

Bass Fishing 101

The tackle, techniques, and timing that put bass in your hands

Bass are the most targeted freshwater fish in North America. They're structure-oriented, temperature-sensitive, and more pattern-dependent than most anglers realize. This guide gives you the three techniques that account for most bass catches.

Essential tackle setup

- Spinning gear: 7-foot medium rod, 2500-size reel, 10-14lb fluorocarbon — covers finesse work.
- Baitcasting gear: 7-foot medium-heavy rod, low-profile reel (6:1+ gear ratio), 15-20lb fluorocarbon — for power fishing.
- Start with five lures: plastic worm (Texas-rigged), crankbait, spinnerbait, topwater frog, jig.

Reading the water

- Bass follow a seasonal pattern: shallow in spring (spawn), deep in summer heat, back to transition zones in fall.
- Structure is everything: dock pilings, fallen timber, weed edges, points, and drop-offs hold fish.
- Clearer water = more natural colors (green pumpkin, watermelon); stained water = brighter (chartreuse, white).

The three techniques to master first

- Texas-rig: thread a plastic worm on a hook and add a bullet weight. Cast near cover, drag slowly across bottom.
- Topwater (4AM-9AM): walk a Zara Spook or frog across the surface near lily pads. The strike is visual and violent.
- Crankbait: reel at medium speed and let it dive to its running depth. Good for covering water fast.

Insider glossary

Finesse — Light line, small lures, subtle presentations — for pressured or cold-water bass.

Power fishing — Fast-moving lures (spinnerbaits, crankbaits) to cover water and trigger reaction strikes.

Presentation — How you fish a lure — speed, action, depth. Same lure, different

presentations = different results.

The Rodfather — The angler in your group with all the rods, all the tackle, and all the opinions.

Starter checklist

- 7ft medium spinning rod + 2500 reel
- Fluorocarbon line (10-14lb)
- Plastic worms (green pumpkin, watermelon)
- Texas-rig hooks (3/0 EWG) + bullet weights
- One crankbait
- One topwater
- Polarized sunglasses (see fish in the water)

The Rodfather — bass fishing tee at [15d0.com/shop/bassfishing/](https://www.15d0.com/shop/bassfishing/)