



# TT Jig Head Guide

## Three Important Facts About Jighead Fishing.

So many jigheads and so many plastics! Where do you start? A common dilemma that can be solved by remembering the following three important facts about fishing with jigheads:-

- 1. Match the hook size to suit the plastic size.**
- 2. Match the jighead weight to the depth and conditions**
- 3. Match the gauge of wire ( HW-Heavy Weight, LW-Light Weight) to the presence of structure and the species of fish being targeted.**

### Match the hook size to suit the plastic size.

This is extremely important because the last thing that you the angler needs, after tempting a fish to bite, is to either have the hook miss the target because it is too small or too large for the plastic being used. Ideally the point of the hook should come out near the rear of the plastic. This allows the plastic to swim naturally and puts the business end of the hook at the closest point that the fish will bite.

### Match the jighead weight to the depth and conditions

Successful soft plastic anglers have a knack of keeping their plastic in the strike zone for longer than most other anglers. This is achieved by using the correct amount of jighead weight to suit the conditions. Wind and current play important rolls in moving soft plastics through fish strike zones. The secret is to choose the correct amount of weight to keep it there for as long as possible. There is no magic formula other than trial and error. Keep experimenting with weights until you start to get consistent bites. When the bites start to slow change the weight of your jighead.

### Match the gauge of wire ( HW-Heavy Weight, LW-Light Weight) to the presence of structure and the species of fish being targeted.

Depending on where you are fishing and what species you are fishing for the gauge of wire of the hooks can be the difference between landing or losing that prized fish. Light wire hooks are great for shy, timid biting fish but will bend more easily than heavier gauged hooks. Conversely, heavier gauged hooks are strong buy they are more bulky and can spook shy fish. Again it's a case of experimenting to find the right balance between LW and HW.

## TT's Jig Head Selection Guide

For best results when fishing with soft plastics it is very important to select the correct jig head. Many factors play a part in making this selection including; soft plastic type and size, target species, water depth, current, wind speed and fishing techniques. At best, choosing the correct jig head can be confusing and at worst, it can drive even the most experienced angler nuts! To help preserve your sanity TT Lures has produced this brochure to make selecting the correct jighead a little easier. While we offer over 200 different models of jig heads we believe the following tips will help you make the best decision when choosing the jig head for the fishing you intend to do. Our aim is to help you catch more fish.

### Jig Head Weight

Choosing the correct jig head weight is essential to your success. Too little weight will result in your soft plastic lure not reaching your target depth or it will make it difficult to feel the bite. Too much weight and you will either lose the natural life-like presentation of your lure or you will find your lure passing too quickly through the target zone. The following table represents jig head weight selection in perfect conditions. Jighead weights will need to be increased to compensate for currents, windy conditions and soft plastic size.

Depth	Jig head Weight
0 – 20 feet	1/60 – 3/8 oz
21 – 40 feet	1/12 – 5/8oz
41 – 60 feet	¼ - 5/8 oz
61 – 100 feet	3/8 – 1 oz
101 – 150 feet	5/8 – 2 oz
150 feet +	4 – 8 oz

Often you'll find that the fish are suspended mid-water. This happens a lot when fishing for bass. You might be fishing in water that is 60ft deep but the fish are suspended (sitting at) 20ft. To get these fish to bite you must get our soft plastic swimming past their noses. The following tip will help you.

As a general rule a 1/4oz jig head will sink at 1ft per second while a 3/8oz will sink at 1 and 1/2ft and a 1/2oz jighead will sink at 2ft per second. Depending on the wind speed you can choose the best jig head to get your lure down to that 20ft mark. If there is no wind then you could use a 1/4oz jighead, cast it out and count down for 20 seconds before commencing your retrieve. On the other hand if it is blowing a gale and you are drifting quickly over the fish, you would choose a 1/2oz jig head, count down 10 seconds before commencing the retrieve. Experiment with the count down until you get a bite and then stick with that count down depth. For example you might be fishing with a 1/2oz jighead in very windy conditions to fish that are suspended at 20ft. On your first five casts you count down 10 seconds but don't get a hit. The next cast you count down 11 seconds before retrieving and find that you get a bump on the retrieve. That bump means that you are getting your lure into the strike zone. You would then continue your count down 11 seconds before retrieving. Remember to keep experimenting until you crack a pattern where the fish are biting. The following table represents approximate sink rates for TT Jig Heads. The size of the plastic will alter these rates. Remember this just a guide and you will need to experiment.

