Get Acquainted with the Original Pocket Fisherman® Spin Casting Outfit

Caution: Always use care when fishing. Use extra care with sharp hooks, lures, the casting plug and when taking fish off the line. This is not a toy. Children should not use the Pocket Fisherman® without parental supervision. Always look carefully before you cast to be sure no one could get hooked or hit with a lure. Also be careful not to hook yourself or hit yourself with a lure or plug.

Quiet, smooth action reel with adjustable star drag

Thumb brake for releasing line when casting

Handle is a mini tackle box for extra lures and hooks

Release to fold in half to fit in your pocket or in a glove compartment

Wrist strap also holds the rod down when it is folded in half

Automatic anti-reverse prevents the handle from turning backwards so it is always ready for fish to strike

Release button to open side door

Notch to carry it on your belt

Comfort grip is less likely to slip through your hand when fish pull.

Fully loaded with line and ready to fish

Practice casting plug is included

Sliding float

Here's an example of how a sliding float works: Let's say you wish to have your bait go down three feet. Simply tie a knot in line three feet from the hook. Then, with each cast, as sinker carries hook down, the bobber will "ride" up line to knot, leaving bait three feet below the surface! Every time you cast!

Note: When stringing bobber, cut line on bias and insert in end of bobber with smaller hole . . . pushing the line through until it comes out the end with the larger hole.

What to use for bait?

Fish differ greatly in their diet and appetite from time to time.

Before you start fishing, check with bait shops and check with other fishermen to determine what food or lure fish are biting on and how deep to fish. The results could be well worth the effort.

What weight of line?

Pocket Fisherman® usually has a 10 lb. test mono line. When you wish to use heavier test line (up to 20 lb. test) simply remove reel from Pocket Fisherman as shown inside.
Getting Ready to Fish
Run the line through the rod guides and tie on the bait or lure to the swivel tackle. Reel until the bait or lure is hanging down a few inches below the rod tip. Set the drag before each use.

Casting - Practice with the Casting Plug
• Depress and hold the thumb brake down to disengage the line for casting.
• Hold the thumb brake down firmly during the back cast.
• Point the rod tip slightly above the target, then lift the rod back swiftly with the wrist and forearm - allowing the momentum of the lure to flex the rod.
• Without hesitation, carry the cast back toward the target with a quick accelerated forward action of the wrist and forearm.
• Release the thumb stop during the forward stroke to cast the line.

If you release the line too soon - It goes too high in the air.
If you release the line too late - The lure ends up right in front of you and short of the target.

To help control the cast, many experts let the line run between the thumb and index finger of their left hand to “feather” the line after the lure is on its way to the target. Feathering allows pinpoint accuracy to bring the line to a slow, gentle stop.

Line Retrieve
To retrieve, switch the rod to the left hand and turn the reel handle forward with the right hand to engage the line pickup.

Playing the Fish
After a fish has been hooked, always keep a bend in the rod during the fight by keeping the rod at an angle to the fish. When the fish is not taking a lure against the drag, we recommend using the rod to “pump” the fish. Then quickly reel the line while lowering the rod tip and prepare to “pump” again. Reel in between pumps. This technique helps prevent overworking of the reel and it cushions the line against shock. It also minimizes line tangle and twist caused by reeling in against the drag or reeling slack line. Most importantly it lets you concentrate on catching fish.

Setting the Drag (before you fish)
The drag system allows line to be pulled from the reel under tension without breaking when a fish strikes or makes a quick run after being hooked. It also helps prevent the fish from getting unhooked. The star drag adjustment is conveniently located on the inside of the reel handle. Turn the star clockwise to increase the drag tension on the line. Turn the star counterclockwise to relieve tension. Set the drag by pulling the line from the reel against a small fish hand scale. Adjust the drag to one-third to one-half the rated strength of the fishing line.
• When a fish runs, only light tension should be used.
• Too much tension may cause the line to break.

A Few Lines About Line
Apply tension to the line while retrieving. Always maintain tension on the line. Raise the rod to remove slack from the line. Let the line flow.

How to Tie the Line
To successfully set the hook and land a fish, it is important that the line is tied properly. The improved Cinch Knot shown below is an all-time favorite and widely used knot.

Check Line Condition
The last three feet or so of line should be checked frequently for cuts or abrasions which may substantially weaken the line and could result in a broken line and lost fish. Run the line through your fingers to check for this condition and cut off any bad line and retie to help prevent future line breakage.

Line life is dependent on many factors. Line should be replaced when it is old and is breaking easily, when it gets noticeably stiff or gives continuous trouble while casting. It is not a bad idea to change the line after a year or normal use.

Line Twist
Line twist is usually caused by improperly installed line or from reeling against a slipping drag. To correct “line twist” troll line behind a boat or play it out in a river current and rewind it under tension. Never reel in when you hear the drag slipping. Always use a high quality ball bearing swivel at the end of your line to prevent twist.

After repeated use or long periods of storage, line should be stretched to remove the curl that may be set in the line. Reel out approximately 50 feet of line. Attach the end of the line to a fixed object. Stretch the line taut 3 or 4 times by hand until curl is removed. To make sure your outfit stays running as smooth as the day you bought it – give it periodic attention.

Inside Tangle Tip
Should your line get tangled or caught inside your reel, it can be easily resolved by removing the side door and the metal spincast cover and cutting off the damaged line. Run line back through the reel case and out through the rod guides, reassemble and you are ready to fish.

