgically sharpened points.

Hook Sets & Timing

Each hook and its features determine the type of hookset you should use, including pressure sets for surgically sharpened points and light wire hooks, light pop sets which work great for multiple types of hooks, or hard sets for heavy wire hooks.

Hook set timing has a lot to do with what species of fish you are targeting. Trout and Kokanee salmon tend to bite and spit out the lure very quickly, so you need to have a fast (tick-set) hookset. When you feel anything (a tick, a bump, anything, set the hook.)

Other species like catfish and bass will require patience and for you to 'wait for the weight' before setting the hook. Often times these species will test out a meal before they put it fully in their mouth. If you try and set the hook too quickly, you will pull the hook out of the fish's mouth.

GSO Fishing **SETTING THE HOOK**

Understanding the hook type you are using will help you use the proper hook set technique when you get a bite. The wrong hook set can lead to lost fish.

Types Of Hooksets

Pressure Set

Great For Trokar Hooks

When you feel the bite, simply start reeling, keeping your rod bent with steady pressure. This will allow the hook point to penetrate without over cutting the entrance hole or bending the hook.

Best hook set to use with very light wire hooks, most Trokar point hooks, and most treble hooks. (Shad Fry, Football Head, Agitator)

Light Pop Set

Great For Multiple Types
of Hooks

When you feel the bite, give a light "pop" to get the hook point started into the fish's mouth. It is the same type of motion as jigging your lure up. From there, keep steady, medium pressure on the rod and line to help the point penetrate past the barb.

This is the best hook set to use with most light wire standard point hooks, standard wire needle point hooks, as well as heavy wire Trokar point hooks, and bigger standard wire treble hooks. (Std 90 Tube, Short Tube, LG Tube)

Hard Set

Best For Heavy Wire
Hooks

When you feel the bite, reel your rod tip down towards the water and then give a hard, sharp jerk straight up. This is the best hook set to use with needle point heavy wire hooks. (Mega Tube)

GSO Fishing **SETTING THE HOOK**

Knowing When To Set The Hook

Some techniques require different reaction times when setting the hook. Being off with your timing can decrease your overall efficiency.

TIMING

EXECUTION

'Tick-Set'

FAST

Hookset

Trout and Kokanee salmon tend to bite and spit out a lure very quickly. With most techniques for these species, you will need a "hair trigger". When you feel anything (a tick, a bump, etc.) set that hook! The #1 hook set execution failure we see over and over is setting the hook too late. If you feel a tick, then another tick, that fish just ate it and spit it out "tick, tick". So, be fast! "Tick-Set"

'Wait For The Weight'

SLOW

Hookset

Other species and techniques (such as using bait for trout) will require a more patient approach. Catfish, bass, and most other species when using live bait will require you to "wait for the weight" before setting the hook. Oftentimes these species will test out a meal before they put it fully in their mouth. Setting the hook after the initial bump or tick may cause you to pull the lure or bait away from the fish before the fish has the hook inside its mouth.

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TUBE JIG TECHNIQUES

Twitch/ Finesse Jigging

Our Go - To Method

Watercraft Or Ice Fishing

How To Do It: Impart enough action to cause your lure to dance/swim in place.

Why We Start Here: This technique is the best presentation to start with, because it mimics the natural movement of prey species.

Dead Stick

Just Don't Move It

Watercraft Or Ice Fishing

How To Do It: Your lure is completely motionless. Let the scent/bait or color/glow of your presentation "talk" the fish into biting.

Why This Is Our 2nd Choice: In the winter fish are a bit more lethargic because of the colder water and some days they just like a bait with less action. This is also a tried and true method if a particular area or school of fish has seen a lot of fishing pressure. Also, too much bait movement can scare the fish away.

Rip & Chase

Get Them To React

Watercraft Or Ice Fishing

How To Do It:

- Rip = Aggressively lift your lure very quickly and let it drop very quickly on slackline. Repeat instantly and do this 5 or 6 times in a row.
- Chase = If a fish responds to the rip motion but won't bite, steadily reel your lure all the way up to the surface. Fish will often follow all the way up and strike just before the lure "gets away".

Why This Is Our Third Choice:

- Sometimes fish are in a negative mood and will not bite something that appears natural. This technique gets them to React, which can be the best way to get a bite when fish are not actively feeding.
- These techniques are used up in the water column, rather than on the bottom

TUBE JIG TECHNIQUES

Pound The Bottom

Utilize a Very Heavy
Jig Head

Watercraft Or Ice Fishing

How To Do It: This technique refers to dropping your lure rapidly to the lake bed, causing it to crash into rocks and make noise or slam into the mud and create a dust cloud, and release air bubbles into the water.

Why We Use This Technique To "Call Them In": Bites do not typically occur while actively pounding the bottom. It is more of a fish attracting technique. When a fish appears, we quickly switch to a dead stick or finesse technique to entice the bite.

Cast & Drag

Fishing The Bottom

Watercraft Or Shoreline

How To Do It: Cast out and let the jig sink until it is rested on the bottom. Maintain bottom contact by simply slow-dragging the tube across the lake bed.

Why We Use This Technique: This technique perfectly mimics the natural movements of crawdads as they move across the lake.

