



**SOFT  
PLASTICS**

**101**

**AN IN-DEPTH GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING  
SOFT PLASTICS AND JIGHEADS**



**SOFT  
PLASTICS**

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SOFT PLASTICS AND JIGHEADS**



# SOFT PLASTICS 101

<b>CHAPTER 1: WHY SOFT PLASTICS?</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>CHAPTER 2: JIGHEAD ANATOMY</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Standard Jighead Features .....	5
Light and Heavy Wire Hooks .....	6
Hidden Weight System (HWS) Jigheads .....	6
Weedless Jighead Features and Styles.....	7
<b>CHAPTER 3: SOFT PLASTIC ANATOMY</b> .....	<b>8</b>
Soft Plastics: The Basics.....	8
Tails, Appendages and Features .....	10
<b>CHAPTER 4: SOFT PLASTIC COLOUR SELECTION</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>CHAPTER 5: USING SCENT</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>CHAPTER 6: RIGGING STANDARD JIGHEADS</b> .....	<b>13</b>
Jighead Weight.....	13
Hook Size .....	13
How to Rig a Standard Jighead .....	14
Hook Size Guide for ZMan Soft Plastics and Standard Jigheads.....	15
<b>CHAPTER 7: RIGGING WEEDLESS JIGHEADS</b> .....	<b>16</b>
Weedless Jighead Styles .....	16
How to Rig a Weedless Jighead .....	17
Hook Size Guide for ZMan Soft Plastics and Weedless Jigheads .....	15
<b>TT JIGHEAD RANGE</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>ZMAN SOFT PLASTIC RANGE</b> .....	<b>19</b>



# SOFT PLASTICS 101

## CHAPTER 1

### WHY SOFT PLASTICS?



Soft plastic lures have their birth date listed at around 1949, becoming more popular in the late 1950's and early 1960's as word spread of anglers successes fishing these artificial baits.

Many early soft plastics were in the form of moulded plastic worms that were stiff and had little action. Fast forward to 1972 and the birth of the curly tail profile that is still popular today. From this point soft plastics have continued to evolve in terms of materials, styles, colours and features, resulting in arguably the most advanced soft plastic lures to date, ZMan's ElaZtech plastics, with their 10X Tough, super-soft and flexible realistic feel and natural buoyancy that sees them come to life in the water, with a natural 'tail up' feeding pose or 'claws up' defensive pose when at rest on the bottom.

### SO WHY ARE SOFT PLASTIC LURES SO POPULAR?

#### RANGE

The ability to mould plastic into an almost infinite number of shapes and sizes has seen tackle shop walls explode with soft plastics, from the traditional curl tails and paddle tails, to frogs, crustaceans, creature baits and more. This has allowed anglers to more closely match what the fish are feeding on (match the hatch) or offer the fish a profile and action unseen in their natural environment, in turn attracting their attention and triggering a response. Along with this range of shapes there has also been an explosion of colours, allowing anglers to better match the prey the fish are feeding on or select a colour that better stands out in the environment they are fishing. The addition of glitters and flecks, scent, UV reactive materials and more have then taken this to another level and we will explore colour, UV, scent and much more in future chapters.

#### VERSATILITY

Unlike a lure that has a set diving depth, or is designed specifically to sink or float, a soft plastic can be rigged in a myriad of different ways to fish the entire water column, from the surface to deep water offshore. The same plastic can be rigged unweighted and fished high in the water column, or the weight can be increased to fish deeper and this is commonly achieved based on jighead selection. The jighead is the hook and weight that the plastic is threaded onto and in future chapters we will look at soft plastic rigging and the array of specialist jigheads that are available to suit specific techniques, environments and applications.

#### AFFORDABILITY

The ability to mass produce soft plastics has made them extremely affordable for anglers, with packs containing multiple lures and the ability to rig the same soft plastic to suit multiple species and applications means one lure effectively replaces multiple other lure types. ZMan's 10X Tough ElaZtech material is extremely flexible and durable, with anglers reporting over 50 fish landed on a single soft plastic, making soft plastics excellent value for money.

#### SMELL / MESS / AVAILABILITY

Other benefits associated with soft plastics include reduced mess and smell when compared to bait, and they also won't go off like bait, although it's a good idea to avoid extreme heat and not mix different brands of plastics together as they may react. There are also times when bait is hard to find, whereas plastics can always be at the ready in your vehicle, boat, backpack, etc.

#### EFFECTIVENESS

Most importantly all of these things combine to make soft plastic lures super-effective and that's the key for anglers. They look real, feel real, can be scented to smell real, can be rigged to suit virtually any species or situation and fish love to eat them.

### NEXT UP IN CHAPTER 2: JIGHEAD ANATOMY





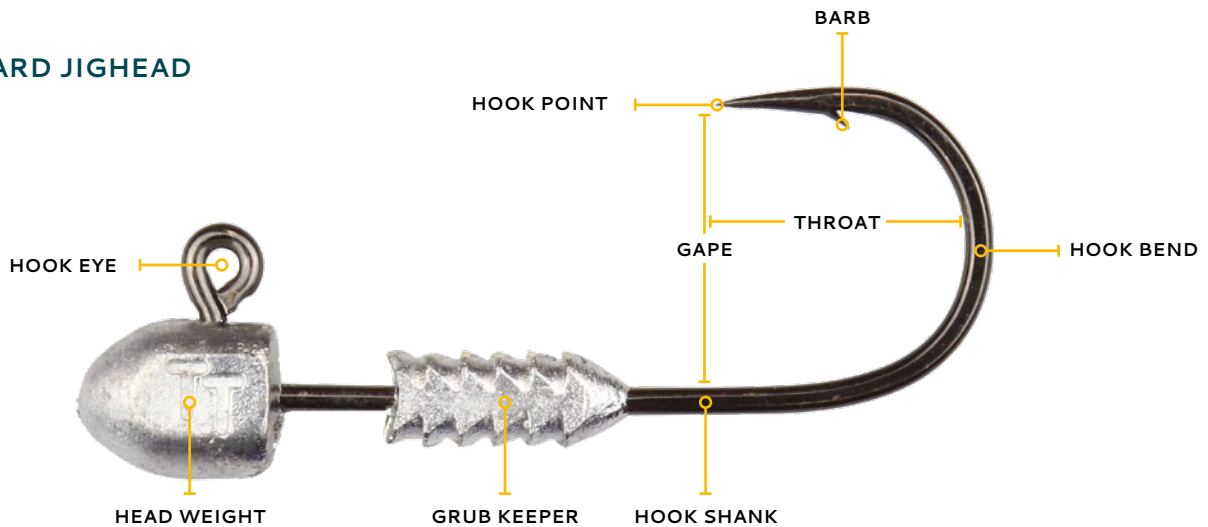
# SOFT PLASTICS 101

## CHAPTER 2

### JIGHEAD ANATOMY

There are many types of specialist jigheads that we'll look at in more detail in following chapters, however it's important to first understand the basic anatomy of a jighead and the purpose of the different components. This chapter will assist you in better understanding articles and videos about rigging and fishing soft plastics. Fish on!

#### STANDARD JIGHEAD



**HOOK EYE** – The hook eye is where your line is attached, using a knot such as a locked half blood knot or uni knot. We recommend not using a loop knot with jigheads as extreme pressures and fine lines can result in the loop slipping out of the hook eye.

**HEAD WEIGHT** – On a standard jighead the weight is toward the front of the hook and is designed to provide both casting weight and weight to sink the soft plastic to the required depth (much like a sinker when bait fishing).

