

She Still Gets Em In the Cover, pt 3

Written by Stan Fagerstrom

Tuesday, 22 November 2011 09:06 - Last Updated Tuesday, 22 November 2011 09:11

The Pick of the Products



By Stan Fagerstrom
Product Review Editor

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November 22, 2011

I find there are lots of bass anglers out there who feel as I do about a lure that's still around after darn near a full century since it first came to market.

If you read my last column you know I'm talking about that little slab of metal dynamite still called the Johnson Silver Minnow.

I was curious what the folks who market these venerable favorites these days have to say about them so I did a little poking around on the Internet to see what I could find. Among other things, I found they called it "The most versatile and successful lure ever made, the legendary Johnson Silver Minnow is a tackle box standard."

Now that's saying a mouthful, but by golly I agree with that part about it being a tackle box

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standard. I don't think it is anywhere near as effective day in and day out as something like a Senko. I do agree with their saying that it certainly is among the most effective of all time when it comes to fishing something like pad cover.

How do you fish it through something like heavy pad cover? As I mentioned in my previous column, I usually work it right along the surface but I keep an eye peeled for openings in the pads as I do. Every now and then I get into good fish by letting the Silver Minnow flutter down into such holes for a heartbeat or two. Once it gets down a couple of feet I'll give it a sharp twitch with my rod tip. The hits are most likely to come as the lure as the lure darts upward and away.

Sometimes just a small change to a lure like the Silver Minnow makes a big difference in how many bass you put in the boat. In this instance the "change" I've mentioned deals with simply adding a small spinner ahead of it.



*Will adding a small spinner in front of your Silver Minnow bring
You'll never know unless you give it a try.*

Never have I seen that proven more dramatically than at one of the Bassmasters Classics I had

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the opportunity to participate in years ago. That particular contest was held in the early days of Classic competition. If memory serves me correctly it was on Ross Barnett Lake in Mississippi.

If you're familiar with the way the Classic was then conducted you're aware that for 30 some years of Classic competition each contestant was accompanied by an observer from the media. I was an observer for the Mississippi Classic. I did the same thing at many of these interesting events.

The Classic, of course, is often referred to as the "World Series of Bass Fishing." I only missed attending the Bassmaster Classics twice over the first 32 times it was held. It was a tremendous learning experience.

As good a bass fisherman as you now have to be to get into the Classic, it doesn't mean you're going to run out and boat a limit of fish as soon as the shooting starts. Just the opposite is usually true. A few anglers manage to find fish and discover what it is those fickle suckers will take.

That's exactly what happened at the Classic I'm talking about in Mississippi. There was a good bit of pad cover in some areas of Ross Barnett at that time. Fish were being caught on Silver Minnows, but one angler made a slight change to one he was throwing.

So what was the change? Note the pictures that accompany this column. See that little spinner attached to the front of the Silver Minnow? That's the combination those Mississippi bass wanted.

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Few bass lures have hung around longer than Silver Minnows. One of the reasons is that they are effective even when the cover is as heavy as that shown here.

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There he is! I gave this fish a couple of other lures to look but it was my Silver Minnow with it's pork rind trailer that it decided it just had to smack.

~~My eyes were on the fish and I had my hand on the reel. I was just thinking about the fish and the water was splashing around me. I was just thinking about the fish and the water was splashing around me.~~