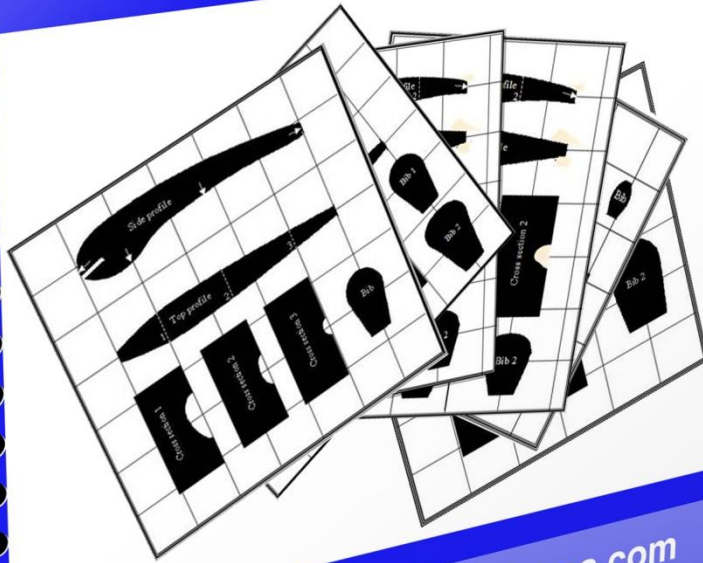


Make your own fishing lures  
**12 Proven Lure Templates**



[www.makebetterfishinglures.com](http://www.makebetterfishinglures.com)

by Dr. Greg Vinall

by Dr. Greg Vinall

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## Using the fishing lure templates

The templates give the exact dimensions of some of the lures I make. If you copy these dimensions and use the techniques described in my e-books you'll find that the lures perform as indicated in the text. **Feel free to make these lures for sale if you wish.** There is no need to acknowledge the source of the design, and you can change the names if can think of better ones. I don't sell lures, so I have nothing to lose and everything to gain from you making good use of these templates!

Also note that you needn't actually use the same materials as I have. For example, if you have purchased [Make Your Own Fishing Lures: Wooden Lures](#), you can use the techniques I outline to make any of the lures in this collection, even though I make a number of them from plastic. There may be slight differences in the way the lures perform, but they'll still work well. Likewise, any of the timber lures in this collection could equally well be made using the plastic molding techniques I outline in [Make Your Own Fishing Lures: Plastic Lures](#).

To use the templates you'll need:



A printout of the template page (you don't need high resolution, so set the printer to low res, black and white), a piece of light card (I use cereal boxes), a sharp knife and some glue (I use spray adhesive, but any paper glue will do the trick).

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**Here's how:**

1. With the exception of the "Big Mutha" (Template 7), these templates should print at the correct size if you print directly onto A4 paper at 100%. The squares on each grid should be approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$ " x  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (2cm x 2cm) when printed, but if not can be enlarged or reduced using a scanner or photocopier. Alternatively, tinker with your printer settings until the printed documents are the right size straight off the printer.



2. Glue the sheet onto the card and use the knife to cut out the templates.



3. Transfer the templates timber blank and rough the lure to shape. You can get more information on how to do this in [Make Your Own Fishing Lures](#)

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4. Use the cross section template as a guide during final shaping of the prototype.
5. Trace the bib design onto the specified sheet material and cut to the required shape.

### **Some notes on lure performance specifications**

- The casting weight of the finished lures is based on the techniques outlined in [Make Your Own Fishing Lures](#). Weight can vary slightly from one brand of resin to another or natural variations in timber.
- Choosing hook styles other than those quoted will also alter the weight and swimming characteristics of the finished lure, as will the chosen clear finish.
- Diving depth will vary depending on the line type and breaking strain, water density (seawater/freshwater), amount of line out when trolling, currents etc. The quoted diving depths are indicative only.

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## Template #1 - Bombardier 4”



I just love this lure, it's one of my consistent performers in both salt and fresh. I use two bib styles on this lure, which gives two very different swimming characteristics and makes it a very versatile lure. The body length and the choice of hook allows a third set of trebles, which not only increases the potential for a hook set, but increases the casting weight slightly as well.

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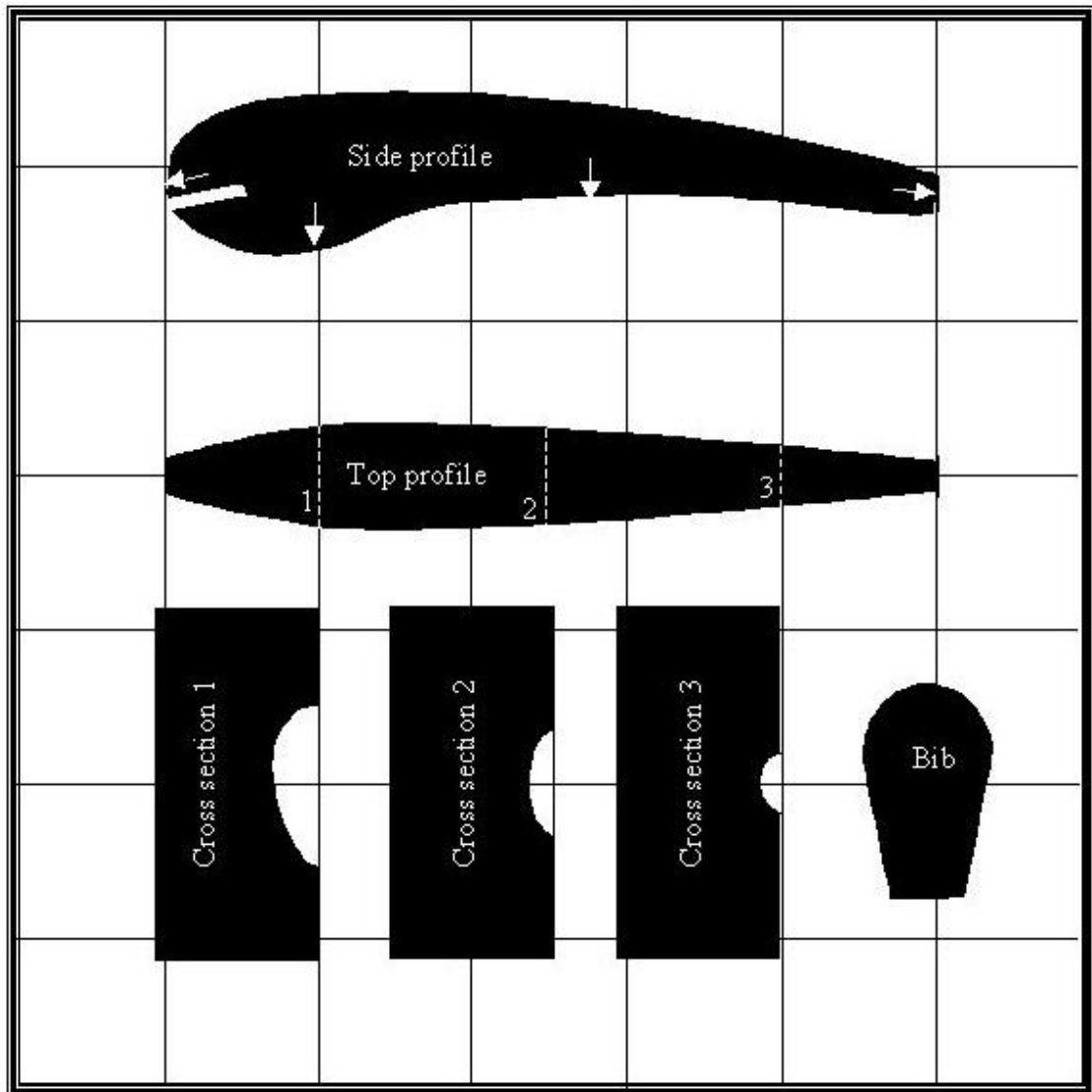


