

What HOOKLENGTH?

Jon Arthur passes on some useful advice when it comes to choosing the right hooklengths for commercial fisheries.

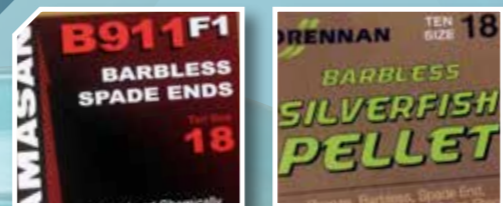
I have just spent a typically 'exciting' evening topping up my hooklengths and thought it might be nice to pass on what spade end patterns I'm currently using on commercials.

I use a mixture of Drennan Silver Fish Pellets and slightly finer Kamasan B911 F1s for most of my winter work, all tied to Drennan Supplex line. Then, when things warm up, I use a lot of Drennan Wide Gape Pellets, stepping right up to a Drennan Margin Carp for serious crunching work!

Most of my hooklengths are six inches (15cm) long, although I have a few shorter traces tied up for shallow work or when I need a really positive setup. I also have no problem putting a shot on my hooklength if necessary – just make sure your shot is nice and soft. I rarely resort to biting shot on the line. Instead, I prefer to squeeze my shot on with Styl pincers for controlled, even pressure.

A word of caution when it comes to asking others about their hooklength choices. If someone tells you that they've caught on a certain diameter of line, always ask them what brand they've used. Some are at least 0.02mm out, so 0.10mm is at least 0.12mm and so on. It's up to you if you think that makes a difference or not! I've been using Supplex for over a year and cannot fault it.

The table opposite outlines my current hook and hooklength combos. I hope it helps!



B911 F1 – ideal for skimmers and F1s.

Silverfish Pellet – a great all-round choice.



Wide Gape Pellet – for general carp fishing.



Margin Carp – the ultimate bagging hook.

JON'S TOP HOOK CHOICES

IS IT WORTH FISHING STRAIGHT THROUGH?
Hooklengths offer you so much versatility, but there are occasions when I will fish direct, particularly in the summer. These tend to be positive, no-nonsense rigs for big carp when I don't want any weak links at all in my setup. I can tie these types of rigs up really fast and store plenty on winders so I can pop a new rig on almost as quickly as it takes to change a hooklength. My straight-through rigs are mostly on 0.16mm to 0.20mm Drennan Supplex with a size 16 to 12 Wide Gape Pellet hook or a size 14 to 12 Margin Carp. Proper gear!



ANGLER FILE

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Pole: **Drennan Acolyte**
Jon is a two-time UK Champion, the 2013 Wychavon Champion and former group editor of Match Fishing and Pole Fishing magazines.

SIZE	PATTERN	LINE DIAMETER	APPLICATION
20	Kamasan B911 F1	0.093mm	Really difficult winter days for F1s and silvers with baits like maggots, pinkies and small expanders
20	Kamasan B911 F1	0.105mm	Winter work for F1s and small carp with maggots, pinkies, small expanders and even micro pellets
18	Kamasan B911 F1	0.105mm	All-round choice for F1s, skimmers and small carp, particularly with 4mm expander or double maggot
16	Kamasan B911 F1	0.105mm	Mostly for bream and skimmers when I want a larger hook to keep these soft-mouthed fish on
18	Drennan Silver Fish Pellet	0.117mm	Summer F1s and small to medium carp in winter with pellet, corn, maggots and casters
18	Drennan Silver Fish Pellet	0.128mm	All sizes of carp when I still need a bit of finesse with pellet, corn, meat, maggots, casters and bread
16	Drennan Silver Fish Pellet	0.117mm	Bread dobbing with larger sizes of punch, summer F1s and a nice compromise between finesse for skimmers and strength for bonus carp
18	Drennan Wide Gape Pellet	0.14mm	A strong hooklength with a small hook for baits like corn, maggot or caster for wary carp of all sizes
16	Drennan Wide Gape Pellet	0.14mm	Medium to large carp with corn, meat, 6mm pellets, worms, casters, maggots and also a good choice for dobbing bread for big winter carp
16	Drennan Wide Gape Pellet	0.16mm	My standard all-round summer bagging combination with almost any bait imaginable
14	Drennan Wide Gape Pellet	0.16mm	A larger hook for fishing worms, summer breaming with pellets and meat or even small to medium lumps of paste for carp and F1s
14	Drennan Margin Carp	0.18mm	Number one choice for bagging up and summer margin work, particularly with dead maggots or worms, but also good with meat, corn and paste