



ALF Podcast – Bass Tackle Guide

Rod, Reel, Line And Leader

Choosing A Bass Fishing Rod & Reel Combo

Pound for pound, Australian Bass are one of the toughest fighting fish you'll find anywhere. Add to that the incredibly diverse range of habitats and structures that bass can live in and the massive range of lures they'll take and you'll find choosing a rod and reel combo for bass fishing can be something of a challenge.

At one extreme you might want to cast small, unweighted soft plastics or topwater hardbodies. At the other end you'll need to use spoons, jigs, spinnerbaits, chatterbaits or other relatively heavy lures. And then there's everything in between. Plus, shallow water, deep water, snags, weed and fish size all play a part in choosing tackle, too.

As a result of all of this, there's no "all-round" bass setup. So if you're on a budget, start by choosing gear that will cover the lures and habitats you plan to fish most often, then add a few more rods and reels at a later date to cover all situations!

Spin Tackle

Spin gear is great for throwing lighter lures that can be difficult to cast on baitcast gear – especially if there is a bit of breeze to punch into. It's perfect for throwing small soft plastics, light topwater lures, small crankbaits and so on.

Fairly light tackle can be used when bass are in relatively open water and the angler has the luxury of not having to muscle them out of structure. For this style of fishing most ALF guests are using 1-3 or 2-4 kg line class rods of around 7' in length, coupled with 2000 to 2500 size reels, 8-10lb braided line and 8-12 lb leaders.

The ante may need to be upped a little if you're fishing dense weed beds, rocky or woody structures and need more stopping power – or if you're casting heavier lures in deeper or faster water. Going to a 3-5 kg rod of around 7' will help, once again with a 2000-2500 size reel but this time loaded with 12-16lb braid and tipped with a 12-20lb leader.

For really gnarly stuff or for casting heavier lures such as spoons and chatterbaits, most anglers seem to switch to baitcast gear. However, those that prefer spin gear seem to opt for a 3-5 kg or even 4-6 kg line class rod with a 2500 or 3000 size reel, 15-20lb braid and 15-20lb leader.

Baitcast Tackle

Baitcast tackle has plenty of advantages, particularly when casting heavy lures or fighting bigger fish. A lot of ALF guests switch to baitcast gear for working chatterbaits, spinnerbaits, jigs, jerkbaits, crankbaits or blades.

For most bass fishing a 3-6kg or 4-8kg, 6'6" to 7" long, fast action baitcast rod with a 150 to 200 size baitcast reel and 12-16lb braid and 12-16lb leader will cover most circumstances.

For applications where bigger, heavier lures are required to handle deep water or strong currents, a 5-8kg baitcast rod with 15-20lb braided mainline and 20lb fluorocarbon leader is often not excessive and it can be surprising how bass can often brick an angler even on this level of tackle.



Australian Bass Tackle Guide

Lures

The following summarises information shared by ALF guests regarding their lure preferences for Australian bass fishing. Please keep in mind, that many guests modify these lures by upgrading the terminal tackle, changing the weighting, adding stinger hooks and so on. It is advisable to [listen to podcast audio and refer to show notes](#) for the locations you'll be fishing for more detailed information on how to use these lures in specific locations and conditions.



Australian Bass Tackle Guide

Australian Bass Lure Styles Most Frequently Recommended By ALF Podcast Guests

Lure	Size	Lakes & Impoundments					Estuaries, Rivers & Creeks			
		Lake Shallows	Open Water Fishing	Weedbeds	Flats	Rock And Timber	Small Creeks	Shallow Rivers	Deep Rivers & Gorges	Estuary/Brackish
Hard Bodies										
Suspending	75-100mm	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Shallow Running	75-100 mm	✓		✓			✓	✓		
Medium Diving	40-75 mm	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Deep Running	40-75 mm	✓		✓	✓					
Sinking	75-100mm	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hard Vibe	50-75 mm			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Soft Plastics										
Paddle Tail	50-75 mm	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Soft Prawns	50-75 mm						✓	✓	✓	✓
Curly Tail Grub	50-100 mm	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		
	100-120 mm						✓	✓		
Soft Frogs	50-75 mm						✓	✓		
	75-100 mm							✓		



