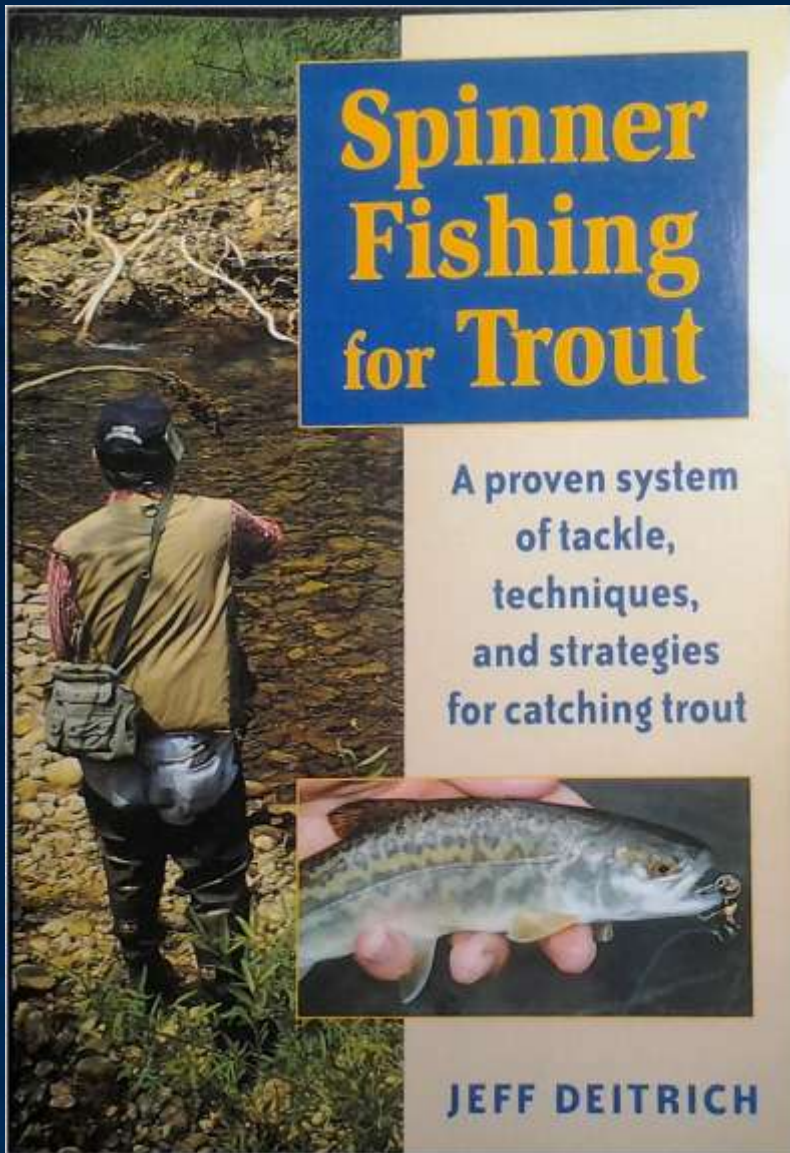




**Spinning for Trout**



## Spinner Fishing for Trout

Jeff Deitrich

Stackpole Books

© 2003



# Why spin?

Catch trout consistently  
*throughout the open season*

Gear can be relatively inexpensive  
*spend more if you want*

Easy to learn

Have the stream to yourself

Fish in tight and brushy places

*under bridges and culverts*

*easy to pack into the backcountry*



# Backcountry and brushy streams



5 – 20 ft wide  
Overgrowth  
Deadfalls









# Gear for small streams

4-1/2 foot ultralight rod

4 pound quality monofilament

Ultralight reel holding at least 100'

1/8 ounce spinners (#8 or #10 hooks)

*Catch big fish with small gear!*





# Spinning rods



Ultralight

*4' 6" one piece*

*2 – 6 # test*

*1/32 – 3/16 oz lure weight*

Expect to spend \$20 – 30

*Cabela's*

*Ugly Stik*

*Diawa Spinmatic C*

Pack rods

*More \$\$ not always better*



# Spinning reels



Ultralight

*2 – 6 # test*

*100 yd capacity*

*Instant anti-reverse*

*Drag smooth even when wet*



Expect to spend \$20 – 40

*Lots of brands*

*More \$\$ definitely not  
always better*

# Monofilament



4# test a good compromise  
*lighter line more sensitive*  
*lighter line casts further*  
*line twist subtracts from strength*

Many brands



# Spinners

1/8 oz, #8 or #10 hook

Undressed (no hair)

Should spin

1X hooks preferred



Experiment a little to find a design that works for you

Pick a color and brand and stick with it

*Mepps #1, Blue Fox #1, Panther-Martin #4,*

*Rooster Tail 1/8*





# Make your own spinners



Save money (\$1 vs. \$3.50) - allows bolder casts  
Customize



# Trout fishing tactics

Get up early

*streamside at sunrise*

Keep moving upstream

*typically 1/3 to 1 mile in a morning  
mostly in the water, wading*

Cast upstream

*get the lure spinning on retrieve  
steady retrieve right to your feet*



# Trout fishing tactics



Short firm tug to set the hook

Relieve line twist

*once or twice per trip*

*cut lure off the line*

*play line out downstream*

*let it untwist in current*

*reel it back in*

# Trout fishing tactics



Snug the lure against top guide for travel through brush



# Catch and release mortality



Best studies show no difference:

*Flies and spinners*

*Single and treble hooks*

*Barbed and barbless*



Robert B. DuBois & Richard R. Dubielzig (2004):  
Effect of Hook Type on Mortality, Trauma, and  
Capture Efficiency of Wild Stream Trout Caught by  
Angling with Spinners

North American Journal of Fisheries Management,  
24:2, 609-616

# Spinners for “prospecting”





# Other recommended reading



## Spring Creek Treasure: Wisconsin's 100 Best Trout Streams

Jay Ford Thurston

Nightengale Press ©2010

## Spin Casting Brilliantly

Michael Rutter and J. Alan  
Baumgarten

Mountain Press ©2000



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