

The pendulum cast.

The pendulum cast is the last in this series of three casts. This is the cast that if you attend a long casting tournament that most of the top casters will be using. The reason it gets its name is that we let the sinker swing behind the rod tip before we make the cast, in fact the pendulum cast is in form, very similar to the off the ground cast. To perfect this cast requires considerable practice which reminds me of one of the most dangerous situations I have found myself. A group of us has gathered at a field we had been practicing at for a few months, most evenings. Enjoying the friendly competition and helping each other to perfect our art. No matter how long you have been at this game, a beginner practicing with you can spot something you are doing not quite as it should be. The main thing that normally needs a bit of tweaking is your timing and having someone to watch you is the best way to sort these problems out. We had all cast and were walking out to retrieve our sinkers, as you do you are very much aware of the others casters position on the field. We will comment about each others cast and look at the position of the sinker in the ground. A low shot or tight running reel will leave the sinker laying flat on the surface; a good cast will put the sinker perfectly upright in the ground, as if dropped. There were five of us at about 550 ft walking back towards the okee. I remember clearly seeing a buzzard flying over the hedge row the edged our casting field about 600ft to my right. Pop, I heard the report of a gun, the buzzard weaved. I thought, someone is shooting at the buzzard. The next report was proceeded by an ominous zip closely followed by a shout from Daylin Vick to get down. I laid their thinking it was only a matter of time before one of the bullets that were blasting the ground around us would find its target. It did not thankfully, but it was twenty minutes and many rounds latter when we finally got back to the safety of our trucks. I did learn something that we decided would have been a better course of action, rather than lay their with our heads pointing towards the shooter we should have turned and presented a less vital target. It turned out that it was a farther teaching his son gun safety behind the hedge row with a 9 mm. and a 45. Again when learning this cast the biggest problem is going to be timing and that you bring the power in too early. You must stay in control of the cast and the only way you will learn this is to perfect the form and not kill the cast with to much power to early. Use your Nickchee to get the image of the cast in your mind so that you can visualize how you will do the cast. To help you understand the cast I would like to introduce a clock face so that we can use numbers for points of direction during the cast. I.e.: 12 o'clock will be the direction we want to cast.



My face is looking at 7.30 at the beginning of the Nickchee.



Extended the following hand and this will make the sinker swing away from you towards the 7.30 position.



Now extend the lead hand whilst keeping the following arm stiff. The following arm is in fact the fulcrum point of the rod and this will make the sinker swing back towards you. The sinker will proceed towards the 12 o'clock then up and over. You will start to do the cast when the sinker has reached the apex of the swing. (Just over your head height.)



The rod will come around relatively flat. Look in the direction you want the sinker to go.



Start the finish when the lead hand is pointing at the direction you want the sinker to go. Pull the rod butt into you side whilst straightening the following arm, again we are using the following are as the fulcrum point for the rod. When you have got the Nickchee of the cast down try the cast with the rod.



For this cast you need to drop the sinker so it is level with the reel. If you go short thinking it will be easier to do the cast, forget it. It will speed the pendulum up and make the cast harder to do.

Look down the field and pick a target; this is the finish point 12 o'clock. I position my feet so they are pointing at 4 o'clock and then twist my upper body towards the 7 o'clock position. Keep the sinker close to the rod with the rod pointing up. Start position for this cast.



Now extended the following arm. The sinker will swing away from you. Stop the sinker from swinging up and causing slack in the line by pointing the rod at the sinker. You can practice this by swinging the lead away from you, point the rod and lay the sinker on the ground. If the line is tight you have done it correctly.



Now extending the lead hand will make the sinker swing back, let the sinker swing inwards and then up.



We are now ready to start the cast, and find ourselves in the same position as the start of the off the ground cast we covered last month. Arms extended, start looking in the direction you want the sinker to go. This action will start to guide the sinker into the cast. As that rod tip goes through the 6 o'clock position, the sinker should be level with the tip. A very good judgment of the cast and timing is to get someone to stand behind you in the 6 o'clock position. The rod should be flat and the sinker in line with the tip. If it's above or below the caster has got his timing off.



Smoothly increase the power until your lead arm is pointing in the direction you want the sinker to go, then finish by pulling the lead arm in hard to your side.



That's it mates. Get the three casts under your belt and you will be amazed how much water you can cover and how your fish catches will go up.