

Create a Handline Rig

Based on Instructables.com <http://www.instructables.com/id/Hand-Line-Fishing-Rig/>

Requirements

- Small recyclable water bottle.
- 50' fishing line, 6-8 lb line.
- Weight.
- Hook.
- Wine bottle corks.

While [handline rigs are often used in deep water](#), here is an adaptation that can work in rivers and lakes. Making the rig will take about 10-20 minutes. Learning to cast with it may take longer.

1. Tie your hook and weight to your line. The distance between the hook and weight should be less than 4 feet. Because the hook and weight will be swung, if you have a short Cub Scout, you will want that distance to be shorter, like 2 feet.
2. If you need a bobber, use a cork (or corks, grouped with rubber bands or something more permanent) and attach it further up the line.
3. Tie the other end of the fishing line to the middle of the bottle. If your bottle has grooved sides, you can lay your knot in a groove to stop it sliding.
4. Holding the bottle's neck, wrap the remainder of the line around the "bottom" end of the bottle. When you hold the bottle from the neck end, you should not be able to touch the line.
5. Hold the bottle neck with one hand and hold the line, above the weight or bobber (depending on length) in the other. Leave a bit of slack between the bottle and your other hand holding the line.
6. Point the bottle end in the direction you are going to cast. If it is pointed across the body, the cast will stop after the line unspools one turn around the bottle.
7. Swing the line hanging at your side, with weight and hook in a circle, swinging forward first (clockwise), a few times. If you swing the line backwards, your Cubs are likely to cast straight into the ground.
8. Once the line is going smoothly in a circle, release the line as it comes forward its circle. If you were looking at a clock, releasing it between 6pm and 9pm is best.
9. The line should unspool from the bottle and hook, weight, and bobber hurtle through the air.

Tips:

- Grooved bottles can make knotting and wrapping the line a bit easier.
- You can create two or three handline rigs from a single roll of 110 yd line available at a sporting goods department.
- Possible knot tying opportunities: slip knot (bottle), bowline (hook, weight)
- If your Cubs are wearing shirts with cuff buttons, they may need to roll up their casting sleeves to avoid getting the line snagged, causing the hook and line to arc over their heads.
- When practicing for the Fishing badge, consider placing a cork over the hook to ensure no accidental catches.
- Casting can be done in a gym or outdoors, without water. The hook may go as far as 30 feet when thrown by a leader or a Cub.
- 20 Cubs were able to practice throwing (mostly successfully) in about 35 minutes with a rig prepared in advance.