

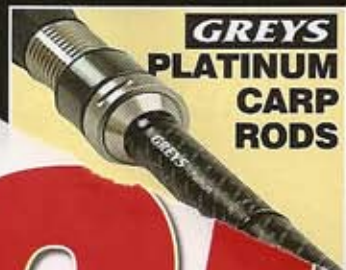
EXPERT ADVICE TO HELP YOU

# Crafty Carpei

INSIDE: 5 GREAT DAY TICKET WATERS YOU CAN FISH TODAY

## IT'S WAR!

Crafty readers do battle with the stars as the Carp Wars Cup kicks off in style



**5**  
**FREE**  
DAY TICKETS  
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**TACTICS GALORE INSIDE!**  
**BRILLIANT BOILIE ALTERNATIVES** with Tim Wagner  
**THE LOWDOWN ON LEADERS** with Ian Poole  
**PVA MESH MASTERCLASS** with Ron Buss  
**FEATURE FINDING FACTS** with Dave Gawthorn  
**48 HOURS IN WALES** with Bog & Braz

**MIKE WINSTONE** exclusively reveals how you can give your boilies added attraction without breaking the bank





# PVA BAG

## Masterclass

### Part II

# MESH

Having revealed his top tips for solid PVA bags last month, **Ron Buss** now turns his attentions to PVA mesh in the final part of his PVA Bag Masterclass.

#### Mesh PVA Bags: An Introduction

Hello folks, and welcome back to my masterclass on PVA bags. I hope that you have been putting all my tips and tactics from last month to good use in recent weeks and I am sure you have been catching 'em! This month I am going to be looking at PVA mesh, a product that really has been a revelation in carp fishing over the past few years. The major advantages of the mesh bags over their solid equivalents is that they are often much quicker and easier to tie and they tend to be more versatile. Mesh bags really do

**The major advantages of the mesh bags over their solid equivalents is that they are often much quicker and easier to tie and they tend to be more versatile**

lend themselves to waters with high stocks of carp where you are receiving plentiful action. You can tie up loads of bags in advance and then hook them on after each take. As I mentioned, the PVA mesh is very versatile and in this masterclass I hope to pass on a few of the tactics that I employ with it.

#### Let's Start at the Beginning!

Before I go into detail explaining what I put in my mesh bags and how to tie them, I want to cover how you go about loading the mesh onto a dispenser.

When it comes to finding a company that makes PVA mesh you will be spoilt for choice.



#### Angler Profile

Ron Buss

Age: 61

Hometown: Woking, Surrey

Occupation: Retired

UK PB: 43lb 14oz







This big girl found Ron's PVA mesh tactics too hard to resist, and you will too!

When you first buy some PVA mesh it will often come pre-loaded onto a dispenser. However, once you have used it up you will then need to buy a refill to reload the dispenser. This task can be a little tricky and if not carried out correctly can lead to the mesh becoming laddered, so rendering it useless!

#### Tactic One - The Stick

The first tactic that PVA mesh is great for is making sticks. Anyone who has been carp angling for a while will have probably seen these little beauties before and will be aware of how effective the method is. If you have seen the Korda Underwater DVDs you will have seen Danny Fairbrass using sticks to great effect. So what is a stick? I can assure you that it's not brain surgery, and in simple terms, the stick is basically a mesh PVA bag in which the contents have been compressed whilst inside the dispenser, thus producing a small stick-like shaped bag. The great advantage of this rig is that you can thread a stick down your hooklink until it covers the point of the hook, protecting it from any debris that may be littering the lakebed.

**The end result is that you have six boilies in close proximity to your hookbait to attract carp into your swim**

#### Tactic Two - The Boilie Bag

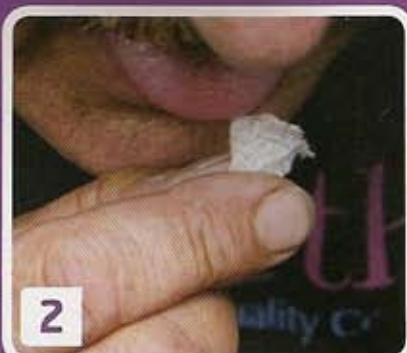
Here is a really simple way of using the PVA mesh that is sure to help get you a bonus bite or two. This particular tactic involves putting six boilies into the PVA mesh with a piece of PVA foam. You then place your hook into the PVA foam, which will prevent you from impaling it on a boilie and also protect it from any bottom debris when you cast in. The end result of this presentation is that you have six boilies in close proximity to your hookbait with which to attract carp into your swim. I tend to use this tactic when I am fishing no more than 60yds out because it isn't very aerodynamic and therefore doesn't cast very far.