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### Vital statistics: Bombardier 4"

<b>Construction</b>	Rigid polyurethane foam
<b>Reference for techniques</b>	<a href="#">Make Your Own Fishing Lures: Plastic Lures</a>
<b>Length</b>	4" (10cm)
<b>Weight</b>	½ oz (14g)
<b>Bib</b>	1mm ( <sup>3</sup> / <sub>64</sub> " ) Perspex/polycarbonate
<b>Action</b>	Bib style 1 – Tight shimmy Bib style 2 – Medium wobble
<b>Diving depth</b>	Bib style 1 – Shallow running (3-4 ft, 1-1.5m) Bib style 2 – Medium diver (6-9 ft, 2-3m)
<b>Rings</b>	Stainless steel size 4
<b>Hooks</b>	Eagle Claw 6061T SEAGR - Size 6

### Bombardier 4"



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## Template #2 - Hot Diggidy 2”



The Hot Diggidy 2” is a great all-purpose lure that works as well for trolling as it does for casting. It works on freshwater, estuarine and smaller saltwater species like trout, bream, flathead, Australian salmon, bass, estuary perch, mulloway and a host of others. With it's strong action you can feel it pulsing down the line as it creates strong fish attracting vibrations.

I've used bright stainless rings on the lures in the photos, but that's only because I didn't have any black ones of the right size on hand. It doesn't make that much difference, but I tend to have a convention of using darker coloured rings with dark coloured lure bodies.

The hooks are Eagle Claw style L954G. They have a nice wide gape and a short shank, which is important for a small lure like this. It keeps the two hooks from getting snagged around each other and upsetting the lure action.

The bib configuration is near horizontal, so the lure tends to reach maximum depth relatively quickly, great for casting.

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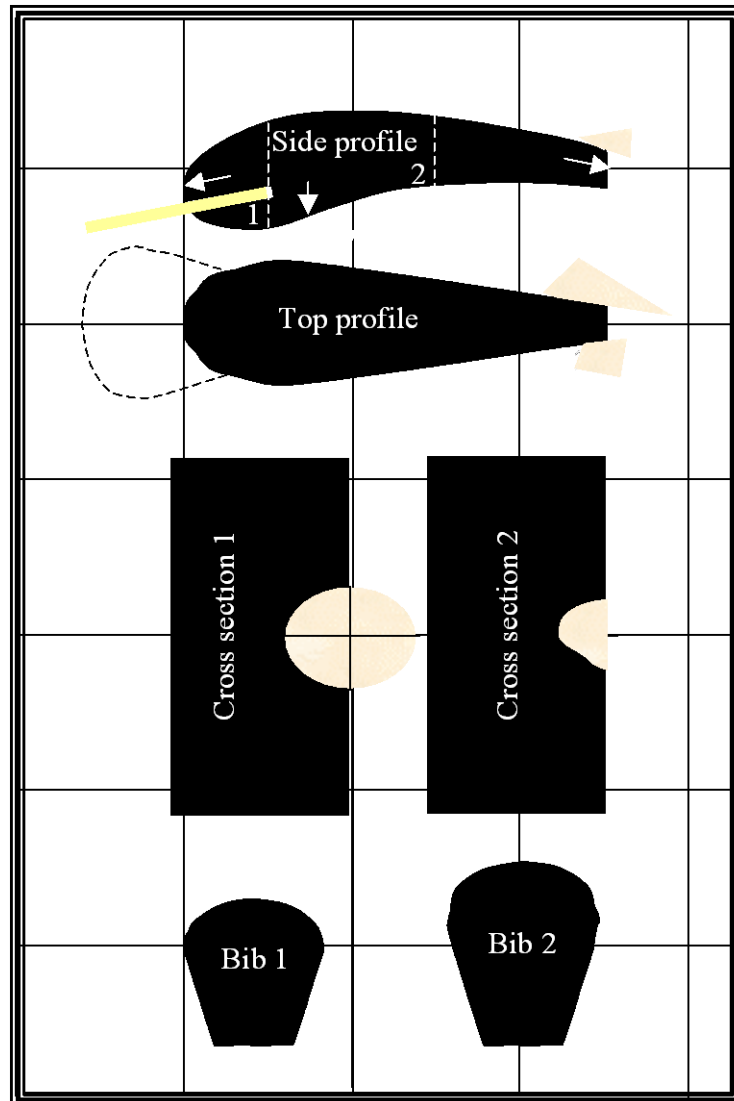


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### Vital statistics: Hot Diggidy 2"

<b>Construction</b>	Rigid polyurethane foam
<b>Reference for techniques</b>	<a href="#">Make Your Own Fishing Lures: Plastic Lures</a>
<b>Length</b>	2" (5cm)
<b>Weight</b>	1/8 Oz (4g)
<b>Bib</b>	1mm (3/64") Perspex/polycarbonate
<b>Action</b>	Wide, strong wobble. High buoyancy.
<b>Diving depth</b>	Bib 1 – Shallow running (1-3 ft. 0.5-1m) Bib 2 – Medium-shallow (3-6 ft. 1.5-2m)
<b>Rings</b>	Stainless steel size 4
<b>Hooks</b>	Eagle Claw L954G 3X Bronze, Size 6

### Hot Diggidy 2"



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## Template #3 – Macka 5”



The Macka was specifically designed to imitate many of the smaller mackerel species common along Australia’s coast, but it’s about the right size and shape for imitating a pilchard too.

