Crankbait Diving Lips:

Materials Summary &
Printable Templates
Materials For Making Crankbait Diving Lips

The following is just a brief summary of some of the materials commonly used to make diving lips for crankbaits, their strengths, weaknesses and applications. For more information on crankbait design and construction please visit following online resources:

- Wooden Lure Making (Facebook)
- Make Wooden Lures (Website)
- Wooden Lure Workshop (Website)
- The Crankbait Masterclass (Website)

**Acrylic Sheet (Perspex)**

Acrylic sheet is commonly used by lure makers for making diving lips. I'd use it if there was nothing else available, but it is definitely not the recommended material. Here are the advantages and the disadvantages:

**Pro's:**

- Cheap, readily available and easy to get in various suitable thicknesses
- Easy to cut, although it is prone to cracking
- Can be easily heat formed to make curved or angled diving lips
- Light weight, doesn't affect the balance of the lure too much
- Clear, doesn't increase the silhouette of the lure when viewed from below

**Con's**

- Cracks easily on impact with rocks, snags
- Can crack if the water is very cold
- Not suitable for lures with towpoint on the lip
- Generally not UV stable and can be damaged by heat if left in car

**Applications**

- Light duty lures with towpoint on lure body
Polycarbonate Sheet (Lexan)

Polycarbonate is generally my preferred material for making crankbait diving lips because it is so durable.

**Pro's**
- Tough and almost impossible to crack. Handles impact and cold just fine.
- Easy to cut, thin material can be cut with metal snips or kitchen shears, thicker material with a fine saw, Dremel Tool or the like.
- Can be heat formed to make curved or angled diving lips, although it's a little harder to do with Lexan than Perspex.
- Light weight, doesn't affect the balance of the lure too much.
- Clear, doesn't increase the silhouette of the lure when viewed from below.
- Suitable for lures with the tow point installed on the diving lip.

**Con's**
- A little harder to get than acrylic, but reasonably accessible these days.
- Blunts tools and sanding drums quickly.
- Can melt and reweld itself during cutting and sanding operations.

**Applications**
- Suitable for all but the most heavy duty lures.
- Lures with tow point on lip.
- Fresh and salt water lures.
- Fine for cold water.

Circuit Board

As the name suggests, circuit board is the glass reinforced plastic sheet that is used by electronics specialists to make printed circuit boards. This stuff is really tough and can make great crankbait diving lips, although I suspect a lot that is said about lures made with circuit board lips is little more than hype!

**Pro's**
- Tougher and more durable than Lexan.
- Thinner than Lexan, gives slightly deeper diving depth.
- Easy to cut, thin material can be cut with metal snips or kitchen shears, thicker material with a fine saw, Dremel Tool or the like.
- Light weight, doesn't affect the balance of the lure too much.
- Reputed to give lures extra vibration, although my experience has been mixed in this regard.

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Con's

- Hard to get in anything other than pre-cut shapes
- Contains glass fiber, sanding dust etc very hazardous
- Blunts tools and sanding drums quickly
- Translucent, so tends to extend the silhouette when viewed from below

Applications

- Not suitable for lures with tow point on lip, unless through wire feeds through lip
- OK for fresh and salt water lures
- Fine for cold water

Aluminum

Not commonly seen in commercial lures these days, aluminum sheet is still used by some recreational lure makers and continues to be a solid performer, even if it is somewhat lacking in the appearance department!

Pro's

- Tough and durable, almost indestructible
- Relatively easy to cut using shears, snips or a fine saw blade
- Readily available in a range of suitable thicknesses
- Easily bent to create curved or angled diving lips

Con's

- Unattractive appearance, although can be painted
- Opaque, extends the silhouette of the crankbait when viewed from below
- Can be bent out of shape if slammed against rocks etc.
- Can excessively weight the head of smaller lures.
- More difficult to fine tune lip shape
- Can clog files, grinding wheels etc

Applications

- Fine for freshwater, saltwater and for cold water applications
- Particularly good for medium to large deep divers with the towpoint on the lip
**Stainless Steel**

It’s possible to make your own diving lips from stainless steel if you want to, but because stainless steel is difficult to work with most people prefer to purchase and install pre-cut diving stainless components. If you go down the route of making your own, be sure to use 316 (marine grade) stainless steel for corrosion resistance.

**Pro’s**

- Tough and durable, almost indestructible
- Readily available in a range of suitable thicknesses
- High degree of corrosion resistance
- Polished surface adds brilliant flash to crankbaits

**Con’s**

- Opaque, extends the silhouette of the crankbait when viewed from below
- Can excessively weight the head of smaller lures.
- Hard to work with compared to other lip materials, not easy to cut

**Applications**

- Fine for freshwater, saltwater and for cold water applications
- Particularly good for medium to large deep divers with the towpoint on the lip
Templates For Crankbait Diving Lips
Hybrid Diving Lip Templates
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