### HOW TO...

## LOAD PVA MESH ONTO A DISPENSER



**1** You need to get yourself an empty dispenser. Ron currently uses one from the Prologic Total Meltdown range.



**2** Take the end of the mesh refill and moisten the edges with saliva. This will prevent the mesh from laddering.



**3** The next step is to open out the end of the refill and carefully place it over the top of the empty dispenser.



**4** Start working the mesh up onto the dispenser making sure that it goes on evenly, as illustrated here.



**5** When loading the mesh, start by holding it at the base of the dispenser between your thumb and forefinger.



**6** You can now carefully slide the mesh up the dispenser so that it builds up at the top end, like so.



**7** Once you have got enough mesh loaded on, take a pair of sharp scissors and carefully cut the end.



**8** To finish the loading process you will need to tie a simple overhand knot in the end of the mesh.



## HOW TO MAKE... THE STICK



1 Start by loading your chosen mix into the PVA mesh via the plastic dispenser.



2 Take a plunger and insert it into the dispenser in order to compress the mix.



3 When compressing the mix place the dispenser on a flat, firm surface, as shown above.



4 Place the palm of your hand onto the plunger and push it down the dispenser.



5 Once the mix has been compressed, push the formed stick out of the dispenser.



6 Twist the end of the mesh to ensure that it stays tight around the mix.



7 Tie an overhand knot in the twisted end of the mesh to seal the finished stick.



8 Cut the mesh above the knot and the stick is complete and ready for action!

## HOW TO MAKE... RON'S BOILIE BAG



1 Firstly, you will need to load three boilies into the mesh via a dispenser, like so.



2 With the help of a plunger, place a nugget of PVA foam into the dispenser.



3 You now need to add a further three boilies into the dispenser, as shown above.



4 Now push the baits out of the dispenser and tighten them up inside the PVA.



5 With the aid of a simple overhand knot, secure everything inside the mesh.



6 Take a pair of sharp scissors and carefully cut the bag off above the knot that you tied.



7 Insert the point of your hook through the bag and into the side of the PVA nugget.



8 The finished Boilie Bag presentation that is created should now look like this.



### Tactic Three - Bulk Boilie Bag

The boilie bag I mentioned earlier is limited to a maximum of six baits really, so if you want to get a few more freebies out and around your hookbait then this alternative mesh bag is probably better. This bag doesn't require you to use a dispenser for the mesh and will also cast further than the other boilie bag I have outlined due to its more aerodynamic shape. With this bag you will include a couple of PVA foam nuggets but you won't put your hook in them. These nuggets will make your bag buoyant and will mean that it stays popped up off the bottom for a short while. As the mesh melts, your hookbait and freebies will gently fall to the bottom whilst the nuggets float up to the surface before melting away. This particular bag is perfect for lakes with choddy bottoms and it helps your hookbait and freebies to sit on top of the debris.

#### RON'S TIP



Give your bag of boilies an extra boost by spraying some PVA-friendly liquids onto them prior to casting.

### Tactic Four - Hookbait Inside the Bag

This is a method for PVA mesh bags that I see used very little by my fellow carp anglers, which surprises me because it can be really effective at times. As the title suggests, this tactic involves placing the hookbait, complete with hook, inside the mesh bag alongside your freebies. When using this method I always use micro pellets as my freebies because when using larger items you run the risk of impaling them with the hook. Something else worth mentioning here is that you don't need a dispenser system to tie this particular bag, so a refill spool will suffice. I also double up the mesh on this bag as it makes it stronger, meaning it will handle a big cast.

#### RON'S TIP



Be creative with the ingredients that you use with PVA mesh; the options are endless and something a little different could give you a real edge.

## HOW TO MAKE... RON'S BULK BOILIE BAG



1 Tie a knot in the end of some mesh and then cut off a length measuring 10ins.



2 Roll the mesh down and stretch it open using both your thumbs, like so.



3 Place two PVA foam nuggets into the bottom of the mesh bag.



4 Take a handful of boilies and load them into the bag on top of the nuggets.



5 At this stage you will have a bag that looks like this, which is too big and loose.



6 Now work the boilies down the mesh and compress them in the bag, like so.



7 Now take the excess mesh and bring it back over the whole bag, like this.



8 Using your teeth, close this end of the PVA bag with a bit of saliva.



9 As you can see, the whole bag of boilies is now packed and sealed tightly.



10 Finally, nick your hook into the opposite end of the bag to the PVA nuggets.



## HOW TO TIE... THE HOOBBAIT INSIDE THE BAG



1 Seal the end of the mesh shut with some saliva. Now cut off 8ins to use as your 'bag'.



2 Hold the bag open with one hand and use your other hand to load pellet into it.



3 Put in one handful of pellet and then place the hookbait and hook on top.



4 Cover the hookbait and hook with another scattering of pellet, as shown above.



5 Now twist the top of the bag tight with your thumb and forefinger, like so.



6 Now bring the excess mesh back up over the bag in order to double it up, like this.




7 Twist the top of this mesh to compact the entire contents of the bag.



8 Tie an overhand knot in this twisted section and trim off the remaining mesh. Done!

### In Summary

Well that about wraps things up for my masterclass on mesh PVA bags. I hope I have offered you plenty of food for thought and would encourage you to try out my suggestions on your next session. PVA is a wonderful product that really will boost your chances of catching. So what are you waiting for? Get down to your local tackle shop and get some mesh! 



I love big commons and they appear to love my PVA bags!