The Macka is a timber lure with a 1/4 oz (7g) bean sinker encapsulated within the body. The weight gives the lure a nice balance and good casting weight, plus increases the diving depth. I use balsa for the body but you could use just about any lightweight timber, although the action might vary slightly from my original.

The bib is set at a slightly shallower angle and is made of aluminium, which adds to the weight and keeps the lure balance right. The shallower angle means that the lure takes a little longer to get to the maximum depth. If you plan to cast the lure you could set the bib more horizontally to get it down faster.

I’ve broken from my tradition and used bronzed hooks on this lure (I normally prefer nickel or stainless for lures that will be used predominantly in the salt. The ones in the pictures are Eagle Claw L954G 3X, size 1. I love trebles with a short shank and a wide gape, and these just fit the bill nicely. If you prefer nickel-plated you could substitute Eagle Claw 6061T hooks of the same size.

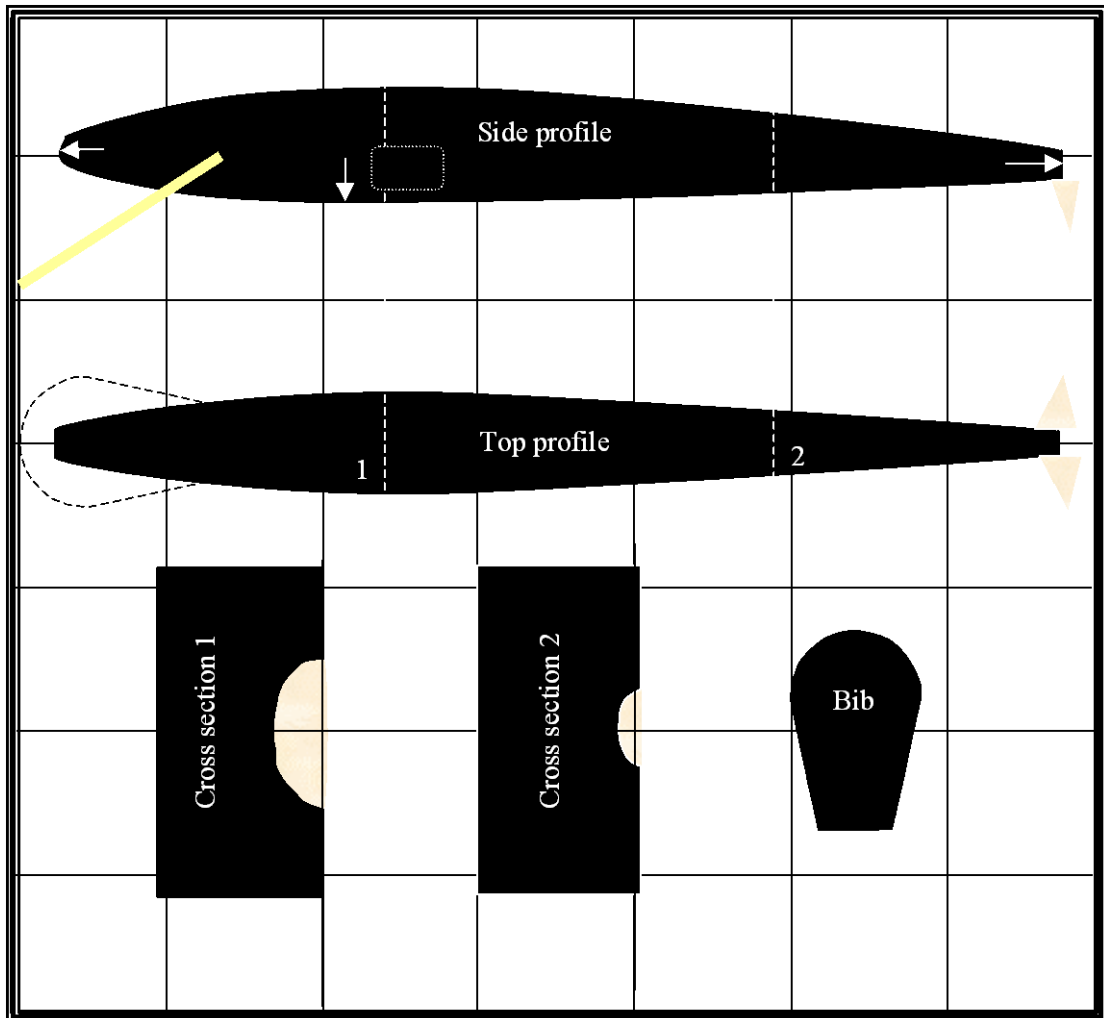
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### Vital statistics: Macka 5''

Construction	Balsa (through wire)
Reference	<a href="#">Make Your Own Fishing Lures: Wooden Lures</a>
Length	5'' (13cm)
Weight	$\frac{5}{8}$ oz (18g)
Bib	1mm sheet aluminium
Action	Medium wobble
Diving depth	10ft (3m) +
Rings	Stainless steel size 7
Hooks	Eagle Claw L954G 3X Bronze, Size 1

### Macka 5''



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## Template #4 - Slinky 3"



The Slinky is a 3" (7.5cm) floating/diving lure. This pattern works well on a range of smaller saltwater pelagics, but was really designed for estuary and freshwater work.

The Slinky has a relatively large bib for the size of the lure, which combines with laterally compressed forequarters and long, streamlined profile to give a lure that dives well and has a strong side to side wobble. The bib angle is relatively flat, so the lure reaches optimum diving depth quickly, just the ticket for casting along steep sided rivers. I toyed with making the bib angle closer to horizontal, but the long slender tail results in less buoyancy at the back end. When hooks are fitted this can result in a 'head-up' position prior to the start of retrieve. If the bib was set too horizontal it may actually be out of the water, resulting in a lure that won't dive. If you really want to increase the diving angle, consider adding some weight at the front of the lure.

I used Eagle Claw 6061T hooks on this pattern. As the trebles are well separated and the lure quite buoyant you can afford to use relatively large hooks on this pattern – a bonus for large mouthed and aggressive species like trout.