**GRUB KEEPER** – The grub keeper is designed to hold the soft plastic securely onto the jighead and on many standard jigheads, including TT Lures Tournament Series and Head Hunter jigheads, the grub keeper is attached as part of the head weight. The 'head lock' style grub keeper, found on the TT Lures HeadlockZ and DemonZ jigheads has a gap between the head weight and the grub keeper (as seen in the image above) which has been designed specifically to lock the ZMan 10X Tough ElaZtech, super-soft and flexible soft plastics into the gap and make sliding them over the grub keeper easier when rigging, while also being suitable for other brands of soft plastics.

**HOOK SHANK** – The hook shank is the straight length of the hook from the eye of the hook to the hook bend.

**HOOK BEND** – The hook bend is the curved section of the hook, including the throat (depth the hook penetrates to) and the gape (the width of the hook from the point to the shank).

**BARB** – The barb is the reverse point set back from the hook point, designed to make the hook more difficult for fish to shake out or dislodge. Some anglers prefer to crush the barb flat, especially when catch and release fishing, to minimise damage to the fish and aid with quick release. Crushed barbs are often also preferred when fishing remotely in case anglers are accidentally hooked.

**HOOK POINT** – The hook point is the first point of penetration and it needs to be strong and sharp.



# SOFT PLASTICS 101

## CHAPTER 2

### JIGHEAD ANATOMY

#### LIGHT & HEAVY WIRE HOOKS

Jigheads are available in light and heavy wire hooks, designed to suit different applications.

Light wire hooks are constructed from lighter gauge wire and are generally referred to as light wire or fine wire hooks. This finer gauge wire penetrates more easily, especially when using lighter lines and lighter drag settings. The downside of course is that the hook is not as strong as a heavy wire hook. Light wire jigheads, such as the TT Lures HeadlockZ Finesse, are often the preferred option when chasing bream, bass, trout, flathead, golden perch and other such species.

Heavy wire hooks are then constructed from heavier wire and in turn are thicker. It takes more pressure for the hook to penetrate the mouth of the fish, generally requiring more drag force or slightly heavier lines. This is overcome to a degree by using chemically sharpened hooks, like those found in the heavy wire TT Lures HeadlockZ HD jigheads. Even the aforementioned species are targeted on heavy wire hooks at times, especially when fishing heavier around structure, and heavy wire hooks are a go-to for anglers chasing larger species and fish with powerful jaws, such as snapper, mulloway, barra, mangrovejack, Murray cod and offshore species.

When selecting a jighead this information is often printed on the packaging, for example 1/0L ('L' refers to light wire), 1/0H ('H' refers to heavy wire) and 1/0XH ('XH' refers to extra heavy wire).

#### HEADLOCKZ FINESSE

MADE ON A FINE WIRE  
GAMAKATSU HOOK



#### HEADLOCKZ HD

MADE ON A HEAVY WIRE  
MUSTAD HOOK



#### TT HWS (HIDDEN WEIGHT SYSTEM)

Here's one that's a bit different. The TT HWS (Hidden Weight System) jighead is still made up of a point, barb, bend, shank, eye, etc., however it is designed so that it doesn't have a head weight, instead it's grub keeper acts as both the keeper and the weight for casting and sinking your soft plastic.

The weight is built onto the shank, stopping the plastic from sliding, while also concealing the weight inside the plastic for an extremely realistic and natural appearance and horizontal flutter and sink. This is a deadly option when a finesse presentation is required, such as clear water and finicky feeders, as well as when fishing higher in the water column around structure. We will spend more time on the HWS jighead in a future chapter, however it is worth a brief look when discussing jighead anatomy.

The HWS has become a go-to for bream tournament anglers targeting bridges, pontoons, jetties, rock walls and other structure, with many bream tournaments won on this deadly little jighead.



# SOFT PLASTICS 101

## CHAPTER 2

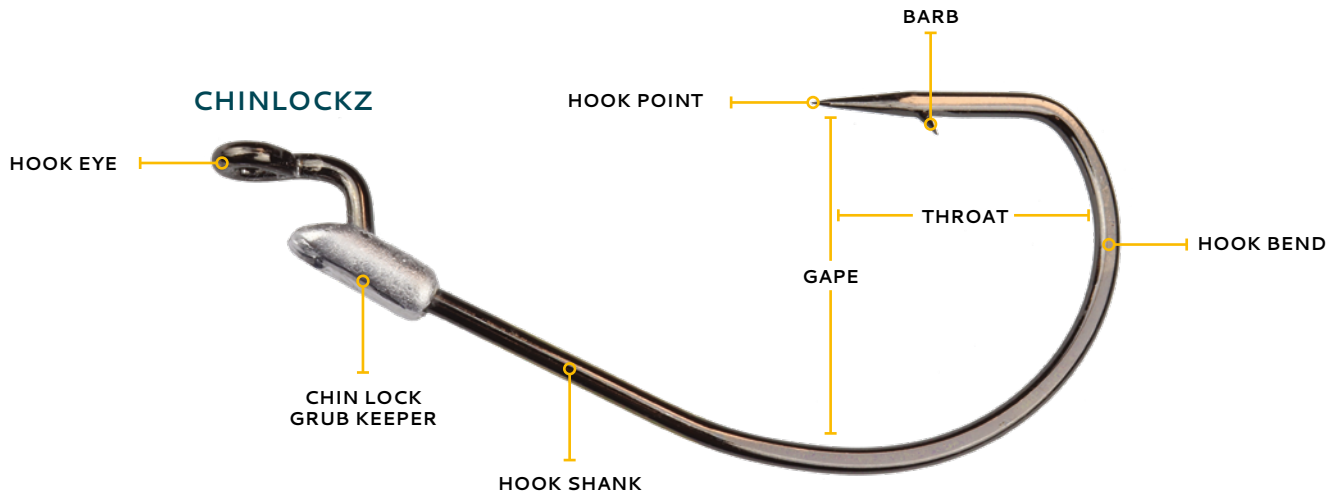
### JIGHEAD ANATOMY

#### WEEDLESS JIGHEADS

Weedless rigging is a popular technique for fishing weed, mangroves, fallen timber and other structure as it minimises the chance of the hook fouling or snagging.

The soft plastic effectively lays under the barb and hook point to shield them from weed, timber and other structure, while a curved shank (the belly of the hook) creates clearance between the soft plastic and the hook shank so that when a fish strikes it clears the plastic away from the point and the fish is hooked.

These hooks are commonly referred to as worm hooks or weedless hooks.



#### CHINLOCKZ

ChinlockZ jigheads (pictured above) are unweighted and feature a 'chin lock' grub keeper on the front to lock the soft plastic in place. Being unweighted they are ideal for a surface presentation or very slow sink. Popular for fishing the buoyant ZMan 10X Tough FrogZ and Pop ShadZ.

#### CHINLOCKZ SWS

The SWS in ChinlockZ SWS stands for Snagless Weight System, as it features a belly weight for a balanced, keeled presentation, slow natural sink and additional casting weight. This jighead is again popular for FrogZ, especially when it's windy or longer casts are required, while also being popular for prospecting weed beds, mangrove prop roots and other shallower water.

#### SNAKELOCKZ

The SnakelockZ features an interchangeable head weight, attached with a heavy duty stainless steel quick attachment system. By carrying a mix of hook sizes and head weights, you have a stack of combinations available to suit different scenarios. SnakelockZ are popular when weight is required to sink your soft plastic into the strike zone and work it through structure. SnakelockZ are also available in a fine / light wire version called a SnakelockZ Finesse jighead. For videos on weedless rigging check out the Rigging Guides section of the Tackle Tactics website.

