



TACKLE TRICKS

# IN THE BAG

A tackle box that travels

Sometimes, carrying a tackle box full of your favorite gear isn't practical—especially if you're on a lake or a beach and you want to move from spot to spot. A cheap and easy way around that is to make your own shoulder bag. Unlike store-bought models, they're dirt cheap but work just as well. —TOM KEER

- [1] Visit your local Army-Navy store and look for an ammunition or map bag. They typically cost about \$10. The best ones have pockets on the sides where you can keep your sinkers, hook hones, or tape measures separate from the rest of your kit.
- [2] Pick up some thin-walled PVC tubing at a hardware store. If you're fishing freshwater lures, buy smaller-diameter tubes. If you're using salt-water plugs, go with a larger size.
- [3] Cut the PVC tubing to fit your

plugs and your bag. Make four grooves in the top of each tube to keep your hooks from sliding around.

[4] Make a rack of tubes using duct tape, and slide it into the bag. It should be big enough to fit snugly, so it won't shift around while you're casting.

[5] Drop in your lures and go fishing.

# FISHING Q&A

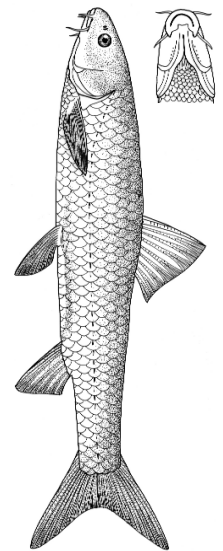
by JOHN MERWIN



**CARP BRIGADE:**  
The mystery fish from Saddam's pond.

**Q:** I'm a U.S. Army sergeant stationed in Iraq. I have been fishing in many of Saddam's lakes over here, and I'm catching a fish that has a mouth like a smallmouth bass and a body that looks like a trout's. I've attached a photo. Can you tell me what it is?

**A:** You really stumped me with this one, so I asked around at several major U.S. museums. I was led to Dr. Brian Coad, a research scientist at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa, Ontario, and an expert on fishes of the Middle East. Here's what Coad had to say about your fish: "The sergeant may have caught a member of the carp family, *Barbus grypus*, although the photo does not allow sufficient detail to be sure." He also mentioned *Barbus esocinus*, which can exceed 6 feet in length and has been caught by fishermen. To find out more about the fishes of Iraq, go to Coad's website at [www.briancoad.com](http://www.briancoad.com).



*BARBUS GRYPUS*

● **SUBMIT QUESTIONS** to [webmaster@fieldandstream.com](mailto:webmaster@fieldandstream.com). Please include your name and address.

INGENIOUS OUTDOORSMAN

## FOAM, SWEET FOAM

Meet the most useful invention since duct tape

Everyone knows about the multiple and miraculous uses of duct tape. Few know about an equally useful material: minicell foam. Used by experienced canoeists and kayakers to build pedestal seats and pad brace points for knees and thighs, minicell foam is inexpensive and incredibly lightweight, absorbs little water, and glues well in both wet and dry applications. Available at specialty paddling shops, it comes in sheets from 1/4 to 2 inches thick. Here are just a few uses. — T. EDWARD NICKENS

- Line boat rod tubes with a cylinder of foam to protect guides and graphite.
- Keep a square in your truck for a dry, cushy surface to stand on while changing into waders or hippos.
- Carry a square for a quiet, dry seat at the base of a tree.
- Wrap vacuum bottles for better insulation.
- Make handy fly patches by wrapping boat rails with strips of foam, or glue small squares to boat sides or consoles.
- Pad tree-stand and johnboat seats.
- Wrap tree-stand rails to dampen sound.
- Cut a sheet of minicell the size of a cooler, and place it on top of the cooler's contents before shutting the top. The "gasket" will dramatically lengthen the life of the ice.