Jig Head Weight	Sink Rates in feet per second
1/8oz	1/2ft
1/4oz	1ft
3/8oz	1 1/2ft
1/2oz	2ft
5/8oz	2 1/2ft

### Hook Selection

Hook selection is crucial and must suit many variables including; target species, line size and structure type (weed beds, fallen timber, rock bars and reefs). TT Lures jig heads are built on five different ranges of chemically sharpened hooks.

Our premium grade of jig heads is the Tournament Series which are built on Gamakatsu, the world's finest hooks. There are several variations of hooks within this range and the following table outlines these along with a brief description of their uses.

Tournament Series – Gamakatsu Hooks	Description
Gamakatsu – Light Wire (LW)	These jig heads are built on light wire hooks and are incredibly sharp. They offer maximum penetration for very shy or fussy fish and can be fished with very light lines. Hook sizes range from size #2 through to #4/0
Gamakatsu – Heavy Wire (HW)	These jig heads are built on heavy wire hooks and are extra strong and ultra sharp. They are used to catch a wide range of estuary and reef fish and can be fished on heavy lines. Hook sizes range from #2H (heavy) through to 8/0H.
Gamakatsu – Extra Heavy Duty (XHD)	These jig heads are built on incredibly strong Gamakatsu O'Shaunassy hooks and are designed to handle anything that swims. Hook sizes range from 7/0 XHD (Extra Heavy Duty) to 10/0 XHD.

Our Head Hunter Series and Rev Head ranges are built on Mustad hooks. Mustad hooks offer high quality, chemically sharpened hooks that represent excellent value for money.

The following table outlines the two Mustad hook ranges within the Head Hunter Series.

Head Hunter Series – Mustad Hooks	Description
Head Hunter – Mustad Aberdeen	These jig heads are built on high quality chemically sharpened hooks and represent excellent value for money. Hook sizes range from #6 through to #2/0.
Head Hunter – Extreme Heavy Duty	These jig heads are built on heavy duty Mustad hooks that are chemically sharpened. They will handle most species of fish no matter what size and are very difficult to bend. Hook sizes range from #2/0H (Heavy) through to 8/0H.

### Important facts about hooks

Gamakatsu and Mustad hooks are not the same size! Mustad hooks are generally one size larger than Gamakatsu in the Head Hunter Mustad Aberdeen range and are 2 sizes larger in the Head Hunter – extra Heavy Duty range. Therefore if you are after a 5/0 hook size you would choose a 5/0 in the Gamakatsu range **but** you would select a 4/0 in the Head Hunter – Mustad Aberdeen range and a 3/0 in the Head Hunter – Extra Heavy Duty range. The general rule when choosing from the Head Hunter range is to go one size smaller for the normal Head Hunter jig and two sizes smaller for the Extreme Head Hunter jig.

Finally, when choosing a jig head make sure you look at the hooks and consider the following; (a) What species am I targeting, (b) What plastic am I using and (c) What structure am I going to fish.

## Commonly Asked Questions

### Why does TT Lures make so many jig head sizes?

TT Lures prides itself on the range and quality of its jig heads and has over 200 to select from. This range covers all styles of fishing from still water to open ocean. Because there is such a large range of fishing styles there is a need for a wide variety of jig heads. You can be assured that no matter what style of fishing you are interested in; TT Lures will have a jig head to satisfy your needs. And the range is still growing as anglers develop new methods to catch fish, TT Lures develops jig heads to help them.

### How do I choose the correct jig head for the fishing I want to do?

This is the very reason we have produced this brochure; to help you select the correct jig head for your fishing needs. This brochure has a comprehensive run down on jig head weights, hook sizes, techniques, and an essentials list of jig head sizes for six common species. This brochure has been produced from years of field testing and we hope it will help you not only get into jig head fishing but will also increase your fishing knowledge.

### What rod and reel do I need for jig head fishing?

This is like answering the question; "How long is a piece of string?" The simple answer is any rod and reel combination can be used to fish jig heads. For each species listed there is a suggested rod, reel and line combination for you to follow but remember the rods and reels you already have can be used to fish jig heads. As you become more proficient as a soft plastic angler, you will come to understand and appreciate what high quality rods and reels can achieve.

### What is a leader and do I need one?

A leader is a piece of line, usually two to three metres long, that is attached to the end of the main line of the reel. Leaders are particularly useful if your main line is braid. The leader acts as a 'shock absorber' when fish hit. It also is more resistant to wear than braided line and this trait is useful when fishing around structure. Leaders are made of anything from ordinary nylon line to fluro-carbon line that is less visible under water. Leaders can be tied to the main line by a variety of knots and one of the most popular is the Albright. Check out Geoff Wilson's book on fishing knots for the low down on knot tying.