#### CHINLOCKZ SWS



#### SNAKELOCKZ



### NEXT UP IN CHAPTER 3: SOFT PLASTIC ANATOMY



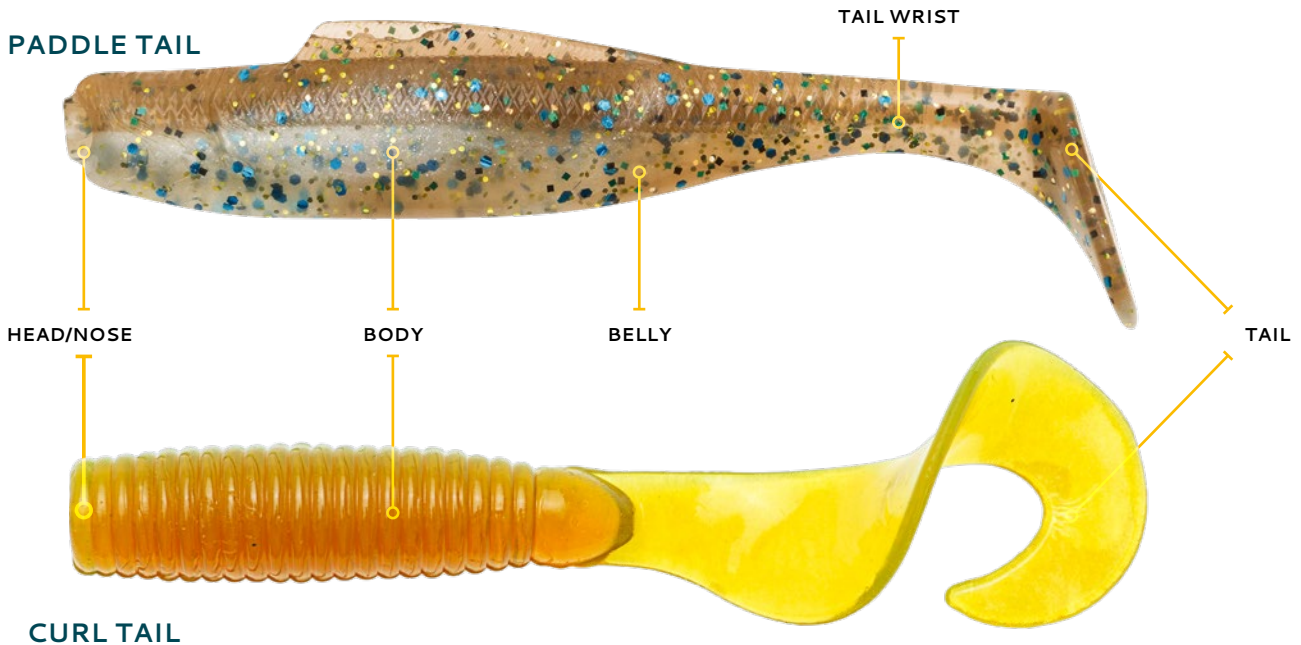
# SOFT PLASTICS 101

## CHAPTER 3

### SOFT PLASTIC ANATOMY

Although there are many different styles of soft plastics, including curl tails, paddle tails, jerkbaits, frogs and crustaceans, there are many common terms that refer to the anatomy of a soft plastic.

These are terms that you will see commonly used in fishing videos and articles about soft plastics and their associated rigging, fishing and even customising them. Let's start with a few basics and then move into more specific features of soft plastics and the function served by these more specific pieces of anatomy.



**Head / Nose** The head of the plastic is often flat on the end so that the jighead sits flush against the plastic, looking natural and minimising water pressure that may want to push the plastic back down the hook. A standard jighead is threaded in through the centre of the head and down through the centre of the body.

**Body** The body of the plastic is where a standard jighead hook passes through and exits when rigging. The jighead hook is generally housed in the body, leaving the tail free to produce maximum action.

**Belly** Many 'grub' style plastics are cylindrical and in turn don't have a 'belly' as such, while the belly is often referred to when discussing paddle tail, jerkbait and crustacean style plastics.

**Tail** The shape and size of the tail of the plastic will often dictate its action, meaning different plastics have different actions that may make them preferable for fishing different depths, speeds and when targeting different species. ZMan's 10X Tough, super-soft and flexible ElaZtech construction has revolutionised the actions that can be achieved in many plastics that may have been rendered stiff and lifeless with traditional plastic materials.

**Tail Wrist** The tail wrist joins the body to the tail of the plastic and in the past this was often trimmed thinner to try and increase the action of the plastic, while in turn weakening the connection. Again the flexibility and strength of the ZMan plastics means that no trimming is required and the plastics will have a lively tail action and body roll straight out of the packet.



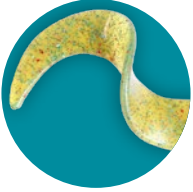


# SOFT PLASTICS 101

## CHAPTER 3

### SOFT PLASTIC ANATOMY

We will look at the different types of tails in more detail in future chapters, however here's a quick look at the different types of tails and a couple of associated benefits.



**Curl Tails** are an excellent option for beginners, while also being deadly in the hands of experienced anglers. The reason for this is that curl tails have loads of action when sinking and when being retrieved, while also moving with the water when at rest on the bottom. This means they are effectively fishing at all times and they are also extremely effective when a slow presentation or little movement is required.



**Paddle Tail** Another popular presentation, paddle tails again have plenty of action and the super-soft and flexible ZMan plastics will also 'swim' on the sink. A great baitfish imitation that can be retrieved at a wide range of speeds to target a wide range of species.



**Jerkbait** profile plastics have a single straight tail or forked tail and this means they have very little built-in action. The reason for this is that this tail creates little drag in the water, allowing it to sink quicker, making it a proven performer in deeper water and especially offshore applications. The action is imparted by the angler, using the rod tip to twitch and hop the plastic.

Outside of these three main categories of soft plastics there are also crustaceans, frogs, creature baits and more. Each of these categories of plastics have other features that create their actions, such as claws, legs, antennae and feet. Here's a few examples:



**Crustaceans** There are a range of crustacean plastics, such as ZMan PrawnZ and TRD CrawZ, that achieve their action via their claws. Their claws are designed much like curl tails to ripple, twist and flap through the water in turn attracting predators. They are generally rigged from the tail and with ZMan being buoyant the claws will float up in a natural defensive pose when at rest on the bottom.



Another style of crustacean is the shrimp or prawn, such as the ZMan PrawnZ. Prawn profiles are generally rigged from the head and their action is in the form of a natural and realistic flick and glide, created by their fan tail. They also often feature legs and feelers for added realism and water movement.



**Frogs** are extremely effective fished on the surface to create noise, movement and a bubble trail as they swim across the surface, weed and lilies. They can also be pulsed sub-surface to represent a frog kicking and pausing as it swims below the surface. Their action is achieved via their paddle feet that catch the water as they are retrieved.



**Creature Baits** often feature antennae, legs, feelers and other features that are designed to represent a range of natural, moving strike triggers that fish recognise, be it insects, crustaceans, or other aquatic or terrestrial life. These often provide subtle actions and movements that lend themselves to being fished slower. They are especially effective on hard to tempt species and pressured waterways.



