

Catch Stacks with Snacks

While even the owner of Blacks Snacks admits there are plenty of good lures on the market, Mitchell Calcutt likes making things that work, and his offerings catch fish with the best of them. Calcutt started turning lure heads more than 10 years ago but decided to turn his hobby into a business after more and more anglers started clamoring for his wares.

The resulting Blacks Snacks line of lures contains eight different head shapes, with each one built personally by Calcutt. Ranging from the Big Snack, with a 2½-inch-long head to the micro-sized Fat Snack, there's certainly a Black Snack made for every offshore situation. The lures sport clear, soft heads that won't chip your gunwale or break when dropped. They also come in a wide variety of skirting options, with both inner and outer skirts totally customized to your specifications.

For more information, contact Blacks Snacks at www.blacksnacks.com.



Invisa Swivel

We've all heard stories of the wahoo or some other toothy critter that homed in on a swivel and cut off a nice marlin while trying to eat the connector. Some crews place all the blame on black swivels, while others swear that silver or chrome swivels get more unwanted attention. The folks at AquatekO must have heard the same noise and came up with a clear, plastic swivel that should put an end to the chatter at least for the light-tackle enthusiasts using 30-pound and less.

Virtually indestructible, Invisa Swivels are made from industrial resin compound that not only takes enormous abuse, but is also almost invisible in the water. These swivels do not reflect light and flash like an ordinary swivel. You can actually bend the 55-pound swivel back and forth several times, and it still snaps back to its original shape. And unlike most barrel-type swivels, Invisa Swivels still spin under load.

For more information, contact AquatekO at 904-273-7200, or visit www.aquateko.com.

Try the Locals

With a lot of sport-fishing gear being farmed out to overseas manufacturers, it's nice to see someone making a go of it here at home in the good ol' USA. Started by a survivor of Sept. 11, Local Hooker Rods are hand-built in Falmouth, Massachusetts, and have become quite popular among the Northeast tuna crowds. Making everything from light inshore rods to 130-pound offshore sticks, Local Hooker Rods uses the finest materials and time-honored techniques to build truly superior rods. Triple-wrapped guides, a double coat of ultraviolet resistant epoxy and double-footed guides ensure that these rods can take any punishment that you dish out. The company also uses a unique spiral "Acid Wrap" guide placement on some of its conventional rods that transfers the pressure from the top of the rod to the underside, making it more stable under pressure.

For more information, contact Local Hooker Rods at 508-548-1213, or visit www.localhookerrods.com.

