

Weights and Hooks

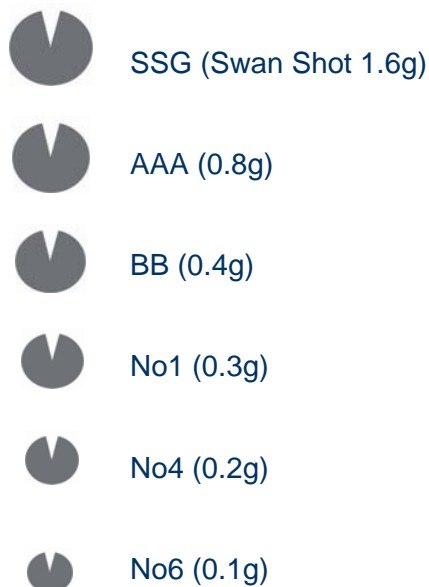
Weights

Weights for angling are used for two main purposes:

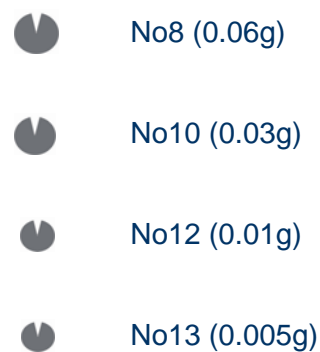
1. To make a float sit properly in the water
2. To hold a bait on the bottom when ledgering

Weights used to make a float sit properly in the water are called split shot. Split shot were once all made from lead. Due to problems with the harm caused to wildlife, and in particular swans, the use of lead is now limited by law to the smaller sizes of shot. All shot that is larger than a number eight must now be made from non-toxic materials.

Non toxic shot sizes:



Lead shot sizes:



(Not to scale)

Any weights that are used to hold bait on the bottom are called legers. There are many different shapes and sizes of leger available; the most common is the Arsley bomb shape.

As with split shot there are rules to follow and any leger that weighs less than one ounce (28g) has to be made from non-toxic materials.



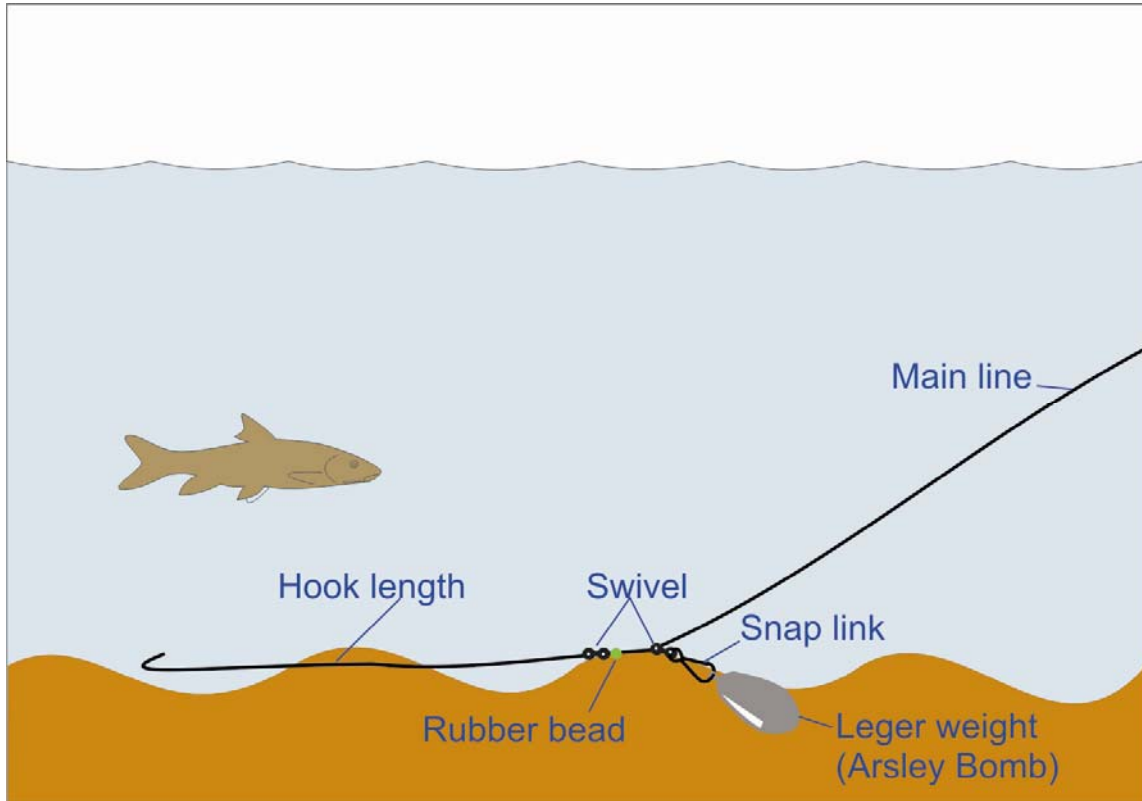
Arsley Bomb



Non toxic leger

Weights and Hooks

A simple method of attaching a leger is called the running leger as shown in the diagram below:



In high water or stronger currents it may be necessary to use a heavier weight.

Hooks

There is a vast array of hooks to choose from and for the novice angler this could be confusing. However, if you follow these simple rules it will make selecting hooks easier.

Consider the following:

- Does the hook suit the size of line?
- What size of fish are you expecting to catch?
- What bait are you going to use?

There are two types of hook; spade end and eyed and these may be barbed or barbless.

Spade end Eyed end



Barbed

Spade end Eyed end



Barbless

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Spade end hooks are whipped onto the line by hand or with a hook tyer.

Eyed hooks are connected to the line by passing the hook through the eye and tying a knot in the line (see line and knots). Ready tied hook to nylon hook lengths are also available for your convenience.

More and more anglers are using barbless hooks and many clubs and commercial fisheries do not allow barbed hooks to be used, as barbless are kinder to the fish.