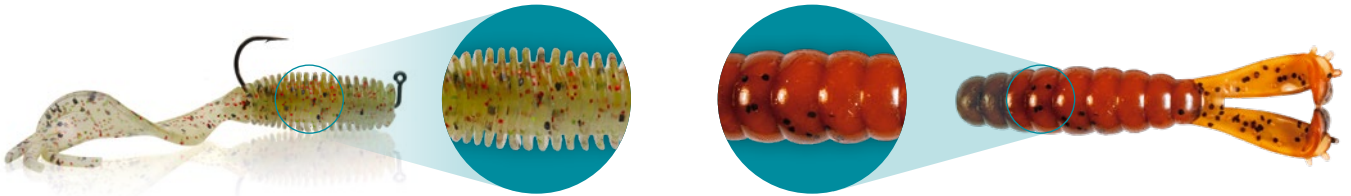
# SOFT PLASTICS 101

## CHAPTER 3

### SOFT PLASTIC ANATOMY

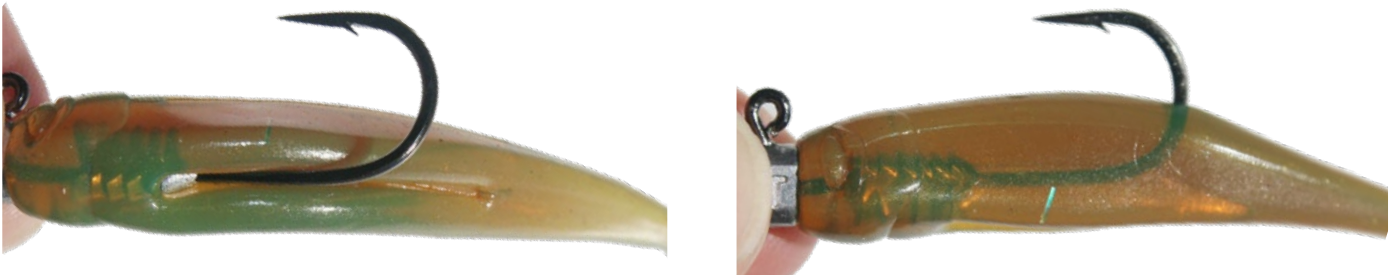
#### RIBS

Some models of soft plastic feature 'ribs' which are basically a series of lumps or bands around the body of the plastic that are designed to create additional water movement and vibration, in turn attracting predators. Ribs can add to the realistic look and feel of the plastic, while also assisting with the retention of added scents. Definitely not an essential feature on a soft plastic, however it is a feature that will be referenced in articles and videos.



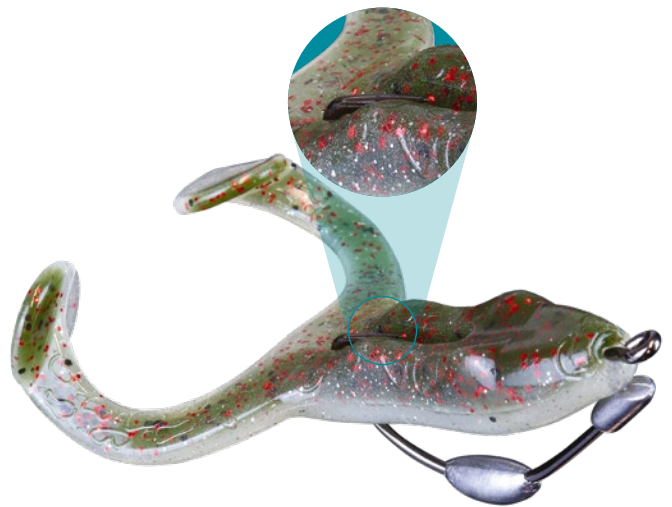
#### RIGGING SLOT

Some models of soft plastics will feature a slot in the belly section that is generally referred to as a belly slot or rigging slot. This slot is designed for weedless rigging, ensuring there is less resistance on the plastic when a fish strikes, allowing the plastic to slide easier and clear the hook point for a more effective hook set. This slot also makes rigging a standard jighead quicker and simpler as there is no need to thread the hook through the belly of the plastic. Simply thread the jighead in through the head / nose of the plastic and into the rigging slot, push the plastic onto the grub keeper, twist the plastic around so that the hook point can be pushed out through the back / top of the plastic, measure the final jighead position to ensure the plastic will be straight and push the hook through the back. The rigging slot is also an ideal spot for adding a squirt of Pro-Cure Super Gel scent to attract fish and trigger strikes.



#### HOOK POCKET

Located on the top / back of the plastic when rigging, a hook pocket is effectively another rigging slot, however this time it is designed to house the point and barb of the hook when weedless rigging. This increases the resistance to fouling and snagging by further concealing the hook point, while again reducing the resistance to clearing the hook when a fish strikes. If your plastic doesn't have a hook pocket on the top you can just pull the barb and hook point down firmly onto the back of the plastic when weedless rigging or even bury the hook point slightly into the back of the plastic.



### NEXT UP IN CHAPTER 4: COLOUR SELECTION



# SOFT PLASTICS 101

## CHAPTER 4

### COLOUR SELECTION

#### CRIKEY... WHICH ONE DO I CHOOSE?

Walk into a tackle store and you will be confronted with a wall of soft plastics in hundreds of colours.

This can often be confusing for anglers and we are commonly asked which is the best colour or what colour should I use. There are many theories on colour and colour selection, based on species, location, water colour and clarity, how bright the day is and more. Below is a simple guide, followed by many anglers, that has proven effective for us time and again. By selecting 3 different types of colours, in your chosen soft plastic model, you can have the bases covered on most occasions.



#### NATURAL / LIGHT COLOURS

On bright days and in clear water a light natural colour has proven itself time and again. These conditions give the fish excellent visibility and these light natural colours are often the most realistic presentation available.

These light, natural colours are often relatively transparent and feature flecks and glitter to add to their appeal. Flecks can add subtle contrast and silhouette, while glitter catches the light and mimics the flash of scales and other natural triggers found on both aquatic and terrestrial prey.

#### DARK / SILHOUETTE COLOURS

When the water is dirtier or stained, or the light conditions low due to time of day or overcast weather a darker colour offers a better silhouette in the water and has often proven more effective. Run out tides, rainfall run off and tannin stained water can all create environments where darker coloured plastics can excel.

These plastics can again feature fleck and glitter for added realism and additional strike triggers. Gold glitter is especially effective in dirty water and low light, catching and reflecting available light.

#### FLOURO COLOURS

When neither of the aforementioned colours are working it's time to try something completely different and fluoro colours have proven themselves time and again when light, natural and darker colours aren't producing the bites.

Whether it's visibility, something that stands out from the rest or the fact that fluoro colours reflect UV light, there is something that has made colours such as Nuked Chicken Glow, Sexy Mullet and Pink Glow proven performers.

That's a very basic overview of colour, however it's basics that have proven themselves in both tournament and social fishing situations. In future chapters we will look further into colour and also UV, with some plastics reacting more to UV light and with the fish's receptors in their eyes able to view this UV light reflection, why is a UV colour like Motor Oil so effective, while at other times a non UV colour like Bloodworm produces the bites and the tournament win. Stay tuned.

### NEXT UP IN CHAPTER 5: SCENT



# SOFT PLASTICS 101

## CHAPTER 5

### SCENT

#### WHY USE IT?

There are a few reasons why adding scent is believed to be so effective when fishing soft plastics.

Firstly it helps to mask foreign scents like fuel and sunscreen, with some anglers even rubbing a bit of scent on their hands before they start their fishing session. Scent also attracts fish, triggers strikes and makes fish hold on longer, giving you more time to set the hook.



#### WHEN AND WHERE

If there are active fish around then some anglers prefer to start without scent, catch the active fish and then when the bite gets tough they add scent to their lures to switch the fish back on, while other anglers prefer to start with scent to maximise their chances from the get go. Time and again when the bite has slowed adding a little scent has switched the fish back on.

Pro-Cure Super Gel Scent has proven a favourite for anglers and being super-sticky it stays on longer. Remember to add scent throughout the session, not just once at the beginning, and adding a small amount of scent more often is better than one large coating and then forget it. Being super-sticky you can add a little Pro-Cure every thirty or so casts to keep your plastic charged.

When you are catching fish and then the bite slows, try changing it up by using a different flavour scent and see if you can fire the fish up again. Likewise if nothing is happening, changing scent flavour can sometimes switch the fish on. We have often found that different flavours will fire up the fish on different days, in different locations and when targeting different fish species.