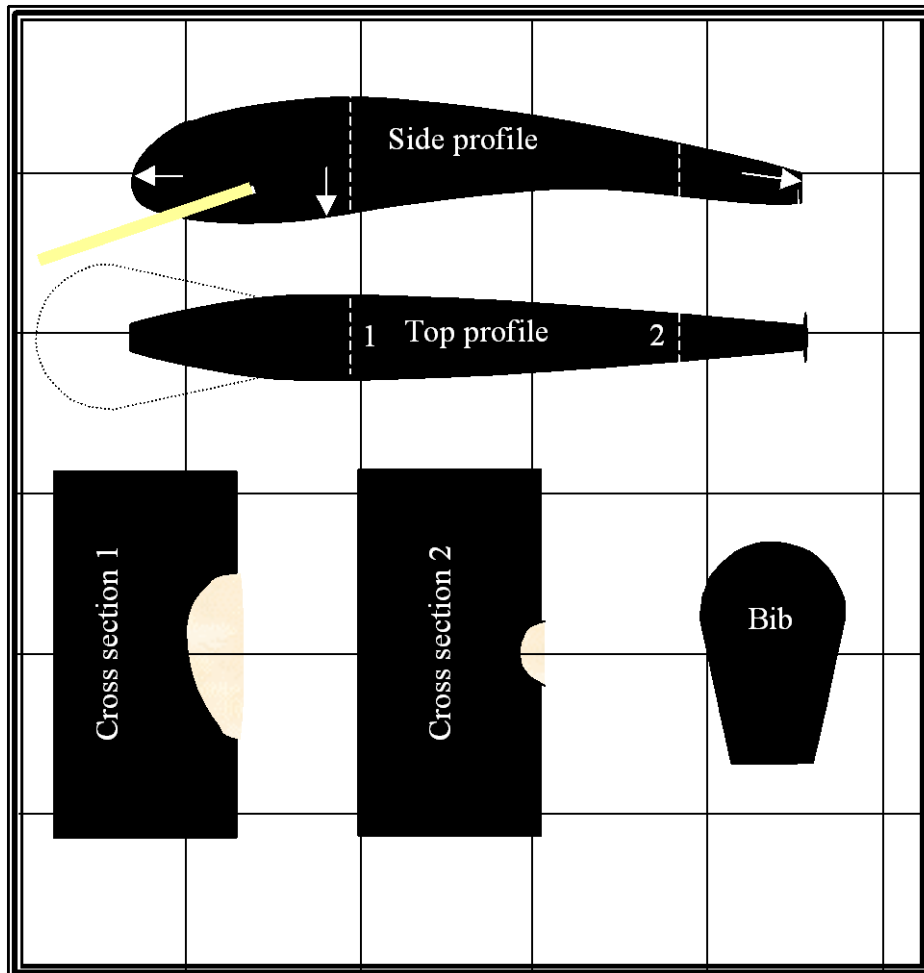
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### Vital statistics: Slinky 3"

Construction	Rigid polyurethane foam
Reference	<a href="#">Make Your Own Fishing Lures: Plastic Lures</a>
Length	3" (7.5cm)
Weight	$\frac{7}{32}$ oz (6g)
Bib	$\frac{3}{64}$ " (1mm) polycarbonate/perspex
Action	Tight shimmy
Diving depth	Medium diver (6-9 ft, 2-3m)
Rings	Black stainless steel size 5
Hooks	Eagle Claw L954G 3X Bronze, Size 6 to 4

### Slinky 3"



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## Template # 5 - Rappa 2 3/4"



I named the Rappa when I had carved and painted a few and then realised that the body shape was quite similar to the well known 5cm Rapala floater diver and its sinking cousin the CD5 in side profile. That's where the similarities between this lure and the Rapala end though.

To start with, the Rappa is 2 3/4" (7cm) in length. It's also a little narrower across the back than the Rapala, giving slightly less buoyancy and hence less action. However, the bib is both longer and wider than those installed on the Rapala, which offsets the loss of action caused by the reduced buoyancy and is set at a slightly shallower angle, giving more rapid diving. The net result is a lure that is slightly larger and heavier than the equivalent Rapala, with a stronger action and deeper diving. So which lure is best? Horses for courses! They're both great lures, which one you pull out of your box will depend on the circumstances at the time.

I've fitted size 4 black stainless split rings and Eagle Claw L954G 3X Bronze, Size 6 trebles (one of my favourites), which also contribute to the slightly greater casting weight and provide more positive hookups. If I was going to use this lure for black bream (or similar species with small, bony mouths) I would probably change down to a size 8 hook, as I feel the smaller hook has a habit of finding small nooks in the cartilage.



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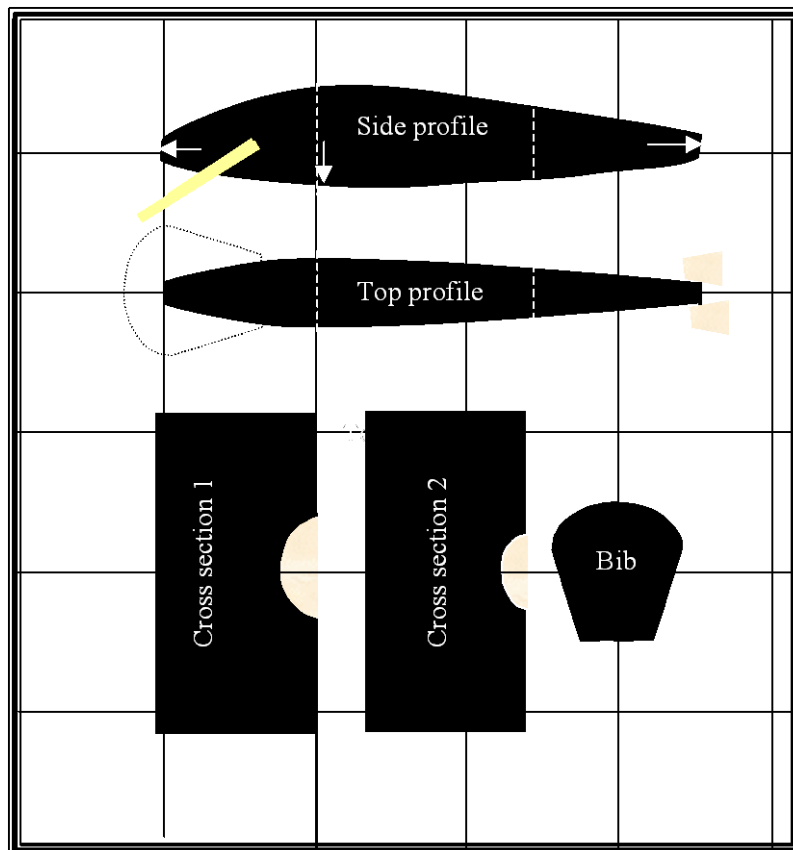