### How do I tie these things on?

Tying a jig head onto your line is the same as most hooks are tied on. You use the same knot. Use either a loop knot or a half blood locked knot.

### I've always used bait can I use jig heads with bait?

Of course you can! Jig heads can be used with both bait and soft plastics. If you fish with bait then jig heads will give you the combination of sinker and hook all in one. Jig heads are primarily designed to be fished with artificial baits known as soft plastics. This guide gives you a detailed list of soft plastics that can be used with jig heads to catch a wide variety of fish. If you've never tried soft plastic fishing then use this guide to give it a go but be warned; it can become very addictive. Many a diehard bait fisho has tried soft plastic fishing and now won't go back to bait, leaving the yabbie pump and bait net to rot in the shed.

### How do I rig a soft plastic onto a jig head?

It's just like threading a worm, yabbie or small bait fish onto a hook. You start at the head of the soft plastic and tread it onto the jig head so that the barb of the hook comes out towards the rear of the plastic. You then push the plastic up the shaft of the hook until the head rests against the lead head of the jig. It's that simple and the diagram opposite shows a rigged jig head ready for action.

### Why are there two brands of hooks in the TT range?

TT Lures uses both Gamakatsu and Mustad hooks in its jig head range. Gamakatsu hooks are known for being the finest hooks in the world and are used in our premium grade of jig heads branded as the Tournament Series. Mustad manufactures high quality chemically sharpened hooks that represent great value for money and are used in our Head Hunter and Rev Head ranges. The difference between the two hook types is explained fully in another section of this brochure however you can be assured that no matter what hook you choose you will be getting a quality product.

### What's the difference between heavy wire and light wire hooks?

This is answered in detail in another section of the brochure. The simple answer is; light wire hooks provide excellent penetration on fish and can be used with light lines. Their major drawback is they do bend and straighten more easily than heavy wire hooks. Heavy wire hooks are stronger and can be used with heavier lines to catch hard fighting fish that live around structure such as rock bars and fallen timber. When choosing a jig head make sure you look at the hook and consider whether it will hold the fish in the area you are going to fish.

### What are Hidden Weight System (HWS) and Snagless Weight System (SWS) jig heads?

A Hidden Weight System (HWS) is a jig head that has a small amount of lead moulded around the shaft of the hook so that when it is treaded onto a soft plastic there is no lead visible. These are used to fish for very shy or fussy fish and allow the angler to present the plastic in its most natural state. These jig heads are used by bream anglers when fishing around moored boats or pontoons where there is little or no tidal flow.

The Snagless Weight System (SWS) is a jig head that has lead moulded around the bend in the hook and is designed to fish soft plastics in weedy or heavily timbered areas. These jig heads are less likely to snag up than normal jig heads and therefore can be fished in very unforgiving country.

**What are 'Depth Charge' Jigheads?**

Depth Charge jigheads are a recent addition to our Tournament Series Range. They are a premium quality painted jighead featuring: 3D eyes, Gamakatsu chemically sharpened hook and hand sculptured head. They are available in a variety of colours to complement your favourite plastic. We believe that they are one of the most lifelike jigheads ever produced.

**What are Revheads?**

Revheads are a combination of a normal jighead with a spinner blade attached to the bottom. This gives you the advantage of being able to add flash and vibration to your soft plastic lure. When fish are active but not attacking normal reaction baits such as spinnerbaits or hard bodied lures, then revheads provide the perfect alternative. Revheads can be used on most species of fish from bream to barra. They are particularly effective on flathead, jew fish, bass, barramundi and other aggressive predatory fish.

**Why do you offer Lead Free Jigheads?**

TT Lures produces lead free jigheads as an environmentally friendly alternative to lead. These jigheads are made from a lead free pewter alloy.

Thank you for taking the time to read this brochure. It's been a work in progress by TT Lures for nearly three years in consultation with professional tournament anglers and tackle-shop specialists that sell our products. We at TT Lures are proud to be a wholly Australian owned company. We encourage you use this brochure to improve your fishing techniques and we believe that it offers something for both the novice and the professional angler.

TT Lures can be found at your local fishing retail outlet nationwide and throughout New Zealand. We hope that when you are choosing to buy jig heads that you will support our Australian company and we promise that we will continue to produce and develop jig heads that are of the highest quality in the world.

Happy fishing,