Scent is effective in both the fresh and saltwater, with favourites in the salt including Mullet, Shrimp, Bloody Tuna, Inshore Saltwater and Pilchard. Favourites in the fresh include Garlic Plus, Crawfish, Shrimp, Mullet and Aniseed.

Scent has also proven effective when applied to squid jigs, with Shrimp Pro-Cure being a favourite flavour.

#### WHY PRO-CURE SCENT

Pro-Cure Super Gel Scent is a super-sticky scent that combines the best of laboratory science with real ground bait. It combines bite stimulants, powerful amino acids and UV enhancement, with good old fashioned ground up bait, to attract fish and trigger strikes. The stickiness ensures that it stays on all types of lures, cast after cast and it comes in a 2oz bottle with a flip up applicator nozzle to minimise mess and waste. Reports from those using Pro-Cure have included – fish switching back on, more bites, more aggressive and committed bites and a wider variety of species being caught. ZMan soft plastics scented models come pre-scented with this tested and proven scent.

#### APPLICATION

The nozzle on the Pro-Cure applicator bottle makes it easy to apply the scent mess free, squeezing out a little and then using the nozzle to smear it over as much of the plastic as possible. Many anglers prefer to squirt a little onto the plastic and use their fingers to wipe a thin film of scent over as much of the plastic as possible. Some ZMan models feature a belly slot, designed for rigging and this is also an ideal place for applying additional scent.

## NEXT UP IN CHAPTER 6: RIGGING STANDARD JIGHEADS





# SOFT PLASTICS 101

## CHAPTER 6

### RIGGING STANDARD JIGHEADS

In this chapter we look at selecting a standard jighead, and effectively rigging a soft plastic on a standard jighead.

#### DECIDING FACTORS

When selecting a standard jighead you need to consider the weight of the jighead, size of the hook, gauge of the hook – fine or heavy wire and the style of the jighead. We will base our rigging on the popular TT Lures HeadlockZ jighead as this jighead is designed with a 'head lock' grub keeper that makes rigging simple and it will secure the ZMan 10X Tough soft plastics in place, along with other brands of plastics.



#### JIGHEAD WEIGHT

Jigheads range in weight from as light as 1/40oz up to around 6oz, to suit everything from finesse bream and trout fishing to deep offshore fishing. Popular weights in the rivers, estuaries and impoundments range from around 1/28oz to 1/2oz, bay and offshore around 1/8oz – 3oz, and those fishing big plastics in very deep water and strong currents may even push beyond the 3oz weight.

Important things to consider when selecting a jighead weight is where in the water column the target species is holding, current, depth, casting distance and the plastic you are fishing with, for example a plastic with action will sink slower than a jerkbait style plastic.

You will notice that most anglers carry a selection of weights to cover a variety of situations, target species and soft plastic styles. Over time anglers grow the contents of their jighead tray, learn which are their go-to heads and build a stock of their favourites. Here's a few general examples of some popular weights that anglers may carry in their kit for different species and situations:

**Bream** 1/20oz, 1/16oz, 1/12oz, 1/8oz, 1/6oz, 1/4oz

**Bass** 1/8oz, 1/4oz, 3/8oz, 1/2oz

**Flathead** 1/8oz, 1/4oz, 3/8oz, 1/2oz

**Snapper** 1/8oz, 1/4oz, 3/8oz, 1/2oz, 3/4oz, 1oz

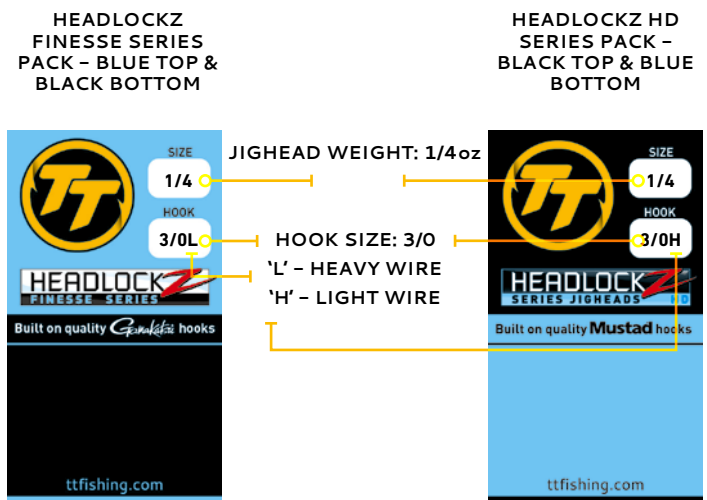
**General River/Estuary** 1/16oz, 1/8oz, 1/4oz, 3/8oz, 1/2oz

**General Offshore** 1/8oz, 1/4oz, 3/8oz, 1/2oz, 1oz, 1 1/2oz, 2oz

#### HOOK SIZE

When it comes to hook size it's important to select a hook size that suits your target species and then select a plastic that suits both the hook size and target species. Check out the guide at the end of this PDF to assist you to select a jighead hook size to suit your chosen ZMan soft plastic.

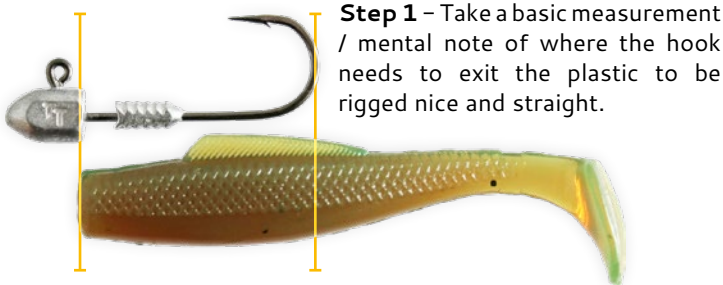
When selecting a jighead you will also note that the hook size will have a letter next to it, generally an 'L' meaning light wire or fine wire hook, 'H' for heavy wire and 'XH' for extra heavy. Fine or light wire hooks are constructed from finer wire which gives them the ultimate penetration, however they are not as strong as the heavy and extra heavy hooks, making them more suitable to experienced angler and those fishing light lines and light drag settings. Heavy and extra heavy wire hooks are preferred for general fishing and TT Fishing ensure these heavier hooks are still super sharp by building their jigheads on black nickel, chemically sharpened hooks. An easy way to differentiate between HeadlockZ Finesse – fine wire and HeadlockZ HD – heavy / extra heavy wire is by the 'L' or 'H' / 'XH' but also HeadlockZ Finesse packaging has a blue top and black bottom, while the HeadlockZ HD is reversed with a black top and blue bottom.



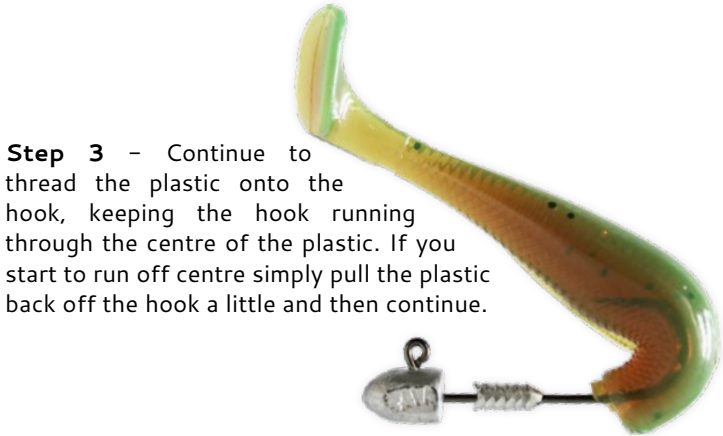
# SOFT PLASTICS 101

## CHAPTER 6

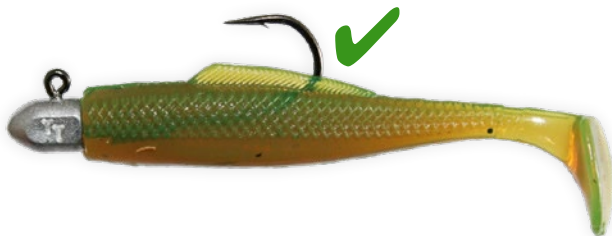
### RIGGING STANDARD JIGHEADS



**Step 2** – Thread the point of the hook through the centre of the head / nose of the plastic, like threading on a worm.