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### Vital statistics: Rappa 2 3/4"

Construction	Timber – (Balsa)
Reference	<a href="#">Make Your Own Fishing Lures: Wooden Lures</a>
Length	2 3/4" (7cm)
Weight	5/32oz (4g)
Bib	Perspex/polycarbonate
Diving depth	Medium diver (7-9 ft, 2.5-3m)
Rings	Black stainless steel size 4
Hooks	Eagle Claw L954G 3X Bronze, Size 6

### Rappa 3 1/2" (7cm)



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## Template#6 - Pee Wee 1 ½”



The Pee Wee was designed with Tasmania's Southern Black Bream in mind, but has proven it's worth on other species too, particularly trout. I really like these little lures, although I generally tend to make them less buoyant than this little guy.

In cross section the Pee Wee is virtually spherical, resulting in a kind of tight rolling side-to-side action, rather than a strong side to side one. It works fairly close to the surface and has proven quite useful for prospecting around shallow coral and oyster beds.

The bib I've specified here is quite small, which contributes to the tight action. I haven't tried, but I suspect that fitting a larger bib may unbalance the lure somewhat. Black #2 split rings and size 8 Eagle Claw L954G 3X bronze trebles complement the style of fishing I use this lure for.



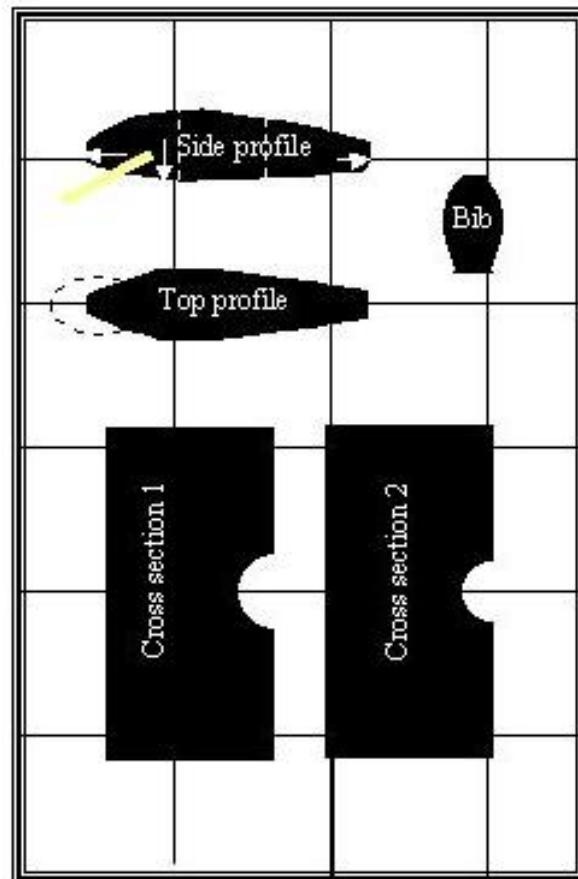
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### Vital statistics: Pee Wee 1 1/2"

<b>Construction</b>	Timber – (Balsa)
<b>Reference</b>	<a href="#">Make Your Own Fishing Lures: Wooden Lures</a>
<b>Length</b>	1 1/2" (3.5cm)
<b>Weight</b>	1/8oz (3g)
<b>Bib</b>	Perspex/polycarbonate
<b>Action</b>	Tight rolling wobble
<b>Diving depth</b>	Shallow (1 1/2-3ft. 0.5-1.0m)
<b>Rings</b>	Black stainless steel size 2
<b>Hooks</b>	Eagle Claw L954G 3X Bronze, Size 8

### Pee Wee 1 1/2" (3.5cm)



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## Template #7 - Big Mutha 11”



This is one case where the name really does say it all! The Big Mutha is a really heavy duty, full-on lure with solid through wire construction, heavy terminal tackle and a tough aluminium bib.

I've used radiata pine for this lure because it's cheap and plentiful. You could use other timbers, but I'd advise against the really light ones like balsa. They just won't cope with the beating that these lures are designed to take. There is 1 oz (28g) of lead embedded in the body of the Big Mutha in the form of two 1/2 oz (14g) ball sinkers, one in front and one behind the middle hook hanger. This gives the lure weight to get it well down as well as ensuring correct orientation in the water. I've also added large plastic eyes of the kind found at most craft shops to my lures. You don't have to add them, but they look great and only cost a few cents each. Use hot glue to attach them, so that if (when?) they get damaged you can lever them off and replace them.

You could use large treble hooks, as is standard on most hard bodied lures. I've opted for large doubles instead, working on the theory that there is less weight dangling below the lure to interfere with the action.

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### Vital statistics: Big Mutha 11"

