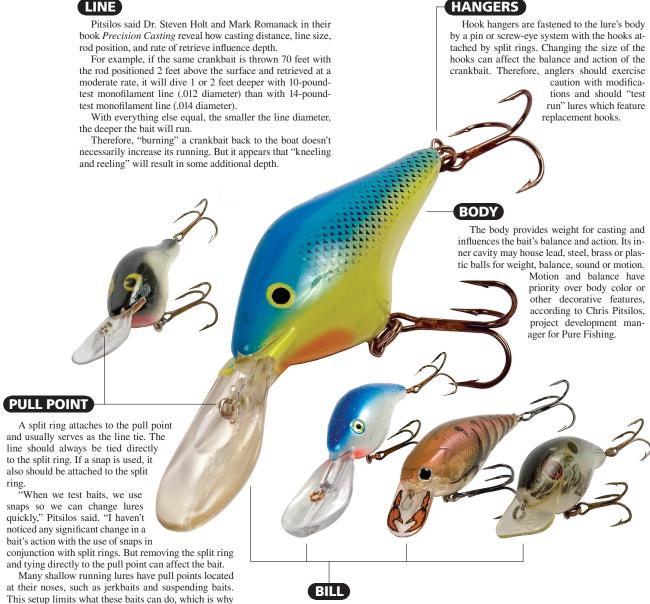
BT Quick Tip Crankbait Anatomy EXPERT: CHRIS PITSILOS



Most crankbait lips are made of plastic and they determine a lure's movement and running depth. Shallow runners, like the Bomber Balsa Model B, utilize wide-angle lips and produce wide wobbles, though some are configured to act otherwise. Deep runners feature narrow-angle lips, such as Xcalibur's Fat Free Shad and Berkley's Frenzy medium diver and tighter wobbles. Mann's Bait Co. even employs curved, paddle-shaped bills for its deep divers.

Square bills, also called coffin lips, associated with wooden baits deflect better off of objects because of the buoyancy of wood.

Thin plastic bills slice through the water more efficiently.

"Angler-shaved" plastic bills act similarly but risk affecting the balance and action of the baits.

The more the lip extends past the pull point (line tie eye), the deeper the crankbait will run because of additional leverage. The Luhr Jensen Hot Lips Express and Norman DD 22 are two examples.

Deep diving bills are often countersunk at the front. Pitsilos said the recessed cavities provide convenient places for pull points and split rings. They also create more surface area to catch water, thus providing energy to make the baits achieve their running depths.

the bait.

The pull point is a critical crankbait component. It influences depth, balance and motion. Despite modern technology, Pitsilos said its placement is based upon

the plastic lip with a rise or loop in the wire for the line tie. Some wire arrangements continue into the face of

some pros recommend loop knot connections with a

the lip via screw-eye or pin systems.

fect the balance and motion of the bait."

The pull points of diving plastic baits are fastened to

"Our baits use the pin system," Pitsilos said. "It's

Wooden baits, like those from Poe's and Bagley, employ wire frame systems. A wire strip is molded into

more stable than a screw-eye which can loosen and af-

jerkbait.

Not all factory baits run true out of the box. If a lure runs too much to the right or left, slight pressure should be applied to the pull point in the opposite direction the errant bait is running.

If the pull point becomes loose, the bait will not run true. The pull point must be set fast again with glue so pressure can be applied to fine-tune the bait.