**Step 4** – Once you have reached the exit point that you noted earlier, push the hook point out through the top of the plastic.



**Step 5** – Once the hook point exits the plastic pull the plastic down onto the bend of the hook, then push it up and over the 'head lock' grub keeper and snug against the jighead. You can then pull it back a little so that it is sitting straight on the hook and give it a swim in the water to ensure it is swimming correctly.



If you exit the plastic too soon you will find that you do not have enough plastic on the hook to secure it on the keeper.



If you exit the plastic too far along you will find that you have too much plastic bunched onto the hook and it will not sit straight.



# SOFT PLASTICS 101

## CHAPTER 6

### RIGGING STANDARD JIGHEADS

#### CHOOSING A STANDARD JIGHEAD HOOK SIZE FOR YOUR ZMAN SOFT PLASTIC

This rigging guide is designed to assist you when matching a ZMan soft plastic and TT HeadlockZ HD jighead. The HeadlockZ grub keeper has been designed to lock on the 10X Tough, yet super-soft and realistic, ZMan ElaZtech soft plastic, cast after cast, fish after fish!

#### HOOK SIZES FOR HEADLOCKZ HD JIGHEADS (UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)

ZMAN SOFT PLASTIC	HOOK SIZE	ZMAN SOFT PLASTIC	HOOK SIZE
1.75" Micro GOAT	4   HeadlockZ Finesse: 2	3.75" StreakZ	1/0, 2/0
1.75" Shad FryZ	4   HeadlockZ Finesse: 2	3.5" Pro CrawZ	3/0 - 6/0
1.75" Tiny TicklerZ	4, 2   HWS: 2, 1   NedlockZ: 2	3.75" GOAT	3/0 - 5/0
1.75" LarvaZ	Head Hunter: 6	4" Mulletron	5/0, 6/0
2" StingerZ	4   HeadlockZ Finesse: 2   HWS: 2	4" Finesse ShadZ	1/0, 2/0
2" Micro WormZ	4   HeadlockZ Finesse: 2	4" Scented Jerk ShadZ	1/0 - 4/0
2" GrubZ	4, 2, 1	4" StreakZ Curly TailZ	2/0 - 4/0
2.5" GrubZ	4, 2, 1, 1/0	4" DieZel MinnowZ	3/0 - 5/0
2.5" ST GrubZ	4, 2, 1, 1/0	4" SwimmerZ	4/0, 5/0
2.5" Slim SwimZ	4, 2, 1, 1/0	4" Turbo CrawZ	3/0, 4/0
2.5" PrawnZ	4, 2, 1, 1/0	4" Hard Leg FrogZ	ChinlockZ : 6/0
2.5" TRD CrawZ	2, 1, 1/0	4" Pop FrogZ	ChinlockZ : 6/0
2.75" DropKickerZ	1, 1/0	4" GOAT ToadZ	ChinlockZ : 6/0
2.75" FinesseFrogZ	ChinlockZ : 2/0	4.2" Trick ShotZ	3/0, 4/0
2.75" TRD BugZ	2, 1	4.25" Billy GOAT	4/0 - 6/0
3" Slim SwimZ	2/0, 3/0	5" DieZel MinnowZ	6/0, 7/0
3" MinnowZ	2/0 - 4/0	5" StreakZ Curly TailZ	4/0, 5/0
3" Scented ShrimpZ	2/0 - 4/0	5" Scented PaddlerZ	4/0, 5/0
3" Baby GOAT	1, 1/0, 2/0	5" StreakZ	4/0, 5/0
3" TRD HogZ	1, 1/0, 2/0	5" Scented Jerk ShadZ	4/0, 5/0
3.3" Mulletron	3/0, 4/0	6" DarterZ	2/0 - 6/0
3.5" Drop KickerZ	2/0, 3/0	6" SwimmerZ	5/0 - 8/0
3.5" GrubZ	2/0, 3/0	7" DieZel MinnowZ	SwimlockZ: 9/0, 10/0
3.5" Trick SwimZ	3/0, 4/0	7" Scented Jerk ShadZ	7/0, 8/0
3.5" Trick ShotZ	1/0, 2/0	8" StreakZ XL	7/0, 8/0
3.5" EZ ShrimpZ	2/0 - 4/0	9" GrubZ	6/0 - 8/0

#### ZMAN SOFT PLASTICS

- 10X Tough – better stands up to pickers and toothies, more fish per lure.
- Super-soft realistic feel – maximum action and fish keep biting!
- Buoyant – rig to fish topwater to deep. Tail up action attracts fish and triggers strikes.

#### TT HEADLOCKZ FINESSE

- Built on a fine gauge Gamakatsu hook for the ultimate penetration with light lines and light drag settings.
- Unique 'head lock' grub keeper.

#### TT HEADLOCKZ HD

- Built on a brutally strong, chemically sharpened Mustad black nickel hook.
- Unique 'head lock' grub keeper.

#### TT HEADLOCKZ EXTREME

- Beast of a hook available in 9/0 and 10/0 to suit XOS plastics.
- Weights from 2oz up to 6oz for extreme depths.

#### CARING FOR YOUR ZMAN

- Store ZMan in their original packets – they may react with other plastics.
- Avoid storing lures in extreme heat for maximum life.

### NEXT UP IN CHAPTER 7: RIGGING WEEDLESS JIGHEADS



# SOFT PLASTICS 101

## CHAPTER 7

### RIGGING WEEDLESS JIGHEADS

In this chapter we look at weedless rigging, plus how and why you might opt to rig your soft plastic weedless.

Weedless (also referred to as snagless) rigging minimises the chance of your soft plastic fouling or snagging, allowing you to more effectively target fish in and around structure, including weed beds, mangroves, fallen timber, lily pads, reef and so forth.

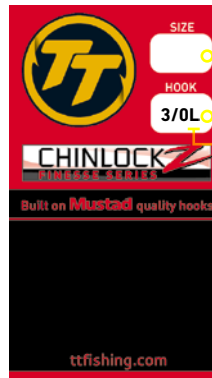
Being 10X Tough and super-soft and flexible makes ZMan soft plastics the perfect plastic for weedless rigging. The material allows you to pin small amounts of plastic into the keepers and hook, with less chance of the plastic tearing when rigging and also when the fish strikes. They can also be rigged over and over again with minimal damage to the material.

Being super-soft and flexible means it is also much easier for a fish to clear the hook when it strikes a ZMan ElaZtech plastic, when compared to traditional, stiffer soft plastic materials, and this in turn has seen a growth in the popularity of weedless rigging.

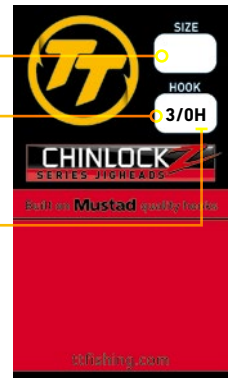
In our previous chapter we looked at standard jigheads and the fact that there are fine / light ('L') wire hooks designed primarily for penetration and then heavy wire hooks ('H' / 'XH') designed for strength. This is the same for weedless jigheads, with the TT Lures ChinlockZ and SnakelockZ available in both a heavy wire and also a Finesse version, built on a light wire hook.