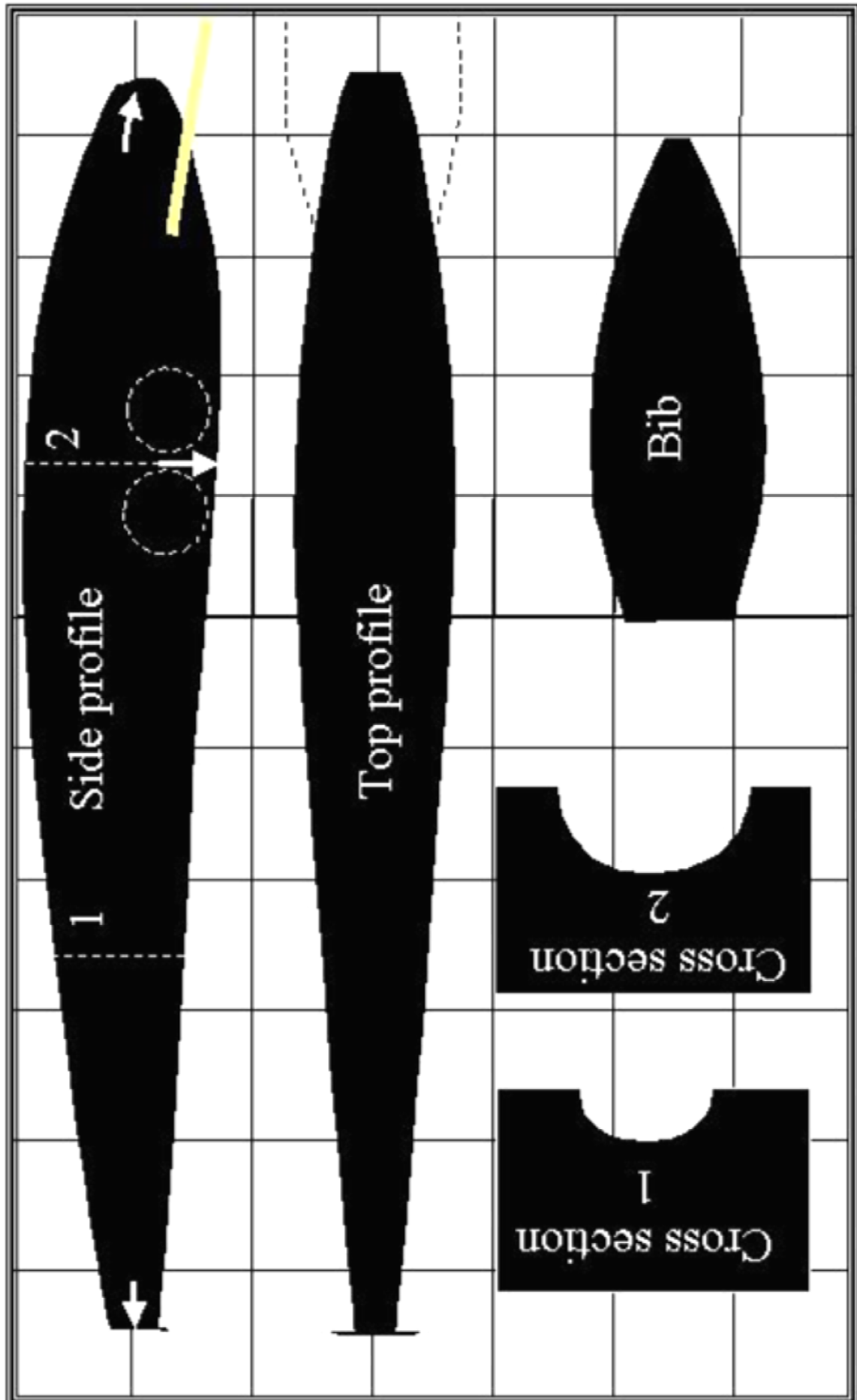
<b>Construction</b>	Radiata pine
<b>Reference</b>	<a href="#">Make Your Own Fishing Lures: Wooden Lures</a>
<b>Length</b>	11" (23cm)
<b>Weight</b>	4 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> oz (150g)
<b>Bib</b>	<sup>3</sup> / <sub>32</sub> " (2mm) sheet aluminium
<b>Action</b>	Tight shimmy
<b>Diving depth</b>	Sinking lure
<b>Rings</b>	None
<b>Hooks</b>	Mustad 7897DT, Size 22



[Type text]

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### Bia Mutha 11" (23cm)





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## Template #8 - Rappatoo 2 3/4"



The Rappatoo is another crankbait that's similar in side profile to the famous Rapala lures. Unlike the Rappa, the Rappatoo is constructed from rigid polyurethane foam, making it much faster to produce and giving more uniform results between lures.

The Rappatoo is 2 3/4" (7cm) in length and is more meaty across the back than the Rappa. This gives it added buoyancy, which increases the action of the lure and makes it ideal for casting or trolling in snag-ridden spots. It does mean that the lure swims a little shallower though, so you may want to scale up the bib size if you need a deeper diver

As usual, I've chosen Eagle Claw L954G 3X Bronze treble for this lure, size 4 being my preference.



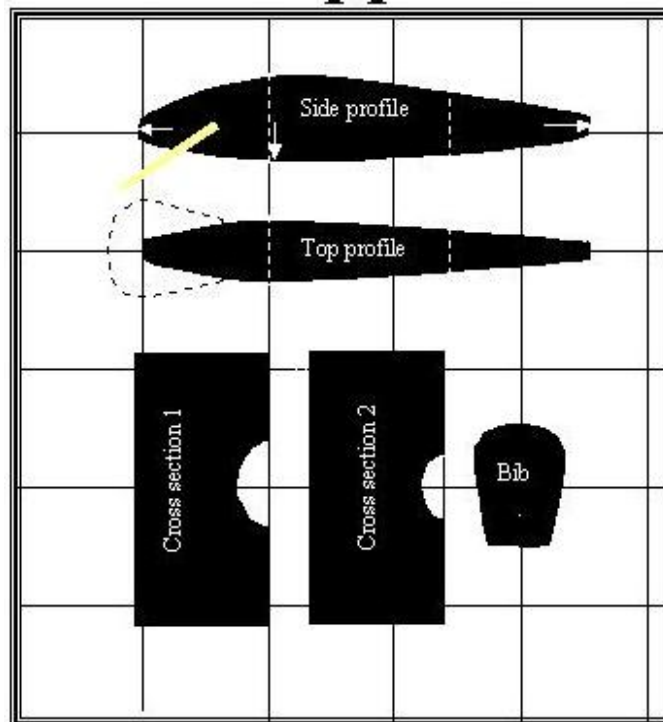
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### Vital statistics: Rappatoo 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ "

Construction	Rigid Urethane Foam
Reference	<a href="#">Make Your Own Fishing Lures: Plastic Lures</a>
Length	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " (7cm)
Weight	$\frac{5}{32}$ oz (5g)
Bib	Perspex/polycarbonate
Action	Tight wobble
Diving depth	Shallow-medium (2-2.5m, 6-7ft)
Rings	Black stainless steel size 4
Hooks	Eagle Claw L954G 3X Bronze, Size 6

### Rappatoo 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " (7cm)



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## Template #9 - Bicheno 4"



The Bicheno is a chunky little surface popper with almost square section fore-body to give extra buoyancy. This is offset by the placement of a little weight where the front hook eyelet protrudes from the lure body. The weight makes the lure a little easier to cast, though it's still pretty light for it's size. The main purpose of the weight is to act as a kind of internal keel, keeping the lure the correct way up during the retrieve or troll. If you get this lure right it should float perfectly horizontal with the tow point right at the waterline

You could shape the mouth at the front of the lure by hand, but I prefer to drill it out with a 12mm (1/2") bit before I start shaping anything else. Cut your through wire slot first, then transfer the template, drill the mouth and go to work in the usual way. Use a sharp spur point bit and advance it slowly to get a clean cut in balsa.

