

Bodied Wagglers

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Bodied Wagglers come in all shapes and sizes and like every other waggler they are always attached bottom end only. The only reason for adding a body to a straight waggler is to increase the amount of shot it will carry. These bodies are normally made from light grade Balsa and positioned at the very bottom end of the float for a number of simple mechanical reasons.

Firstly, you want to keep that buoyant body well away from the fluorescent tip, otherwise it will be constantly fighting to stay at the surface. This surface buoyancy is exactly what you want on an Avon or Loafer for trotting streamy rivers, but it's exactly what you don't want on lakes and gravel pits. On these stillwaters you need to keep all that extra buoyancy at the bottom end of the float and then you get bigger, slower, more sensitive bite registration at the tip.

Bigger, slower bites are much easier to read and hit.

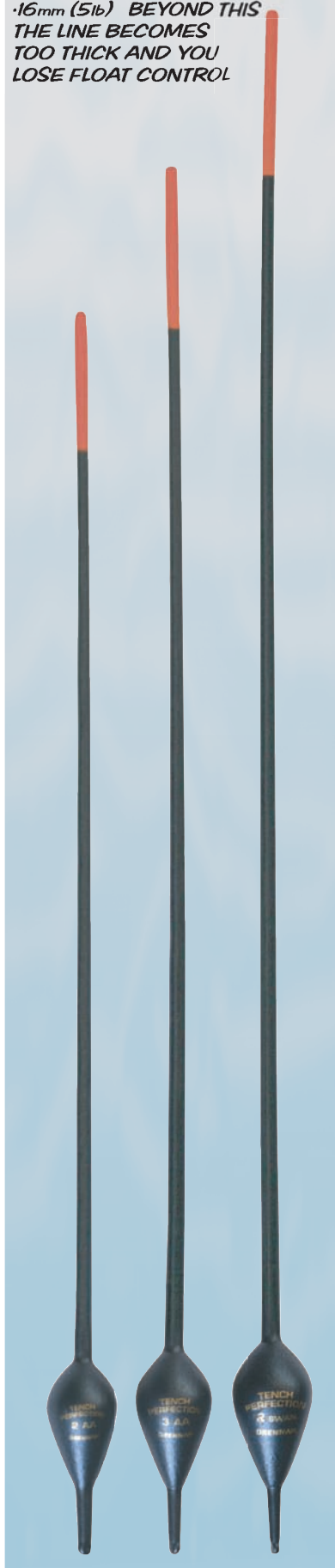
Another major reason to have the body situated at the base of the float is to sink its bulk well below any surface drift or skim. This helps to keep

the float stable in a cross wind and makes it more inclined to hold its position and not get dragged sideways across your swim. Any sideways movement will ruin presentation and will inevitably drag the bait straight into the nearest bit of weed or debris on the bottom. Sinking all the line between float and rod tip is essential as is tight efficient line management during casting.

The monofilament must come from the float all the way back to the rod top in a dead straight line as any sort of downwind belly left in the line will really pull your float out of position. The bulbous body right at the base of the float even helps you to do this. It's a subtle advantage, but on casting you will find you can straighten the line quicker, and after burying the rod top under water you



TENCH PERFECTION ARE AVAILABLE IN THREE SIZES 2AA, 3AA AND 2SSG AND ARE NORMALLY FISHED ON LINES FROM .12mm (2 1/2lb) UP TO .16mm (5lb) BEYOND THIS THE LINE BECOMES TOO THICK AND YOU LOSE FLOAT CONTROL



can pull the line under the surface that little bit easier with a bodied waggler than you can with a plain, straight model.

I cannot emphasise this enough : the most important aspect of float control on lakes and gravel pits is to sink the line between waggler and rod tip quickly and efficiently. Perhaps the best example I can give of how quick you need to be is to say that when fishing in six or seven feet of water I would expect to have all my line sunk before the terminal tackle had reached the bottom. To achieve this you must firstly have plenty enough weight in the float and shot to do the job.

It's no good thrashing about with a nice delicate little two BB set up in any sort of cross wind. This sort of ultra light rig will be blown about all over the shop and you will end up with a big curved belly of line between the rod top and the float when you cast. What you need is a decent sized Waggler that carries enough shot to allow you to power cast right to the spot, keeping the line arrow straight. With a heavier rig you will also be able to cast beyond the baited area and by immediately burying the rod top and winding back a few quick turns, sink the line rapidly.

Of course the length of any waggler is critical and in simple terms, the longer they are, the better they beat cross drift and the less likely they are to be pulled out of position. For example, it can be almost impossible to keep a 6" (15cm) long waggler stationary and stop it drifting across your swim, whereas a 10" (25cm) waggler which carries exactly the same amount of shot will often do the job beautifully, stay absolutely dead still and



The tench really wake up and begin to feed in earnest when the bluebells are out in April.

To cope with the variable early season weather conditions of strong winds and showers you often need a bodied waggler with a long peacock antenna like the tench perfection.

These are extremely versatile stillwater floats which can be fished trapped shot style to obtain a light fluid terminal rig or in deeper water fished with bulk shot down. The fine peacock tip is sensitive enough to provide excellent bite indication but buoyant enough to allow you to use small anchor shots like an N°1 or N°4.

provide perfect bait presentation. So unless you are fishing very clear and/or very shallow waters where you might need the float to be discrete, always choose really long wagglers because they behave much better.

Tench Perfection are up to nearly a foot long (30cms) so they don't move about very much at all. They have a small, neat body right at the base and a beautiful long, fine Peacock antenna made from the thinner eye end of the quill, so they have a nice fast taper towards the fluorescent tip. These peacock tips are so fine you can afford to leave as much as 25cm to 30cm showing above the sur-

face, giving you much better visual indication of how bites are developing. With any fine tipped waggler it's not just the extra sensitivity that's important, it's this advantage of being able to leave a bit of extra float tip showing so you can read exactly what is going on. This is particularly important with species like Tench and Crucians which fiddle about with the bait and give you a lot of preliminary indications prior to a proper bite. With a little bit of practice you can get really good at reading bites and knowing just when to strike and equally important, when not to. Provided I've got a good length of fine low diameter fluorescent tip showing above the surface I can generally pick out line bites from Tench as the float tip does a distinctive little curtsey to one side and you can sort of tell it's their big, paddle-like fins wafting against the line rather than a proper, hittable bite. Even though these floats have ultra fine tips they are

buoyant enough to allow you to use a small anchor shot, perhaps a No. 1 or No. 4.

Anchor shots are used for a number of reasons :

- 1) If, even with good line management and a long waggler, you are still getting some sideways float movement due to the strength of wind or depth of surface drift.
- 2) If you want to lay some line on the bottom because the fish are taking the bait better when it's fished in this manner.
- 3) If you are fishing a small semi buoyant bait like watered maggot or popping something like sweetcorn back up off the bottom.
- 4) If the lake bed is so carpeted with weed and debris that you cannot risk any movement whatsoever once the tackle has settled.

One simple anti-tangle rule : don't have the anchor shot bigger than the shot above. So if your terminal rig finishes in a No. 4 you are better

off using a No. 4 anchor shot or less. If you try using a No. 1 you are more likely to get tangles due to uneven weight distribution on the line.