CHINLOCKZ FINESSE SERIES PACK - RED TOP & BLACK BOTTOM



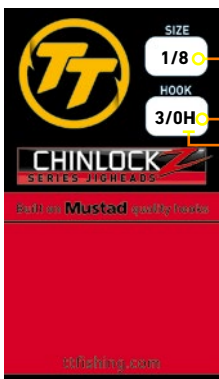
CHINLOCKZ SERIES PACK - BLACK TOP & RED BOTTOM



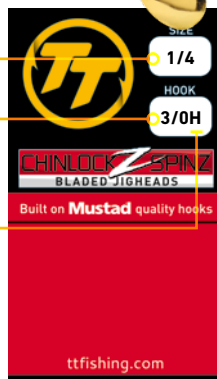
NO JIGHEAD WEIGHT

HOOK SIZE: 3/0  
'L' - HEAVY WIRE  
'H' - LIGHT WIRE

CHINLOCKZ SWS SERIES PACK - BLACK TOP & RED BOTTOM



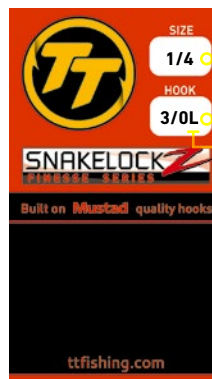
CHINLOCKZ SPINZ SERIES PACK - BLACK TOP & RED BOTTOM



JIGHEAD WEIGHT

HOOK SIZE: 3/0  
'H' - HEAVY WIRE  
'H' - HEAVY WIRE

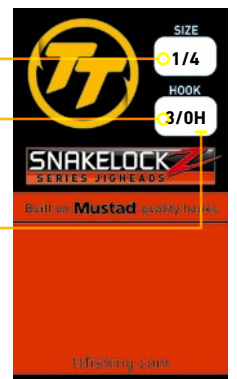
SNAKELOCKZ FINESSE SERIES PACK - ORANGE TOP & BLACK BOTTOM



JIGHEAD WEIGHT

HOOK SIZE: 3/0  
'L' - LIGHT WIRE  
'H' - HEAVY WIRE

SNAKELOCKZ SERIES PACK - BLACK TOP & ORANGE BOTTOM





# SOFT PLASTICS 101

## CHAPTER 7

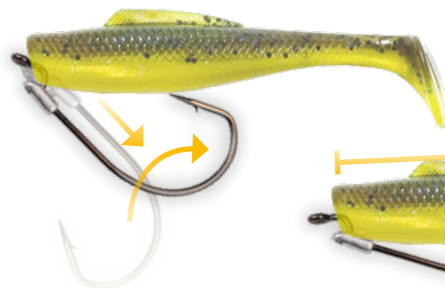
### RIGGING WEEDLESS JIGHEADS

#### HOW TO FIT A WEEDLESS JIGHEAD



**Step 1** – Push the hook point into the centre of the nose of the plastic and at a 45 degree angle push it through and out of the underside of the plastic. You effectively want to capture a few millimetres of plastic that will be locked into the chin lock when rigging is complete.

**Step 2** – The hook will slide easily through the plastic until you reach the chin lock and then it will take a little effort to slide the plastic over the chin lock. Holding the bend of the hook between your thumb and pointer finger (hook point down) and pulling the plastic over the chin lock slowly is effective and avoids the pointy end of the hook.



**Step 3** – As the chin lock exits the plastic you will feel it pop out and the hook will want to turn over to face point up as the chin of the plastic positions itself neatly in the chin lock.



**Step 4** – Measure where the hook needs to sit in the plastic. Bend the plastic a little so that you can pass the hook point directly from the centre of the underside of the plastic out through the topside of the plastic.



**Step 5** – Pull the barb and hook point down against the top of the plastic and you're ready to fish some heavy cover. Get that plastic in their and hang on!

#### HOOK SIZES FOR CHINLOCKZ OR SNAKELockZ WEEDLESS JIGHEADS

ZMAN SOFT PLASTIC	WEEDLESS HOOK SIZE
2" GrubZ	4
2.5" GrubZ	4
2.5" ST GrubZ	4, 2
2.5" Slim SwimZ	4, 2
2.5" PrawnZ	2, 1
2.5" TRD CrawZ	2, 1
2.75" DropKickerZ	2, 1
2.75" FinesseFrogZ	2/0
2.75" TRD BugZ	2
3" Slim SwimZ	1, 1/0, 2/0
3" MinnowZ	2/0, 3/0
3" Scented ShrimpZ	2/0, 3/0
3" Baby GOAT	1, 1/0, 2/0
3" TRD HogZ	1, 1/0, 2/0
3.3" Mulletron	3/0, 4/0
3.5" Drop KickerZ	1/0, 2/0, 3/0
3.5" GrubZ	2, 1
3.5" Trick SwimZ	2/0, 3/0, 4/0
3.5" Trick ShotZ	2/0, 3/0, 4/0
3.5" EZ ShrimpZ	2/0, 3/0
3.5" Pro CrawZ	4/0 – 6/0
3.75" StreakZ	1, 1/0, 2/0
3.75" GOAT	3/0 – 6/0

ZMAN SOFT PLASTIC	WEEDLESS HOOK SIZE
4" Mulletron	4/0, 5/0, 6/0
4" Finesse ShadZ	1/0, 2/0
4" Scented Jerk ShadZ	2/0 – 4/0
4" StreakZ Curly TailZ	1/0 – 4/0
4" DieZel MinnowZ	4/0 – 6/0
4" SwimmerZ	4/0 – 6/0
4" Turbo CrawZ	2/0 – 4/0
4" Hard Leg FrogZ	5/0, 6/0
4" Pop FrogZ	4/0 – 6/0
4" GOAT ToadZ	5/0, 6/0
4.2" Trick ShotZ	1/0, 2/0, 3/0
4.25" Billy GOAT	4/0 – 8/0
5" DieZel MinnowZ	6/0, 8/0
5" StreakZ Curly TailZ	5/0, 6/0
5" Scented PaddlerZ	5/0, 6/0
5" StreakZ	4/0, 6/0
5" Scented Jerk ShadZ	5/0, 6/0
6" DarterZ	4/0 – 6/0
6" SwimmerZ	6/0 – 8/0
7" DieZel MinnowZ	10/0, 12/0
7" Scented Jerk ShadZ	6/0, 8/0
8" StreakZ XL	10/0, 12/0
9" GrubZ	6/0 – 8/0



# TT STANDARD JIGHEADS

<p><b>HEADHUNTER</b></p> <p>Built on quality Mustad hooks.</p> <p>ttfishing.com</p>	<p><b>HEADHUNTER EXTREME</b></p> <p>Built on Mustad quality hooks.</p> <p>ttfishing.com</p>	<p><b>HEADLOCKZ FINESSE</b></p> <p>Built on quality Gamakichi hooks.</p> <p>ttfishing.com</p>	<p><b>HEADLOCKZ HD</b></p> <p>Built on quality Mustad hooks.</p> <p>ttfishing.com</p>	<p><b>HEADLOCKZ EXTREME</b></p> <p>Built on Mustad quality hooks.</p> <p>ttfishing.com</p>	<p><b>HIDDEN WEIGHT SYSTEM</b></p> <p>Built on quality Gamakichi hooks.</p> <p>ttfishing.com</p>	<p><b>TOURNAMENT SERIES</b></p> <p>Built on quality Gamakichi hooks.</p> <p>ttfishing.com</p>
<p><b>REVLOCKZ</b></p> <p>Built on quality Mustad hooks.</p> <p>ttfishing.com</p>	<p><b>STINGERS</b></p> <p>Built on premium quality hooks.</p> <p>ttfishing.com</p>	<p><b>SWIMLOCKZ</b></p> <p>Built on quality Mustad hooks.</p> <p>ttfishing.com</p>	<p><b>BIG EYEZ</b></p> <p>Built on quality Mustad hooks.</p> <p>ttfishing.com</p>	<p><b>DEMONZ</b></p> <p>Built on quality Gamakichi hooks.</p> <p>ttfishing.com</p>	<p><b>HEADLOCKZ FINESSE UV</b></p> <p>Built on quality Gamakichi hooks.</p> <p>ttfishing.com</p>	<p><b>NEDLOCKZ</b></p> <p>Built on quality Mustad hooks.</p> <p>ttfishing.com</p>