If you want to make versions that don't get so badly damaged by some of the tougher surface feeding pelagics you could just as well use tougher softwoods, such as cedar or radiata pine. These are more dense than balsa so be sure to compensate by reducing the amount of lead weight you use.

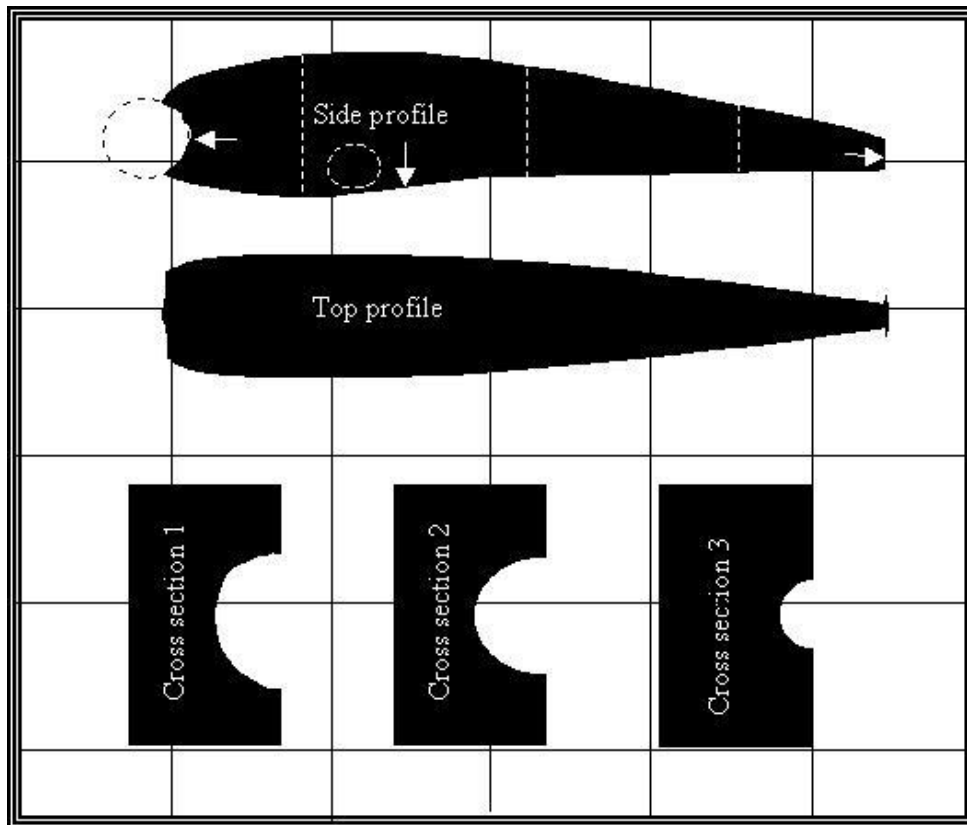
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### Vital statistics: Bicheno 4"

<b>Construction</b>	Balsa with through wire
<b>Reference</b>	<a href="#">Make Your Own Fishing Lures: Wooden Lures</a>
<b>Length</b>	4" (10cm)
<b>Lead weight</b>	Ball sinker, $\frac{7}{32}$ oz (6g )
<b>Lure weight</b>	$\frac{7}{8}$ oz (25g)
<b>Bib</b>	None
<b>Action</b>	Surface disturbance
<b>Diving depth</b>	Surface swimmer
<b>Rings</b>	Number 5 bright stainless
<b>Hooks</b>	Eagle Claw 6061 TA, 4X, size 2/0

### Bicheno 4" (10cm)



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## Template #10 - Macquarie 2 ½"



The Macquarie is a simple but effective little lure design, not unlike the famous Nilsmaster invincible, but with a little less curvature in profile. This pattern is relatively buoyant and has quite a strong action as a result.

You can see from the above photograph that I fit two sizes of bib to this lure. The shorter bib gives a shallower diving lure, whilst the longer bib gives a deeper diver with slightly stronger action.

As the lure has such a strong action you could quite easily increase the size of the hooks you fit, should it be advantageous to do so.



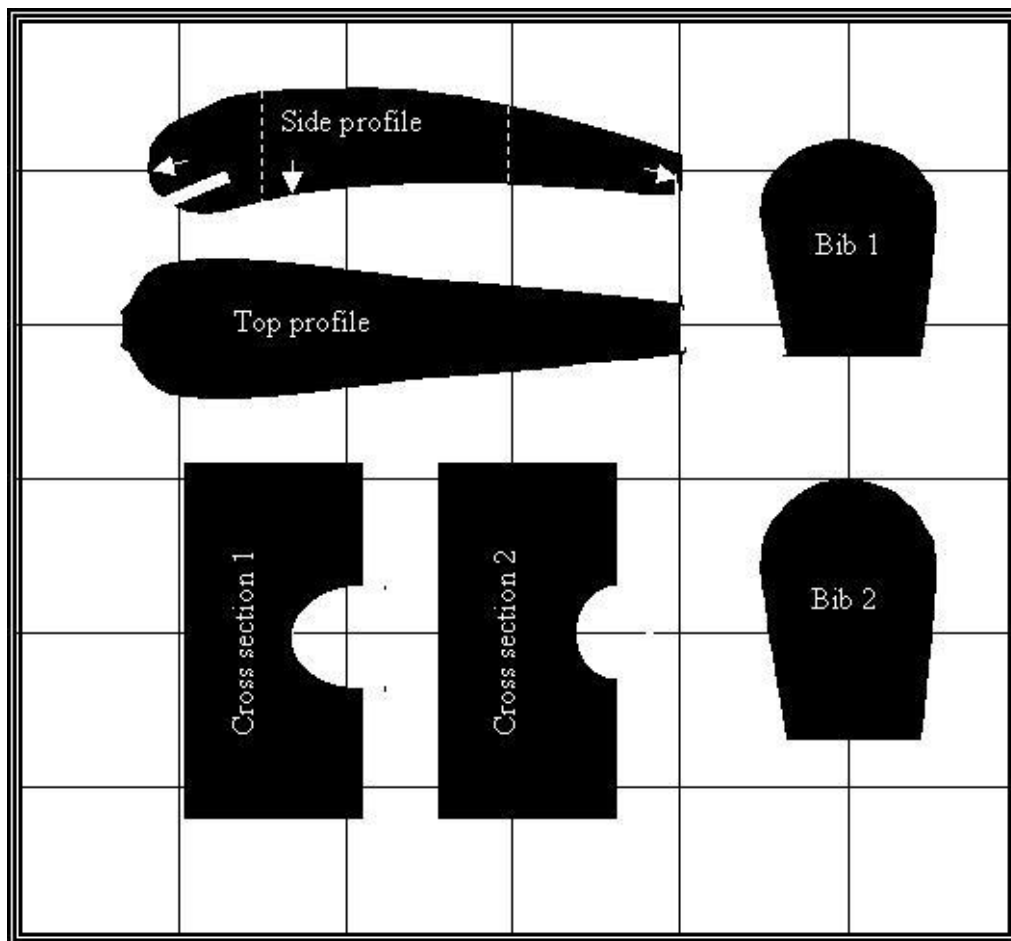
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### Vital statistics: Macquarie 2 1/2"

