

Angling - Float Fishing

The Float

A float is used by the angler as a bite indicator; it also acts as a weight for casting out. There are many different types of floats available. We are going to look at three basic types. They are the waggler float, stick float and pole float. Floats are fragile and are easily damaged. They are best stored in a float tube, and placed in your tackle box. The cost of a float varies, from between fifty pence up to three pounds, depending upon the style and size of the float.

The Waggler Float

A waggler float is perhaps the most versatile of all floats. There are two basic shapes, either “straight” or “bodied”. They are usually made from plastic, with the “bodied” waggler having an additional bulbous body at the base of the float. This aids its stability in windy conditions and it can usually be cast further due to its extra weight.

The waggler is attached to the line through the bottom eye only and is locked in place by using split shot. Up to 80% of the shot required to lock the float is placed near the float, with the rest placed down the line to the hook depending on the conditions in which you are fishing.



The Stick Float

The stick float is used on flowing waters for trotting. As with other types of float there are many different patterns and sizes to choose from. Other types of floats suitable for trotting are the “Avon” and “Balsa” floats. These floats are generally made from balsa wood or plastic. They are attached to the line using float rubbers. The shot is usually spaced equally down the line in a shirt-button style, although this can be changed depending upon the conditions in which you are fishing.



The Pole Float

Pole floats are designed to be very light and sensitive. They are recognisable by their small body, slender stem and stream-lined design. They have an advantage over other floats in the fact that they are very sensitive to a fish bite; any activity on the bait would be recognised. They are only suitable for pole or whip fishing.