# TT WEEDLESS JIGHEADS

<p><b>CHINLOCKZ FINESSE</b></p> <p>Built on Mustad quality hooks.</p> <p>ttfishing.com</p>	<p><b>CHINLOCKZ</b></p> <p>Built on Mustad quality hooks.</p> <p>ttfishing.com</p>	<p><b>CHINLOCKZ SWS</b></p> <p>Built on Mustad quality hooks.</p> <p>ttfishing.com</p>	<p><b>CHINLOCKZ SPINZ</b></p> <p>Built on Mustad quality hooks.</p> <p>ttfishing.com</p>	<p><b>SNAKELOCKZ FINESSE</b></p> <p>Built on Mustad quality hooks.</p> <p>ttfishing.com</p>	<p><b>SNAKELOCKZ</b></p> <p>Built on Mustad quality hooks.</p> <p>ttfishing.com</p>	<p><b>SNAKE EYEZ</b></p> <p>Built on quality Mustad hooks.</p> <p>ttfishing.com</p>
<p><b>NEDLOCKZ EWG</b></p> <p>Built on quality Mustad hooks.</p> <p>ttfishing.com</p>						

# TT JIGHEAD VALUE PACKS

<p><b>BREAMIN' VALUE PACK</b></p> <p>AN IDEAL SELECTION OF JIGHEADS FOR ANGLERS TARGETING BREAM AND OTHER SMALL SPECIES.</p>	<p><b>BREAMIN' PRO VALUE PACK</b></p> <p>PERFECT FOR THE MAN WITH PLEASURE.</p>	<p><b>RIVER &amp; ESTUARY VALUE PACK</b></p> <p>PERFECT FOR THE MAN WITH PLEASURE.</p>	<p><b>FLATHEAD VALUE PACK</b></p> <p>PERFECT FOR THE MAN WITH PLEASURE.</p>	<p><b>INSHORE REEF VALUE PACK</b></p> <p>PERFECT FOR THE MAN WITH PLEASURE.</p>	<p><b>WEEDLESS RIG VALUE PACK</b></p> <p>PERFECT FOR THE MAN WITH PLEASURE.</p>
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## ZMAN MICRO BAITZ



1.75" MICRO GOAT

1.75" SHAD FRYZ

1.75" TINY TICKLERZ

1.75" LARVAZ

2" STINGERZ

2" MICRO WORMZ

EZ EGGZ

## ZMAN CURL TAILZ



2" GRUBZ

2.5" GRUBZ

2.5" ST GRUBZ

3.5" GRUBZ

4" STREAKZ CURLY TAILZ

5" STREAKZ CURLY TAILZ

9" GRUBZ

## ZMAN PADDLE TAILZ



2.5" SLIM SWIMZ

2.75" DROP KICKERZ

3" SLIM SWIMZ

3" MINNOWZ

3.3" MULLETRON

3.5" DROP KICKERZ

3.5" TRICK SWIMZ

4" MULLETRON

4" DIESEL MINNOWZ

4" SWIMMERZ

4.5" MULLETRON LT

5" DIESEL MINNOWZ

6" SWIMMERZ

6" MULLETRON LT

7" DIESEL MINNOWZ

## ZMAN JERK BAITZ



3.5" TRICK SHOTZ

3.75" STREAKZ

4" FINESSE SHADZ

4" SCENTED JERK SHADZ

4.2" TRICK SHOTZ

5" SCENTED JERK SHADZ

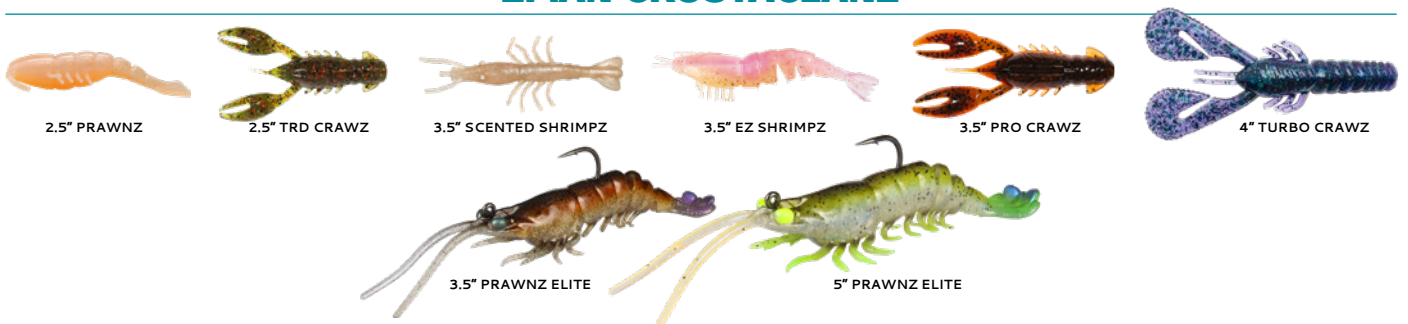
5" STREAKZ

6" DARTERZ

7" SCENTED JERK SHADZ

8" STREAKZ XL

## ZMAN CRUSTACEANZ



2.5" PRAWNZ

2.5" TRD CRAWZ

3.5" SCENTED SHRIMPZ

3.5" EZ SHRIMPZ

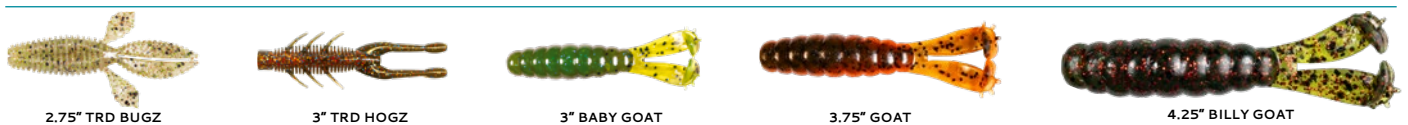
3.5" PRO CRAWZ

4" TURBO CRAWZ

3.5" PRAWNZ ELITE

5" PRAWNZ ELITE

## ZMAN CREATUREZ



2.75" TRD BUGZ

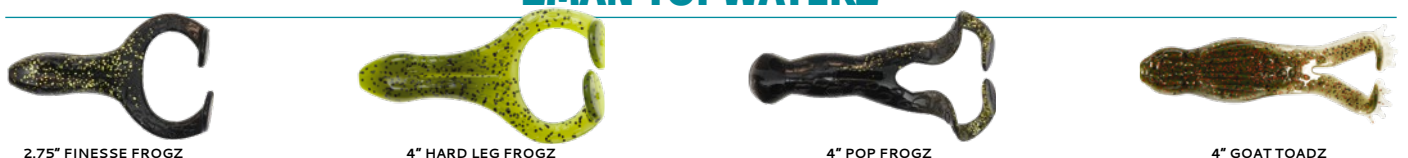
3" TRD HOGZ

3" BABY GOAT

3.75" GOAT

4.25" BILLY GOAT

## ZMAN TOPWATERZ



2.75" FINESSE FROGZ

4" HARD LEG FROGZ

4" POP FROGZ

4" GOAT TOADZ

