


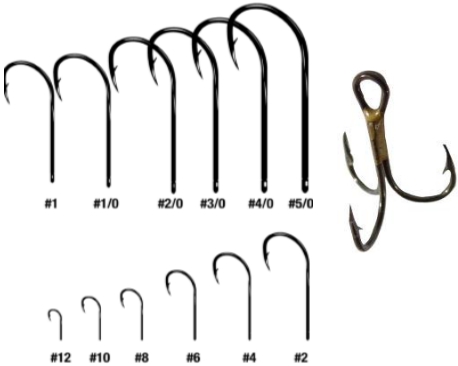







Items for Beginning Fishing	Purpose and Descriptions
<p>Spincast Rod and Reel</p> 	<p>Spincast reels are great for beginners as they require low maintenance and are easy to use. Look for reels with 8-10lb test line and medium to medium-heavy rods. The reel and rod can be purchased as a “combo” which is often cheaper than buying them separate. Anglers can pursue almost all Kansas fish with this setup.</p>
<p>Fishing Line</p> 	<p>Fishing line is the most important component of fishing, as it connects you to the fish. Rods and Reels will have recommended line limits. For reels, this is due to the diameter of the line. Using too large of line may cause reel failure or the line to not stay on the spool. Also, too strong of line could cause the rod to break if too much pressure is applied.</p> <p><b>Pound Test</b> - This is the “tensile strength” of the line. Line labeled as 10lb test should take at least 10lbs of pressure to break. Your knot will always have less strength than the line.</p> <p><b>Monofilament</b> is the best line to start fishing with, as it works on all reels and can be used in any type of fishing. Focus on 8-10lb test.</p>
<p>Tackle box or bag or trays</p> 	<p>Choosing tackle storage is up to the angler’s preference on function and tackle quantity. If the angler wants to just use terminal tackle, then a simple one-tray tacklebox will do the job. It can hold plenty of hooks, weights, and bobbers with room for pliers, stringers, and other accessories. If the angler wants to carry multiple lures to fish for all species, a multi-tray box or a soft bag with clear utility trays may be a better option.</p>
<p>Hooks for baits and lures</p> 	<p>Nowadays, there are hooks designed for all species of fish and all fishing techniques. Beginners wanting to just fish for whatever’s biting, should look for “Aberdeen” or “bait-holder” hooks with the simple “J-shape”. These can hold worms, hotdogs, minnows, insects, corn and other bait and work well when fishing with or without a bobber. It is a good idea to purchase a couple different sizes of these hooks. A #6 hook is recommended for bluegill; #2 is great for using larger bait crappie, bass and catfish. Treble hooks are recommended when using liver and stinkbait for catfish. The most important thing to remember <b>is if the fish can’t get the hook in their mouth, you won’t be able to catch it!</b></p>
<p>Sinkers (weights)</p> 	<p>Like hooks, weights come in all shapes and sizes. Split-shot sinkers are the most versatile and easiest to use. These can be added and removed without having to re-tie fishing rigs. Egg or slip-sinkers are great for bottom fishing for catfish. You can use a heavier weight to help casting distance, but since the line moves freely, the fish doesn’t feel the weight. Using a slip-sinker required additional items – either a split-shot or swivel – placed between the slip-sinker and hook.</p>
<p>Bobbers (floats, corks)</p> 	<p>Bobbers are used to suspend bait in the water column and as a “strike indicator. Both bobber types shown here work for fishing in most situations. Remember, the larger the bobber, the more force the fish must exert to pull it under. With that in mind, buying several different sizes is recommended. The elongated bobbers are designed for fishing in waves and for finesse fishing, specifically for crappie. Slip-bobbers require “bobber stops” and are not recommended for first time anglers.</p>

<p>Accessories</p> 	<p>Anglers need tools and accessories to ensure a safe and successful fishing trip. Needle-nose pliers are a must and are used to cut line, attach split-shot sinkers, and remove hooks from fish. Other hook removers can be used but often cannot cut line. A fish landing net can increase landing ease of hooked fish. If anglers want to harvest fish, a stringer or creel basket can keep the fish alive and fresh. <b>Only put fish you intend to harvest on a stringer or in a basket.</b> Don't forget a ruler to measure fish length, fillet knives and other fish cleaning items. Anglers should also consider bug spray, sunscreen, and sunglasses for personal protection.</p>
<p>Live and Natural Baits</p> 	<p>Stores carry several different "prepared baits," often targeting catfish species, such as stinkbait, packaged baitfish, and doughbaits. These can be purchased and stored for later use. When fishing most ponds and lakes in Kansas, worms and hotdogs are the most recommended bait. Pieces of cheap hotdogs are great for catfish and bluegill can be frozen and thawed several times! However, anglers need to be mindful when casting, as they are soft and will fall off the hook. Live bait such as minnows are preferred when fishing for larger predator fish such as crappie and bass. They can be used live or dead to fish for catfish. Don't forget a minnow bucket if you want to use live minnows!</p>
<p>Multi-species Lures for Beginners</p> 	<p>Lure selection can be intimidating for new anglers. To get started, focus on easy-to-use lures that have the potential to catch fish of all sizes and species. Small spinners such as "Beetlespins", "Roadrunners", "Mepps", and "Roostertails" (all registered trademarks) are known to catch sunfish, crappie and bass. Panfish jigs are another option but are most effective fished under a bobber or vertically jigged under a boat or dock. Anglers should buy a few different colors as natural colors work well in clear to stained water but bright colors, such as chartreuse, work in muddy water.</p>

