

THE "ULTIMATE" GIANT JACKPOT

By: Phil Gutmann

Over the 20 plus years I have been chasing muskies in Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Canada, I still hear many negative comments about the Giant Jackpot. Most of them revolve around either the fish missing the bait or the bait breaking apart. About 5 to 7 years ago, after spending numerous hours and \$\$\$ testing and modifying many Giant Jackpots, I developed a modification system that not only improved the durability of the bait but also improved the hooking percentages.

Items Needed:

- (2) VMC 9650 5/0 Hooks
 - (3) Bucher Super Split Rings #7
 - (1) .092 Magnum Stainless Steel Closed Screw Eye 2"
 - (1) .092 Magnum Stainless Steel Closed Screw Eye 1 1/2"
 - (1) .092 Magnum Stainless Steel Closed Screw Eye 1 1/8"
- 2-Part Epoxy Glue
Lead Core Solder (.093 Dia.)

Step 1: Remove all split rings and hooks from the Giant Jackpot.

Step 2: Remove the front, middle and rear screw eyes. Please note: The rear screw eye will be more difficult to remove as it has been glued into place through the rear weight placed in the baits body by the manufacturer. Sometimes it will come out in one piece and other times it will break off. If the screw eye does break off, trim the screw eye as close to the body as possible with wire cutters. Then, you will need to drill a 5/64 pilot hole near the imbedded screw eye shank into the bait body about 1".

Step 3: Mix up your 2-Part Epoxy Glue as directed.

Step 4: Apply glue to the threads only of the .092 Screw Eyes and re-insert as below:

1 1/2" SS Screw Eye:	Nose of Giant Jackpot
1 1/8" SS Screw Eye:	Middle of Giant Jackpot
2" SS Screw Eye:	Rear of Giant Jackpot

Wipe off excess glue after screw eyes are threaded completely flush with the bait body. Allow to dry 24 hours.

Step 5: Attach split rings to the hooks.

Step 6: On one of the hooks, you will need to wrap the lead core solder around the shank of the hook. Press into place with a pair of pliers. This will become the rear hook for the bait. By placing the solder on the rear hook, you will get the bait to glide more side to side on the waters surface which in turn gives the muskie a much better target to eat. This extra rear weight also changes the sound of the "Blurp" as you work the bait which has tended to be more attractive to the muskie.

Step 7: Reattach the split rings and hooks to the bait. The remaining split ring should be placed on the nose screw eye.

Step 8: Sharpen the hooks and Go Fishing!

My choices of rods for this bait are either a St. Croix Musky Avid 7-6 H or Avid 8-0 H. In the St. Croix Legend Musky 7-6 XH or 7-9 H. I have preferred over the last few years, with much success, a Garcia 7000 with a 4.3 ratio spooled with 80 lb. Power Pro for working my Giant Jackpots. This combo has proven reliable for working the bait presentation in a slow and rhythmic fashion but also providing a deadly hook set when the muskie decides to strike. This past year (2006) while on my annual trip to Lake of the Woods, I ended up boating 28 muskies; 10 of which were caught on this exact modified Giant Jackpot; 2 of these 10 were both 50".