

# Straight Peacock Wagglers

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In order to support and display such a large and colourful set of tail feathers, the Peacock has evolved wonderful long straight quills of amazing lightness and strength.

When stripped of feather, the plain white quill is an excellent float making material which is not only incredibly light and buoyant, but which flies beau-

tifully through the air on the cast.

Straight Peacock Wagglers are plain sections of straight quill without any sort of fine tip or insert, simply a painted top on the full diameter of the quill. They are always attached bottom end only, either threaded directly on the line through the bottom eye or more com-

monly, the English style involves a float attachment.

These attachments help the float to completely fold over on the strike and they also allow quick changes of float size to be made. The two most popular types of float attachment are Silicone and Swivel.



A typical English landscape of flat meadows and a smooth slow moving river. Exactly the conditions where dragging slow with long peacock wagglers allows you to perfectly present a slow moving bait at distance.

## So versatile

Straight Peacock Wagglers are very versatile floats which can be used on all sorts of still waters, lakes, ponds and gravel pits, but one of the most effective fish catching methods using these simple but excellent floats is dragging shot on slow moving rivers or canals.

In England, this method is used at distances from about 8 metres up to as much as 40 metres out from the bank and employs a range of float sizes from 15cm quills carrying 1½ AA shot, approximately 1.2 grams, up to 30cm quills carrying 2 Swan shot approximately 4 grams. The method can be used in varying depths of water from 1.5metres to around 4 metres and can be worked down through the swim as far as 25 or 30 metres.

The popular shotting method is to trap the float or float attachment between two large shots. These generally amount to about 85% to 90%

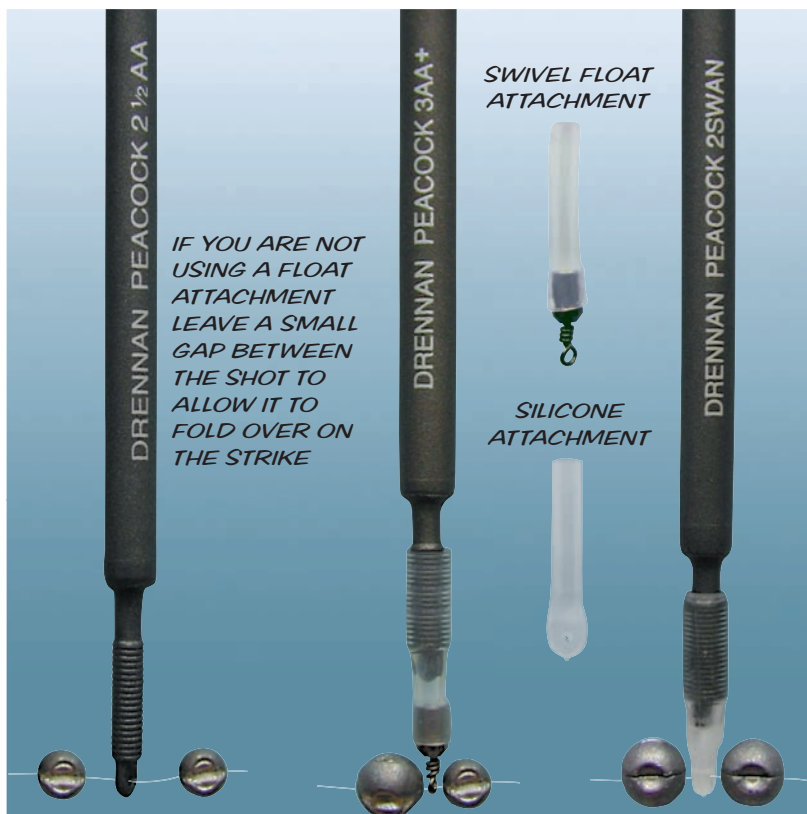
of the total shot-carrying capacity of the float. This arrangement makes distance casting very smooth and easy and largely tangle free.

With the addition of something very small like a No 8 or No 10 dragging the bottom, the remaining shot provides a light, fluid terminal rig.

This system not only slows the bait down to match the behaviour of small particles of food on the bottom, but also helps to beat difficult downstream winds. Such winds tend to push both the surface layer of water and your float along faster than the bottom current and ruin your bait presentation. The golden rule on all flowing water is that you can present a bait slower than the natural bottom current but never faster !

To slow the bait down even more, you can of course add extra drag shot, such as another No 8 or No 10. Alternatively you can simply increase the depth by say

**STRAIGHT PEACOCK WAGGLERS**  
FROM 15cm TO 30cm  
ARE IDEAL FOR FISHING  
OVERDEPTH AND  
DRAGGING SMALL  
SHOT



another 20cm or 30cm and lay a little more line along the bottom.

The extra drag obtained will slow everything down even more, but can leave you with too little residual buoyancy in the peacock tip. The float then drags under too easily and it becomes difficult to work the bait through the swim correctly or to read the difference between dragging under and a proper bite. If this happens you just have to marginally reduce the amount of shot immediately around the float and leave a bit more peacock showing above the surface. The extra buoyancy in the tip now prevents the float from sinking

so easily and pulls a little bit harder on the drag shot.

In each case the distance you are fishing over depth and the amount of shot being dragged have to be balanced up with the amount of the thick buoyant peacock float tip left showing above the surface. When everything is behaving perfectly, the drag shot will occasionally stop and hold up on the bottom, causing the float tip to pull down and almost sink. At this point, the residual buoyancy of the Peacock will start the drag shot moving again and progressing on down the swim.

It may sound like a peculiar method that is difficult to

*BEING FLEXIBLE, FLOAT ATTACHMENTS ALLOW COMPLETE FOLD ON THE STRIKE HELPING TO REDUCE DRAG AND SPLASH*



perfect but I promise it's only difficult to describe in print. In practice it's a very easy, forgiving system that really catches fish.

