

How to Make Your Own Tubes

If you have a little free time over the winter, considering making your own tube rigs. Each homemade tube costs around \$2 to make, which is significantly less than store bought tube rigs.

Learning how to make your own tubes is a simple process that often comes in handy while on the water. Many times I have found myself spinning up a new tube mid-trip in an effort to replicate that one productive tube that is generating all the bites.

Most importantly, rigging your own tubes gives you the ability to make slight adjustments to the tube that can have a dramatic impact on how well that tube fishes. For example, I prefer to fish weightless tubes, however it is often next to impossible to find a weightless tube in even the most well stocked bait shops.

Required Tools and Materials

1. Needlenose pliers
2. Wire crimpers
3. Scissors
4. Tape measure

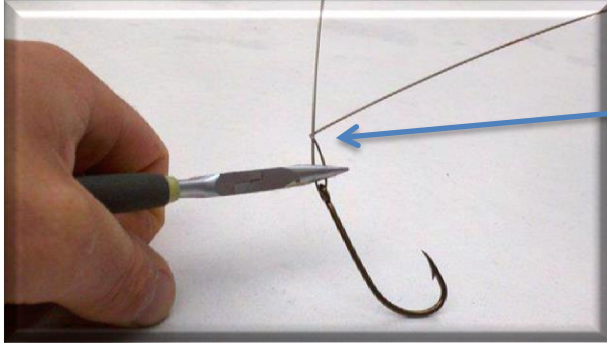
5. 220 pound wire
6. Tubing
7. Hooks
8. Barrel swivels

There are many different ways to make a tube rig, just like there are many different ways to spin a plug. There's no wrong way to rig a tube, as long as the finished product catches fish. Keeping this in mind, I have outlined below how I make a tube.

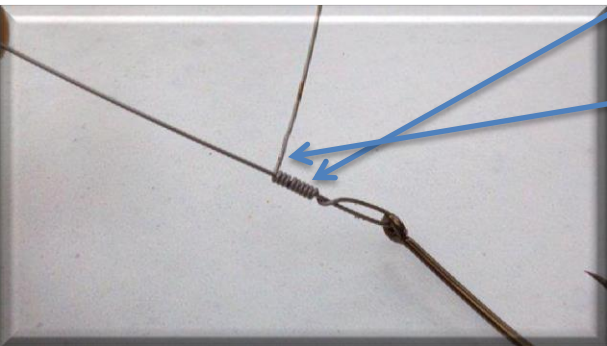
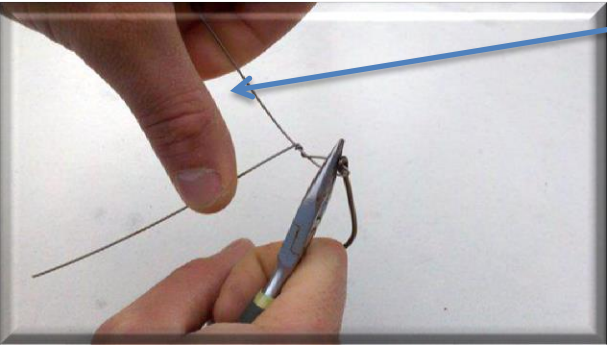
The steps below highlight the rigging of a 24 inch red tube. The same steps can be used to make any size tube- just adjust the lengths of the tubing and wire accordingly.

I fish weightless tubes 90% of the time. Therefore the steps below outline how to rig a weightless tube. To be honest, I have never rigged a weighted tube. If I need to add weight to my tubes, I simply attach a rubber core sinker to the leader, a few feet up from the tube.

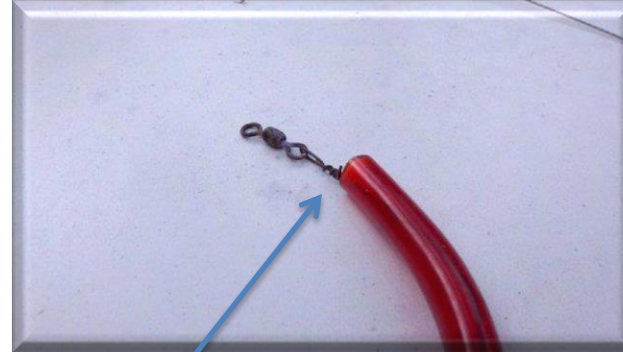
1. Cut a 36 inch long section of 220 pound wire using the wire crimpers
2. Thread one end of the wire through the eye of the hook. Push about 6 inches of wire through the hook's eye.
3. Make a bend in the wire at the point where the wire touches the eye of the hook.
4. Using needlenose pliers, push the 6 inch strand of wire up against the 30 inch strand of wire. Secure a firm grip on the wire with the pliers.
5. Use your free hand to wrap the wire around itself. Make 10 or more wraps.
6. Clip off the excess wire using the wire crimpers.
7. Cut a 24 inch section of tubing using the scissors.
8. Cut a V-notch in the bottom of the tube (not necessary-personal preference)
9. Slide the wire and hook up into the tube. The hook should sit nicely at the bottom of the tube with no extra wire protruding out of the tube. The top of the tube should have about 6 inches of wire protruding from the tubing.
10. Slide the exposed wire through the eye of a barrel swivel.
11. Make a bend in the wire as close to the top of the tubing as possible.
12. Repeat steps 4-6 for the barrel swivel.



Make a bend in the wire. Hold steady with pliers and use opposite hand to wrap the wire around itself. Repeat same procedure for the swivel.



*10 wraps
Clip with wire clippers
Slide pre-cut tubing over remaining wire.*



The finished product: a 24 inch weightless red tube with a stinger hook