

Pop Can Fishing Reel: DIY!



The survival manuals say fishing is a way to get food in an emergency. Fine, but how do you get the bait out to where the fishes are? One proven way is a **fishing reel made from a coke can!**

You'll want a FULL coke can, because it makes the can stiffer. Measure out 25 or 30 yards of fishing line, and tie one end to the pop tab on the can. On the other end place your tackle - a swivel, a bobber if desired, a good lead weight, and the lure or hook with your bait on it. Wind the fishing line onto the coke can, starting 1 inch from the back. When your line is within 1 inch from the front, start again from the rear position. When all the line is on the can, you're ready to fish.

If you're right-handed, grip the bottom 1 inch of can in your left hand. Point the can in the direction you plan to cast. Put a forefinger on the line to prevent it from unwinding. In your right hand, hold the fishing line. Put about 2 to 2-1/2 feet of slack line between your hand and the lead weight.

Now spin the weight clockwise, as seen on your right. Rev it up! At the bottom of the spin, release the line from your right hand and simultaneously take your left forefinger off the line on the coke can. The weight will arc upward, like a softball pitch, taking the line off the coke can like an open-face fishing reel! With practice you can accurately cast as far as you have line. To reel in, coil the fishing line around the coke can. Pull in with your left arm as if it were a fishing pole.

The coke can fishing equipment is legal fishing gear, so normally all state fishing rules apply. In a pinch you could replace the coke can with a cylindrical piece of wood whose bark has been removed. Replacing the fishing line with cordage made from twisted plant fibers didn't work for me.