

### Bullet weights

These weights look like a bullet and have a hole that the line passes through. Used most by plastic worm fisherman, they are rigged stationary by jamming a toothpick into the line hole and pinching the line.

Saltwater fisherman sometimes forget the effectiveness of this weight style, which works well when fishing oyster beds or rocky areas. Its thin profile and lack of edges or points is not as likely to hang up as other types of sliding sinkers.

### Pyramid sinkers

A three-sided weight, it has a brass eye in its base. In this instance, the base is the top of the weight, and the point is considered the bottom. With its three sides, the weight offers edges, corners, and a point that can grip the bottom. It is a favorite of surf fisherman.

The pyramid is most commonly used with a nylon sinker-slide called a fish finder. The sinker slide looks like a figure 8 with its center being a clasp. One loop of the sinker-slide fits through the brass eye of the weight and the other loop has a nylon tube attached to it. The fishing line passes through the nylon sleeve and allows the angler to play out the bait without recasting. An additional advantage is a fish can pick up the bait and not be warned by the feel of a weight.

### Dipsey swivel sinker

This weight looks like a large rain drop with a brass swivel eye in the smaller end. While it can be rigged to allow line to pass through the eye, it is used almost exclusively as a drop weight on a three way swivel rig. Because of its swivel, it does not twist the line. While not widely used, it can be effective in fast moving water.

### Split shot, pinch-on, and rubber core

These weights attach on the line. A split shot is the most well known of these weights and is a favorite of freshwater panfish anglers. It is most commonly used with a small bobber, but can also add just the proper weight when freelining.

Made in sizes from BB to a 1/2-ounce, they are attached by squeezing the slit shut on the line with a pliers. The best characteristic of this type weight is its flexibility. For example, saltwater fisherman use a split shot when live bait fishing to making casting easier. In

moving water, a split shot can be used to keep the bait at the proper depth without fishing on the bottom.

A pinch-on sinker has a slit down its length with a flexible metal ear at each end. Pressing the ears around the line holds the weight in place. Many fisherman prefer this weight because of its slim profile and ease of use. It comes in sizes from 1/16 to 3/4 ounces.

The rubber core sinker is an improved version of the pinch on sinker. The sinker is placed on the line by squeezing the line through a slot in the sinker as the rubber core is stretched. The rubber core holds the line without damaging it, and the flexible rubber allows for quick weight changes or repositioning.



### Specialty weights: keel, button, and cigar

The keel sinker is designed for trolling. It is shaped like a flat triangle with three unequal sides. There are brass swivels and eyes attached at either end of the longest side of the weight. This configuration allows two things to happen, first the line is not twisted as the bait is trolled, and secondly, the bait or lure can be trolled at alternate depths. These weights come in sizes from 1/2 to 8 ounces.

The button weight is used primarily as a fixed weight for straight drop line fishing. It has brass eyes and barrel swivels at each end.

The cigar sinker has a slimmer profile than the button, but also has eyes and swivels at each end. It is an in-line sinker that may also be used for trolling like a keel weight.