Reloading Line
If loading or re-loading your old spool with new line, remember to loop the line around spool with a half hitch to prevent line slippage. Rewind line onto the spool under tension. Be sure the new line comes off of the factory spool in clockwise direction, and is wound onto your spool in a counterclockwise direction.

See illustration below - at far left.
Notes for Opening the Side Door for Cleaning or for Changing the Fishing Line

First turn crank handle one full revolution clockwise. Do not depress the thumb brake during reel removal. Push on the release button to open the side door. Grasp the crank handle and pull the reel out. Take off the hex nut, two washers and the metal spincast cover.

With the reel removed, you may replace your line spool with another spool (either pre-loaded or one you load yourself) containing the desired test line. Additional spools are available from Ronco.com.

When you start your new line, use a half hitch to keep the line in place without slipping.

NOTE: When replacing the spool, do not force it. If reel assembly does not fit back into housing, check to see that the thumb brake is not depressed.

You don’t need to remove the handle or the star drag to change the line or clean the reel case.

How to Change the Spool

Remove the side door by depressing the snap and pulling the door away from the reel housing. Remove the hex nut while firmly holding the spinnerhead. Lift off the spincast cover by pulling out on its side pin with small pliers. If you want to remove the spool, turn it (view from back to see the two pegs come free). Install new spool. Replace spincast cover, washers and hex nut. Bring line through the line guide in front and on to the rod tips. Replace side door. Add a good swivel to end of the line. Set drag to desired setting.

How to Install Line on the Reel

• Remove the snap-fit side door by depressing the snap and pulling the door away from the reel body.
• Thread the line through the first rod line guide, the second guide and then through the back of the rod.
• Remove the hex nut, washers and metal spincast cover. You will need a small nail or screwdriver to gently push the spring pin back through the window in the spincast cover. Set the spincast cover aside. Remove any old line from spool. Tie new line onto the spool.
• Replace spincast cover again push (or pull gently with small pliers) the small pin outward so the metal spincast cover will go on correctly. Replace the washers and hex nut.
• Prior to winding new line on, rotate the handle of the reel and determine which way the spinnerhead is rotating. Lay the spool of line on its side so the line comes off in the same direction the spinnerhead is turning.
• Replace side door while being careful not to pinch the line.
• Start winding the line under tension from your finger. The correct amount of line should fill the spool to within 1/8 inch from the top of the reel spool lip. Gently fill it to full and then pull about 10 yards back out and cut it off. The plastic spool should be about 1/8” from “full”.
• How to Change the Spool

Rubber Snubbers for Bigger Fish

For larger fish a long rod has one advantage over a short one – it bends to cushion the strike. That’s why we recommend using a rubber shock absorber and up to 20 lb. test line when you’re after these “big fish” with the Pocket Fisherman™. Attach the shock absorber to the line before the hook or lure. It helps set the hook and keep it there by elastic pressure.

These shock absorbers or “rubber snubbers” are available at many tackle shops.

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If you find an extra piece that looks like an arc (17), it belongs on the shaft below gear B (8) with the tab facing into the spincast bracket (10). It resides behind the back of the bracket (10) that holds the spool.
Two Frequently Used Fishing Knots

The Cinch Knot
The easiest and most often used general purpose knot for monofilament line. Use it for attaching hooks, lures, swivels, leaders, etc.

Step 1. Line is wound with 6 or 8 turns around itself and the end is brought through the “eye”.

Step 2. End is carried through the loop made by the line itself.

Step 3. Line is cinched down snugly. The harder anything pulls on the line, the tighter the knot cinches itself.

The Blood Knot
Used for joining lines or leaders of the same diameter. Excellent for tying monofilament to monofilament.

Line is first held in the left hand between thumb and index finger with 2 or 3 inches of line on either side.

Line is wound 5 or more turns around the other line (clockwise) then return back between the lines.

Grip the knot just made with the right hand and make the left knot go counterclockwise fashion like the right knot.

With both knots tied, grasp at both ends as pictured and pull. When finished, trim excess material.

A neat knot can go smoothly through the line guides.

Recommended Maintenance
Now and then, clean any accumulated gunk from visible reel parts with a small brush. Dry with a soft cloth and lubricate. When lubricating your reel, use a good grade of petroleum lubricant - reel grease is best. Don’t overdo it, but see that the gears are greased lightly, and finish the job with a few drops of light oil around the crank handle and retainer nut.

1. After a day’s fishing the reel should be rinsed inside and out with fresh water and dried. Then lightly oil and grease the easily accessible parts. This is more important if it has been used for saltwater fishing.

2. From time to time, remove the side door and lubricate the joint of the gears - but not too much lubricant to inhibit the gear motion.

3. If dropped in sand or dirt, clean the reel thoroughly before using or return a portion of it to Ronco Holdings, Inc. under the Warranty Program.

THE FAMOUS TEN YEAR
Free Replacement Warranty

Ronco Holdings, Inc. warrants the Pocket Fisherman® from defects for ten years. If the product is defective, please return the “Star Drag” with a check or money order for $8.90 to cover shipping and insurance charges. (This rate is subject to change without notice.)

In addition to your $8.90 payment and the “Star Drag” please include your full name, address, phone number, email address and mail to:

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