Construction	Rigid Urethane Foam
Reference	<a href="#">Make Your Own Fishing Lures: Plastic Lures</a>
Length	2 1/2" (6.5cm)
Weight	7/32oz (6g)
Bib	Perspex/polycarbonate
Action	Bib 1 - strong wobble Bib 2 - strong wobble
Diving depth	Bib 1 - 3ft (1m) Bib 2 - 4-6ft (1.5-2m)
Rings	Black stainless steel size 4
Hooks	Eagle Claw L954G 3X Bronze, Size 6

### Macquarie 2 1/2" (6.5cm)



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## Template # 11 - Olga 1<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>”



The “Olga” was specifically designed to tempt Southern Black Bream in Tasmanian estuaries. In keeping with this style of fishing, the lure is weighted carefully to provide near neutral buoyancy. The gentle rising action of the lure when the retrieve is halted is a great tool in eliciting strikes from the wily bream. I fit this lure with rust resistant hooks to reduce the need to replace trebles after frequent forays into the brine.

Of course, the Olga could readily be used for any of a number of species. The good action at slow troll or retrieve speeds should also suit those targeting Atlantic salmon, and I’d be surprised if the odd sea-run brown doesn’t fall to this pattern during bream fishing trips.

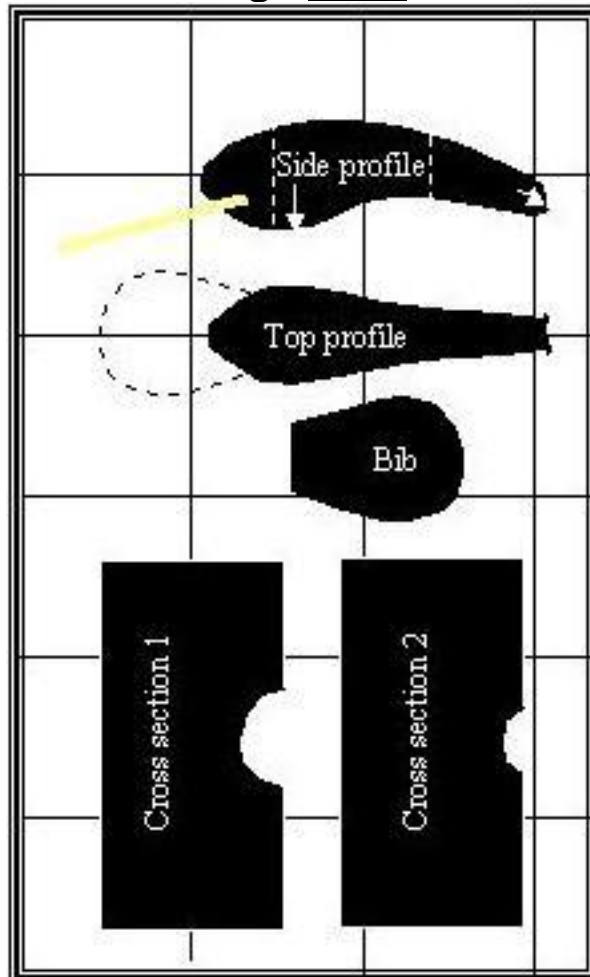
The bib is large and broad, giving the lure a strong side to side wobble at relatively slow speeds. It is also set almost horizontal, providing a rapid dive to maximum depth. This is an advantage when casting to deep structure that is close to a bank. The slow floating nature means that the lure can be worked back in short bursts, an particularly effective technique in relatively shallow water.



### Vital statistics: Olga 1 5/8"

Construction	Rigid urethane foam
Reference	<a href="#">Make Your Own Fishing Lures: Plastic Lures</a>
Length	1 5/8" (4cm)
Lure weight	5/32oz (6g)
Bib	Polycarbonate
Action	Strong side to side wobble
Diving depth	7.5-9ft (2.5-3m)
Rings	Number 2 stainless
Hooks	VMC 9632PS, 2x strong, size 6

### Olga 1 5/8"



## Template #12 - Weld 2 ½”



The “Weld” is a long, sleek minnow style lure that is just great when trout are feeding on galaxias or whitebait. The bib has been deliberately kept small and set at a shallow angle to ensure that the lure stays close to the surface and can be easily fished over shallow weedbeds and estuarine mudflats for sea run brown trout.

I make this lure from balsa for its easy carving qualities and crisp action. With lures that are intended to carry smaller bibs light timbers like balsa maximise the action of the lure. Smaller hooks have been fitted to further ensure that the lure action is maximised through less weight. Using a heavier timber will give a lure with a less strong, less crisp action, but will allow the angler to retrieve or troll the lure at higher speed and will improve castability.

**Vital statistics: Weld 2 1/2"**

<b>Construction</b>	Balsa with through wire
<b>Reference</b>	<a href="#">Make Your Own Fishing Lures: Wooden Lures</a>
<b>Length</b>	2 1/2" (6.5cm)
<b>Weight</b>	7/32oz (6g)
<b>Bib</b>	Perspex/polycarbonate
<b>Action</b>	Tight shimmy
<b>Diving depth</b>	1-3ft (0.5-1m)
<b>Rings</b>	Black stainless steel size 4
<b>Hooks</b>	Daiichi 8110 size 8

**Weld 2 1/2" (6.5cm)**