Cast & Swim

(Sniper Fishing)

Fishing The Middle Or
Surface

Watercraft Or Shoreline

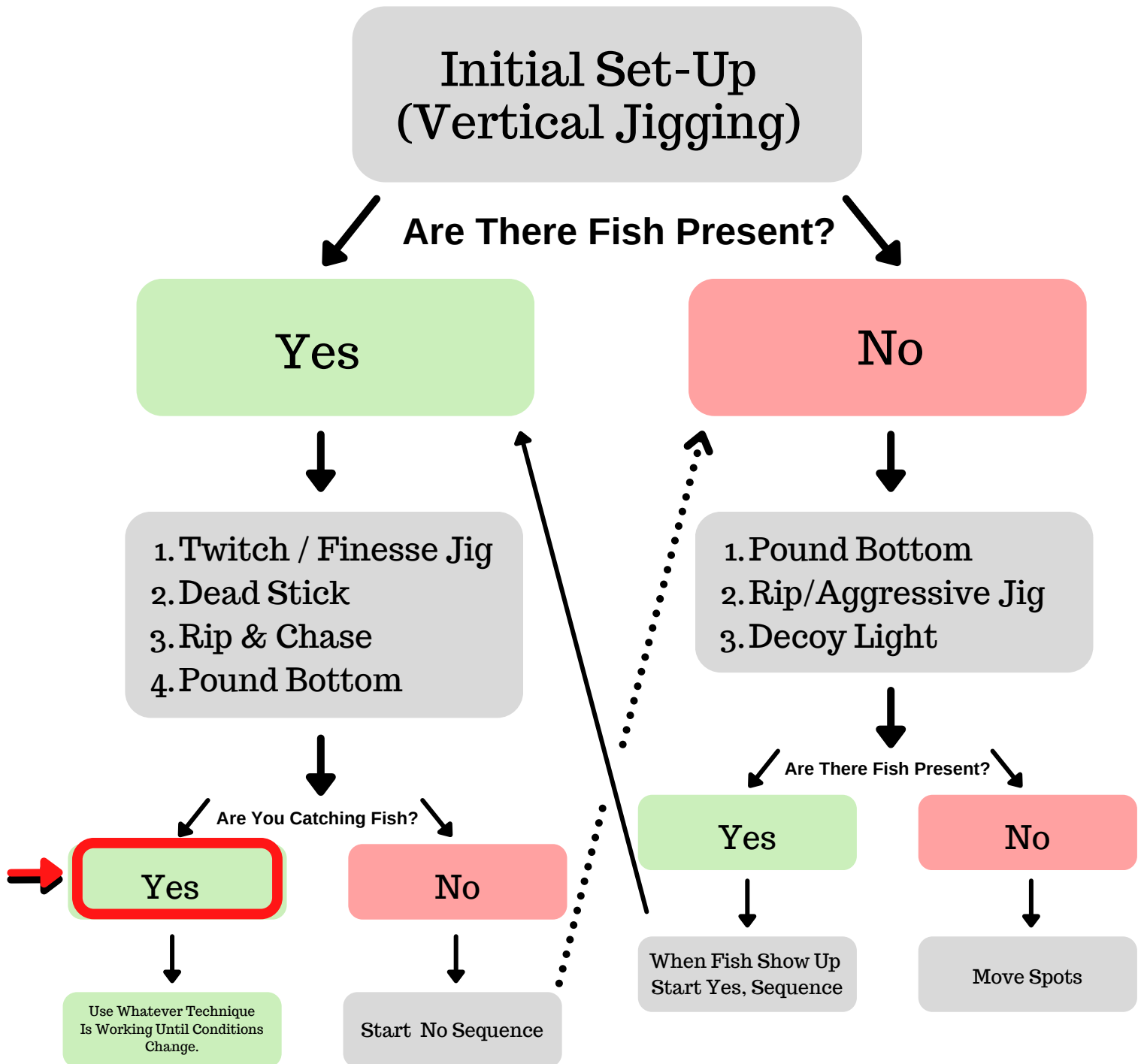
How To Do It: Cast out and let the tube fall. With this method, the bait should be fished in the mid to upper water column. You can achieve your desired depth by counting the lure down before you start the retrieve. Once at the desired depth, simple reel the tube in, slow and steady. An occasional pop of the rod tip, or a pause in the retrieve, will give the tube a slightly different motion, triggering a strike.

Why We Use This Technique: This technique is a more finesse approach than a paddle tail/soft swimbait. It is fished the same as a swimbait, but has much more subtle movement. It can be highly effective for pressured fish, or fish in very clear water.

GSO Fishing - Vertical Technique

FLOW CHART

We have found that these techniques executed in this order, increase our odds for a successful day out on the ice or open water.



TECHNIQUE

EQUIPMENT GUIDE

Using the right equipment makes all the difference with technique.

Your reel and line can be the same for any of the techniques you want to use. Just make sure you have the proper line type or pound test for the species you are after.

The main variation with gear between techniques will be your rod selection.

TECHNIQUE

EQUIPMENT

*Finesse/ Twitch
Dead Sticking*

Rod: Moderate action rod. Something very flexible that will make it harder for you to move the lure too much. A very flexible rod also lets finicky biters get a hold of the lure before you feel the bite.

A fast-action / stiff, very sensitive rod can cause you to set the hook before the fish has committed to eating your lure.

*Pounding Bottom
Ripping/ Chase*

Rod: Fast action, stiffer, very sensitive rod. This rod-type will let you feel right when your lure comes into contact with the bottom and give you a better feel and response time when using high-action techniques. Usually, bites happen fast and hard with these techniques, and this rod type will let you react quickly to the bite and have better control of the lure's action.



THANK YOU!

CODE: TJE15

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As a heartfelt thank-you for attending our Tube Jig Essentials Training, we're excited to offer you a **\$15 Gift Code** to use on our website! This exclusive gift is our way of showing appreciation for your commitment to improving your angling skills and being a part of our community.

Here's how to redeem your gift: simply shop on our website and apply your code during checkout to save on our premium handmade lures, tackle, and more. Please note there is a \$30 minimum order to use this code, making it a great opportunity to stock up on your favorite fishing essentials or try something new.

Thank you for trusting us to be a part of leveling up your fishing skills.

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