

Homemade Hook Baits & Suitable Presentations (Part 1) – by Ollie Pearce

The growing trend to use alternative hook baits in one guise or another is now extremely popular and gaining that all important edge to stack the odds in your favour can often be difficult to achieve with shop bought, commercially available baits. This is just one of the reasons why I mix and roll most of my own hook baits in all manner of flavour and attractor combinations. As well as this, I also enjoy the satisfaction of catching on homemade hook baits – it makes all of the effort and tweaking in the evenings worthwhile. Below, I am going to demonstrate how I go about this process with bright, white hook baits.

Step 1: This is what you will need before attempting to start the mixing stage –



CC Moore Plain Pop Up Mix, Super Pure Betaine, Lactose Concentrate B+, Ultra Pineapple Essence, Talin, a plastic bag, a fork, a spoon, a round mixing bowl, a pipette, a measuring beaker, a piece of tea towel and one medium sized egg. The Pineapple flavour and Lactose palatant can obviously be swapped for similar products if you wish.

Step 2: Crack the egg into the measuring beaker. Then, transfer the liquid egg from the measuring beaker to the mixing bowl. Note the volume of liquid egg so that future recipes can be identical. Whisk the egg with the fork.



Step 3:

Measure out 6ml Ultra Pineapple Essence and 2ml Talin with a pipette, add both to the liquid egg and whisk again.



Step 4:

Now measure out 1 level tsp of each powder (Lactose Concentrate B+ and Betaine) - add them both to the liquid egg. Whisk again.

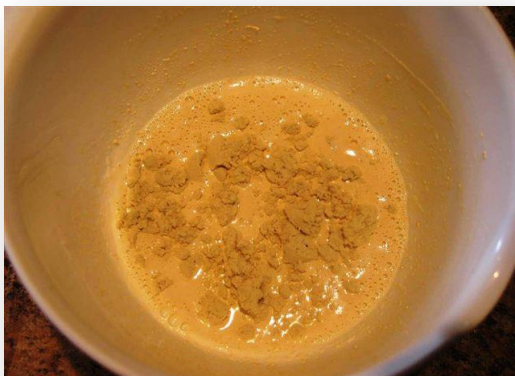


Step 5:

Next add 1 heaped tsp of white dye. Do this slowly and stir well in order to disperse the dye. Once mixed, the liquid in the bowl should be nice and white!

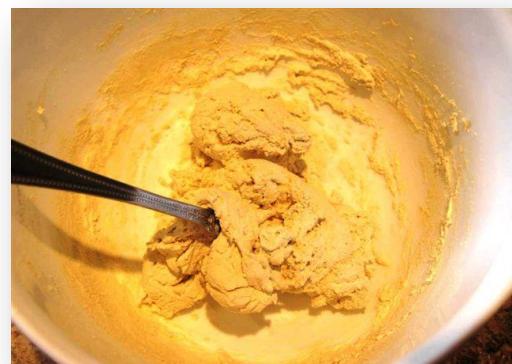
Step 6:

Now begin to add the Plain Pop Up Mix gradually – a spoon can be good for this. Stir all of the powder slowly into the liquid concoction using the fork. Don't add more mix until there are no lumps of dry powder visible.



Step 7:

Repeat the previous step until a fork can no longer be used – time to get your hands dirty! Continue to add small amounts of mix and knead well.





Step 8:

Eventually, the paste will reach a tacky consistency like play dough and the majority of any mess on your hands should now be minimal – you shouldn't need to wash them as any small chunks/pieces of paste will compress into the ball of paste, thus leaving you with more bait! Now place the ball of paste in a plastic bag and put it in the fridge for 20 minutes or so. This helps it "set" so that it is easier to work with. In the meantime, the washing up can be done and a pan can be filled with water – apply heat.

Step 9:

Remove the paste from the fridge and work it in your hands again briefly – it will feel a little on the damp side to begin with but will return to the correct consistency once it has been manipulated between your hands again. I prefer to use a sausage gun and rolling table, although the baits can be rolled by hand into all sorts of shapes and sizes if you wish. Place the paste into the barrel of the gun and screw in the correct sized nozzle which will of course depend on the diameter of the table you are using.



Step 10:

Lightly oil the table with Hemp Oil to prevent too much friction. Next, gun out a sausage across the rolling table, compress the top half of the table on the paste and slide towards yourself and then away several times.

Providing you're using the correct diameter nozzle, you should end up with perfectly round baits. The nozzle will need to be slightly smaller than the table to allow for the paste to expand as the sausage is extruded.

Step 11:

Transfer the baits to a lightly oiled tray to prevent them sticking and then put the baits into the pan – the water should be boiling before you put them in and should remain at boiling point when the baits have been added. Ensure you monitor the boiling time accurately by using a stopwatch or similar. Remove the baits after 60 seconds and place on a towel.



Step 12:

Once all of the baits have been boiled and have been placed on the towel, allow them to dry for 5-7 days – like stones! Space them apart to speed this process up and try to shake the whole batch every 24 hours to air them thoroughly. It is important to let them dry somewhere indoors that is dry and relatively warm.

Step 13:

When the baits cannot be crushed between your thumb and forefinger, they are ready! Transfer them to a pot.



Now measure out 2ml of Ultra Pineapple Essence, drizzle it on the baits and shake well. Each bait should be lightly coated in liquid flavour – this will be soaked up extremely quickly to begin with due to the dry nature of the baits. For the first few days, top up the flavour level every 24 hours by adding another 2ml of liquid.



Over time, this will take longer and you will probably have to wait up to several days at a time before applying more liquid. This process can be repeated time and time again until the baits no longer soak up any more flavour! It is important to note that dark coloured flavours will affect the overall brightness of your baits over time.

So, there you have it – a step-by-step guide on how I go about making high attract hook baits. To see the rigs that I often incorporate into my angling with baits like these, check out part two.

***Be lucky
Ollie Pearce***