

# Safe Carp Rigs

By Vince Harvey

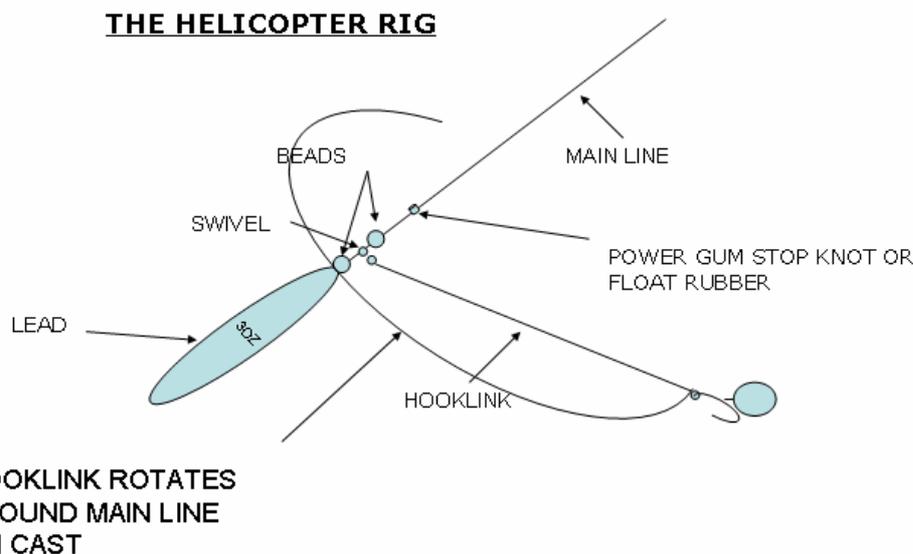
I can name four major changes that have influenced Carp fishing since the early days of the pioneering Carp angler.

- Proof that Carp can be caught in the colder winter months and not only in the warmer summer months.
- The introduction of the boilie.
- The use of particle baits.
- And finally the introduction of the hair.

The original concept of the "hair-rig" was that the fish would pick up the bait without feeling the hooklength. This enabled the hook to be exposed and allow the hook to embed itself a lot easier into the fishes mouth. This would therefore result in more runs being connected with and ultimately more fish being landed.

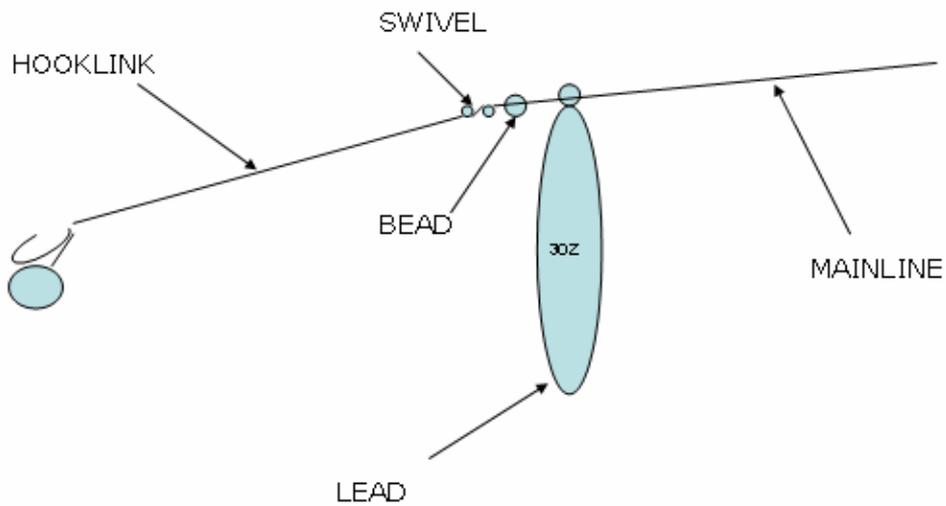
As fish become more aware of this technique the rigs change slightly with many variations now being used. Where runs used to be full blown, some are now nothing but a few bleeps as the fish tries to eject the hook and the bait without the angler being aware of the take.

There are many rig books that are available to the angler these days that explain in detail step by step instructions on tying a multitude of rigs for all occasions. Most if not all tackle shops these days are stocked with ready to go prepared rigs that just need baiting. Over the years there isn't much that hasn't been tried and that the average angler cannot find information on. Needless to say something new may be being used as you read this.