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Swimbaits										
Multi-joint hard bodies	75-100 mm						✓	✓	✓	
Topwater										
Floating Stickbait	50-75mm	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
	75-100 mm	✓		✓				✓		
	100-125 mm							✓		
Walker/Popper	50-75 mm	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓
	75-100 mm							✓	✓	✓
Cicada		✓				✓	✓		✓	



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Jigs										
Football Jig			✓		✓	✓			✓	✓
Flipping Jig		✓			✓		✓	✓		
Vibration Jig			✓		✓				✓	
Other Styles										
Buzzbaits							✓	✓		
Soft Plastic Spinner Arms	50-100mm						✓	✓		
Blades	35-42mm		✓		✓					
Ice Jig			✓		✓					
Spoons			✓		✓					
Spinnerbaits		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chatterbait						✓	✓	✓	✓	
Inline Spinner							✓	✓		



Australian Bass Tackle Guide

Australian Bass Lure Makes and Models Used By Australian Lure Fishing Podcast Guests

Soft Plastic Paddletails	- Daiwa Bait Junkies Minnow	- Keitech Swing Impact Fat & Easy Shiner
	- Squidgies Fish	- Fish Arrow Flash J Shad
	- Charlie Brewer Slider Grub	- Ecogear Power Shad
	- Damiki Armour Shad	- Storm Biscay Shad
	- Megabite shad	- Noike Wobble Shad
	- Hurricane Sprat	
Soft Plastic Prawns	- MMD Soft Prawn	- Berkley Gulp Shrimp
Soft Plastic Curly Tails	- ZMan Grubs	- Squidgies Wrigglers
	- Berkley Gulp Minnow Grub	
Soft Plastic Creature/Craw	- Strike Tiger Nymph	- ZMan Finesse Frog & Hard Leg Frog
	- Imakatsu Finesse Frog	- Valley Hill Ebishad
	- Molix Glidebait	
Hard Bodies – suspending	- Daiwa Double Clutch	- Jackall Squirrel
	- Rapala XRap	- Pontoon Greedy Guts
	- Jackall Chubby	- Hurricane Twitch
Hardbodies – shallow	- Atomic Hardz	- Rapala Husky Jerk
	- Rebel Teeny Wee Frog	- Rapala Shadow Rap
Hardbodies - medium	- Atomic Hardz	-
Hardbodies - deep	- Rapala Shad Rap Jack Deep & DT20	- Grumpy Deep Diver
	- Lawson Lures Little River King	
Hardbodies - sinking	- Hurricane Twitch	-
Hardbodies - vibes	- Jackall TN50, TN60	- Valley Hill LV150/200
Spoons	- Palms Slow Blatt Cast, Slow Blatt Wide, Slow Blatt Swim	- Gangbanger G2
	- Daiwa Hooking Noisy Rattle	- Norries Wasabi Spoon



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Topwater	- Rapala Skitterpop	- Jointed Jitterbug
	- Bassday Sugarpen	- Tiemco Soft Shell Cicada
	- Luckycraft Sammy	- Norries Zag Bug
	- Jackall Bonnie Dogwalker and Micro	- OSP Bent Minnow
	- Pompadour	- Kokoda Bugga Chug
	- Whacked Buzzbait	- Gancraft Floating Claw
	- Pontoon Loco Perrito	- D-Style Reserve Cicada
	- Hurricane Switch	- Zippin Ziggy
- Heddon Torpedo	- Jollip Silly Fizzer	
Soft Plastic Spinner Arms	- Beetlespin	- Betts Spinner
Blades	- Untapped Ultravibe	- Ecogear ZX40
	- Mini Candy	- Rapala RapV
	- Evergreen Little Max	
Other	- SMAK Ice Jig And SMAK Spinnerbait	- Damiki Touch Jig & Ice Jig
	- Sharp Point Jig	- Bassman Spinnerbait and Football Jig
	- Hotbite Spectre Vibration Jig	- Imakatsu Alive Chatter
	- Pro's Factory Jigs	- Norries Hula Chat
	- Celta Inline Spinner	- Storm Gomoku Koika & Slow Rocker
	- Molix Skirted Jigs	