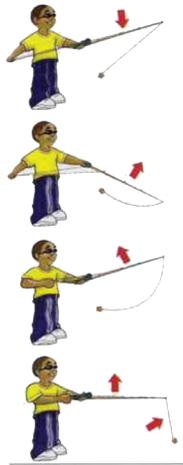




Learn to Cast!

Practice makes perfect! Learn to cast in your yard. Create target spaces in your yard using hula-hoops, rope, or sticks. Make the spaces bigger or smaller as you improve.



Exercise 1: Flipping

This technique is effective for presenting a bait quietly in close situations, like when fishing for bass in bushes, reeds, and docks.

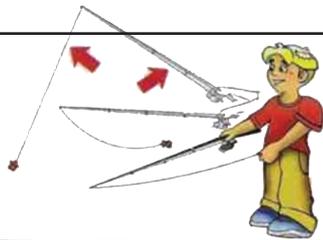
Set up a target 10 feet away from where you will be standing. First, raise the rod and release from the reel about as much line as the rod is long. Then grasp the line at the point between the reel and the first guide of the rod. Pull back about one-half of the line that you let out. Lower the rod and then slowly raise it again so the plug swings back at you. Next, quickly lower the rod to make it level with the target and pointing directly at the bull's-eye.

As the lure begins to swing back out, feed the line through the guides with the hand you have on the line. Don't let go of the line until the plug lands on the target. The hand gripping the line is like a brake. It keeps too much or too little line from coming out.

If you have enough line out to begin with, and the rod is pointed at the target, the plug should land on the bull's-eye!

Graphics from Bassmaster Casting Kids magazine.

Exercise 2: Pitching



This technique is effective when clear water situations require you to avoid getting too close to the fish to prevent spooking.

The target is 20 feet away from you. Raise the rod straight up and release enough line so the plug is even with the hand you are using to hold the rod. Next, hold the plug (not the line) in your free hand and then lower the rod so it points right at the target.

To make the pitch, raise the rod again, then let go of the plug and allow it to swing toward the target as you lower the rod.

With practice, you will be able to control the force of the pitch so the plug will land on the target.

Exercise 3: Casting

This technique is effective for open-water fishing.



The target is 30 feet away. Point the rod directly at the target. This helps you to line up your rod, your casting arm, and your eyes with the target. Then raise the rod straight up and pause. Keep your eyes on the target and your wrist straight.

Move the arm holding the rod from the 12 o'clock position to the 2 o'clock position and then press the button to release the plug.

You will probably find out that releasing the button too soon makes the plug fly into the air and miss the target. Waiting too long to release the line makes the plug fall short of the target. For best results, practice often in short sessions.