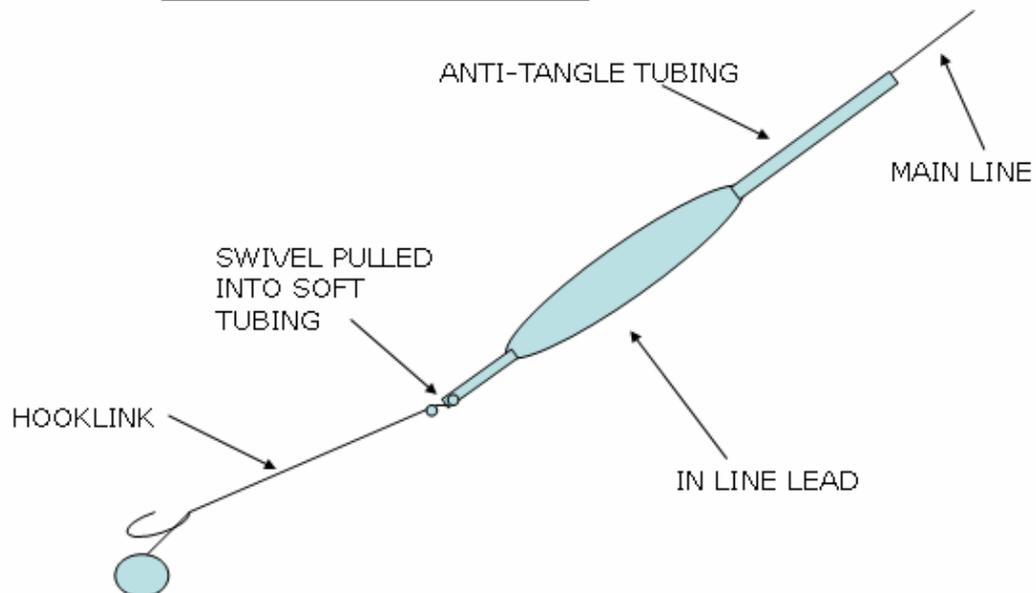
This is still a very widely used rig – why? You may ask. It is virtually tangle free at any range, it catches lots of fish, and it's safe!

## THE RUNNING LEAD



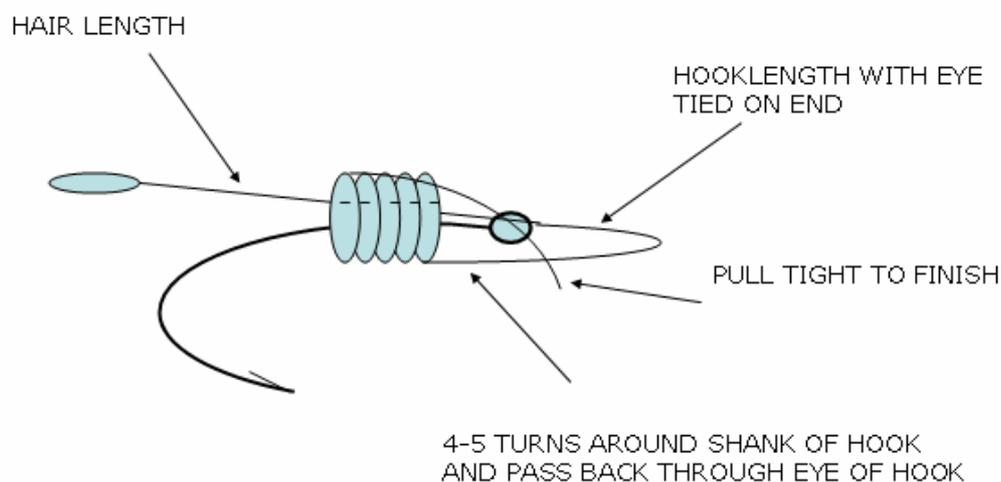
This rig is not as popular as it used to be for the lack of self-hooking. You have to sit and hit movement as it occurs. The upside is that it is very sensitive and can be a deadly way of catching those shy biters.

## THE SEMI FIXED LEAD



Probably the most widely used rig of all these days, it still catches a lot of fish and above all it's safe!!!!

## THE KNOTLESS KNOT



If you can learn to tie this knot it will make rig tying so simple you wouldn't believe making rigs could be so fast, easy and effective.

I have shown some commonly used rigs that have accounted for many fish over the years from the easiest to the hardest waters in the country. At the Warren these rigs at one time or another have banked countless fish and are still continuing to do the business.

These rigs have been designed with fish safety in mind and with the least chance of tangling. Although tangles do happen!

Each rig allows the lead to come free from the fish in an event of a snap off, therefore leaving the fish with only a small amount of line attached which the fish can in time eventually discard.

These rigs that you have seen are just some of the many variations being used by anglers. You must remember that it is not just your rig that is going to catch you those fish other considerations to be taken into account are,

- Choice of bait
- Your desired swim to fish (Is there fish here?)
- The weather conditions
- And above all – Are the fish feeding?

You must remember that you may be doing everything correctly but if the fish aren't in the swim or aren't feeding, you're not going to catch them.

Time and patience are what you need to become a good angler. Gain experience and water craft by observing others and don't be afraid to try something different.

At the Warren its bailiffs will be only too happy to point you in the right direction and who knows you may catch your personal best.

Tight lines