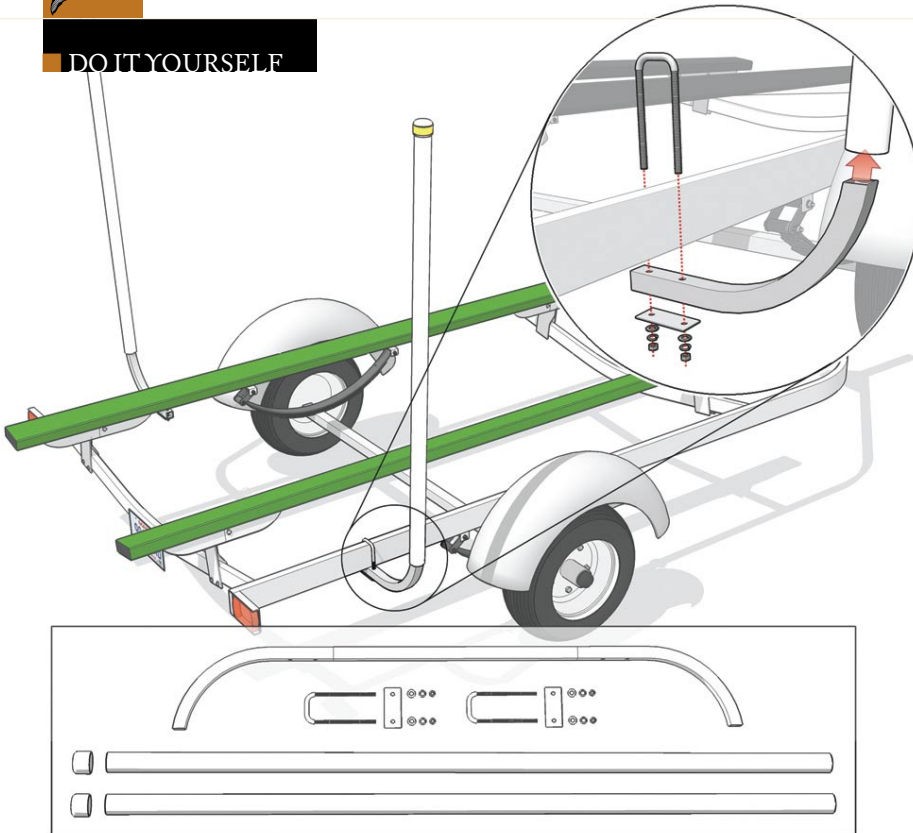




DO IT YOURSELF



GOAL POSTS

Boat loading made simple

These posts will help you line up your small boat with your trailer even in a stiff wind or a crosscurrent. There are commercial versions available, but you can make your own for about \$25.

DIRECTIONS:

STEP 1

With your boat on the trailer, hold one length of PVC tubing so that it touches both the gunnel and the trailer frame. Mark the touch points and saw off the excess length. Cut the other piece of tubing to match.

STEP 2

Insert one of the curved ends of the ladder stabilizer into a length of PVC tube.

STEP 3

Run the stabilizer bar under the trailer so that the top of the PVC just touches the gunnel.

STEP 4

Place one U-bolt over the side of the trailer frame. Mark where the bracket's two fastening holes touch the top of the stabilizer.

STEP 5

Drill two holes in the stabilizer at these marks.

STEP 6

Using a hack-

saw, cut through the stabilizer about 2 inches to the inside of the inner hole.

STEP 7

Run U-bolt through the stabilizer and bracket and coat threads with Never-Seez to deter corrosion.

STEP 8

Add washers and nuts.

STEP 9

Repeat steps 2-5 and 7-8 on the opposite side of the trailer using the left-over piece of

the ladder stabilizer.

STEP 10

Add reflective tape to the PVC end caps.

—TOM KEER

YOU NEED

MATERIALS:

- Two 6-foot lengths of 2-inch-diameter PVC tubing
- Two PVC tube end caps
- 48-inch-long, 1 3/4-inch-diameter galvanized ladder stabilizer (available at most hardware stores)
- Two galvanized or stainless-steel U-bolts wide enough to fit snugly over the side of your trailer frame
- Matching U-bolt brackets, nuts, and washers
- Reflective tape

CONSERVATION PROJECT

DOUBLE-DUTY COVERBOARDS

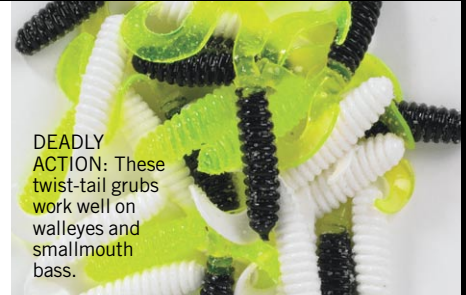
How to save salamanders and catch more panfish

You can ensure a steady supply of live bait for a quick trip to the panfish pond and at the same time provide salamanders, lizards, and snakes a safe place to live by putting a coverboard out in the woods near your home. Coverboards are simply large pieces of untreated plywood placed on the ground (chemicals in treated woods can leach into the soil). These plywood rooftops keep the earth below moist, creating habitat as attractive to earthworms, crickets, and beetle grubs as it is to reptiles and amphibians. —T. EDWARD NICKENS



FISHING Q&A

by JOHN MERWIN



DEADLY ACTION: These twist-tail grubs work well on walleyes and smallmouth bass.

Q: I'm fishing in southern Ontario this summer for walleyes, pike, and smallmouths. Can you suggest some lures?

—BILL FORRESTER, CINCINNATI, OHIO

A: For walleyes, try 3-inch twist-tail plastic grubs in white, chartreuse, or black fished on 1/8- to 3/8-ounce leadhead jigs. Smallies will hit those jigs too, but at dawn and dusk they'll also hit topwaters such as a Heddon Tiny Torpedo (1/4 ounce) in a natural frog finish. Work the outside edges of weedbeds for pike with a 3/8-ounce or heavier white spinnerbait fished slowly to gain depth.

Q: There's a pond near me that's full of suckers. How do I catch these things?

—M. MURCHISON, GRANBY, MASS.

A: Cast a worm near a school, then wait patiently for a bite. If you want to get fancy, cast a size 10 Hare's Ear nymph on a sinking fly line near the school. Wait for it to reach the bottom, then retrieve very, very slowly. I once caught a bunch of suckers that way when I was really bored, but I've never been quite bored enough to do it again.

• **SUBMIT QUESTIONS** to fsonline@time4.com. Please include your name and hometown.