

Glow and Tell by Marc Colwell

I've been an Ohio Tournament Angler for a decade and a half and people still ask to look in my tackle box. And I really don't mind, because my tackle box looks like the rest. To the untrained mind all you see is the same tackle the next person is using. No secret baits here. But if you really look hard or better yet ask me to look after the sun sets you'll see what sets my tackle apart from others. An extremely large amount of my tackle glows in the dark.

I grew up during the 70's and most everyone had one poster that glowed in the dark. Well when I discovered glow paint back in the early 80's I started using it to paint my lures. It first came into play fishing the walls of the tailwater at Deer Creek Res. Washington Courthouse Ohio.

Several friends and myself were twenty feet above the water fishing for saugeyes. We arrived at four in the morning so we'd have our spot at daylight. We got to the wall and started. Two out of six had jigs that glowed. We filled our limit the first hour and the other four had two between them. After we had our limit we turned the others onto our secret and everyone had their limit before daylight. This has happened more than a hundred times since.

You say that's great but most of my fishing is during the daylight hours. Most of mine are also but I've learned to use the glow to my advantage. I'd can't begin to tell you how many days have been saved because my lures are lighting the way below. Let's face it the visibility in most lakes leave a lot to be desired. The lateral lines allow the fish to detect the lure. The glowing part is like a neon sign over mall for my wife on payday. Just a small amount of illumination give the predator a visual target sooner. This could mean the difference between a hit and a near miss.

Here in the 21st Century we have a wide assortment of glows and super glows to choose from. There is even an outfit in Cincinnati Ohio that manufactures glow grout for use in tile work. Powders and paints come in a large assortment of colors. Many of the tackle manufacturers have products that glow on the market. You can find the paints and powders at many art or craft stores or hundreds of sites on the internet. A cheap investment will add much to your lure arsenal.

If you're buying powder which I like for most projects, purchase fast and slow drying epoxy 2 part glues. If you're at home doctoring baits use the slow epoxy so you have time to cover more baits. Put the 5 minute epoxy in the tackle box along with small bottles of glow powder for on the spot doctoring. Put down the powder then add the epoxy and mix fast. Be liberal with the powder, I have no recipe but I like my epoxy thick with powder. Clean you baits with a degreaser for better adhesion.

My personal preference for spots and stripes, added to the tail end and belly of crankbaits and bladebaits. The belly glow attract those feeding upward. The tail glow flashes and move like bait would when a crankbait is pulled through the water. Paint spots or just the wide edge of spinner blades for a flash in even the mudlines..

For other baits such as Jigs a glowing set of eyes can't be beat. The added glow won't deter the colors of the bait. But under lowlight or less than ideal conditions glow will help.

There are many conditions where the addition of glow will dominate over most other color combinations. Bass and Walleye Anglers know that when a fast wind starts to blow, mudlines will start developing along the windward shoreline. The instant mud creates confusion for the bait making an easy meal for predators. Bigger predators can take advantage of this for some fast action by casting and slowly working these areas.

Those who fish these mudlines often talk of being bumped but the fish didn't take the bait. The fish sometime react but don't see the bait in time to grab the bait but instead bump into it with their head. And how many completely miss the bait because of poor visibility. Freshly charged glowing bait cut through this mess for a few inches and help them hone in on the kill at the last second. Work your baits slowly to give the fish time to find and take the bait. Cast both straight to the bank and parallel if possible.

If a cold front has passed and fish have gone belly to the bottom and are scattered pull out spinner rigs. Spinner rigs are also known as nightcrawler harnesses. Use walking sinkers or no snag sinkers when fishing from the shore. From a boat, bottom bouncers or no snag sinkers are used. If your fishing from shore or through snagging areas use spinner rigs with at least one float. Experiment on blade size and shape. Colorado blades, Indiana, Hatchets all have their place in the sun. Once again for dirty or deep water glowing blades will shine.