



The WBFA Tour is the only National Tour, which offers Pro and Amateur women alike, a venue to bass fish competitively among their peers.



Gary YAMAMOTO'S INSIDE LINE

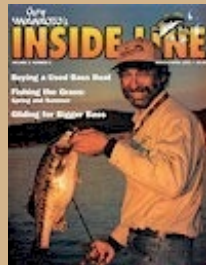


[Home](#) [Get \\$15-\\$30 Off](#) [Hot Custom Baits](#) [Free Weekly Ezine](#) [Insider Forum](#)

Magazine :



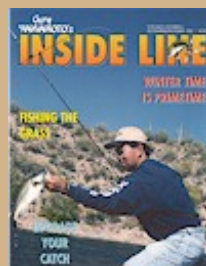
- [Subscribe Now](#)
- [Mailing Dates](#)
- [Sample Articles](#)



• [Coming Soon!](#)



• [Jan/Feb 2001](#)



• [Nov/Dec 2000](#)

Member:



[Sample Articles](#) [2000](#) [Jul/Aug](#)

Senko Secrets Gary Yamamoto's Senko Fishing Tips

B

y Steve Price



It's Friday, November 5, 1999, the second day of the Missouri BASSMASTER Invitational, and Lake of the Ozarks is playing tough. Only 12 five-bass limits were brought to the scales by 283 fishermen the previous day, and today is looking worse. By day's end, only six limits will be recorded.

The only angler not complaining is Gary Yamamoto, whose 18-pound catch for the day seems surreal under the circumstances. By the end of tomorrow's weigh-in, it will actually be more than half of what the tournament winner brings in during all three days.

The secret? A seven-inch Senko, pitched to main channel points and docks -- "Places that don't look very good, so other fishermen pass them up," says Yamamoto -- and simply letting the lure fall to the

bottom. The bass, as Yamamoto says, just can't resist such an easy meal.

Of all the soft plastic lures available to bass fishermen today, the Senko ranks as not only one of the most unusual, but also as one of the most underrated. Originally conceived as a soft jerkbait, the lure turned out to be much more versatile -- and effective.

"I was fishing a tournament in Florida seven or eight years ago when the soft Slug-Go type jerkbaits were extremely popular," explains Yamamoto, "so I started studying those lures and trying to figure out how to improve them.



"For some reason, I just couldn't get a design that I really liked and which performed the way I wanted. I

was drawing lure designs with the ballpoint Bic pen I had in my pocket, and when I looked at the pen, I decided that was the design I wanted, round, but slightly tapered at one end and blunt at the other. The original Senko was molded from a Bic ballpoint pen. We added the little rings later."

If the design was a stroke of luck, the resulting action was a total accident, admits Yamamoto. Instead of falling vertically, a Senko falls horizontally when rigged

Catalog:



Fishing Tips :

- [Ezine Archives](#)
- [Daily Tips](#)
- [Video Tips](#)
- [Ask The Pros](#)
- [Senko Tips](#)
- [Craw Tips](#)
- [Fat Boy Tips](#)
- [Grub Tips](#)
- [Jig Tips](#)
- [Tiny Ika Tips](#)
- [Tube Tips](#)
- [Darter Jigs](#)
- [Football Jigs](#)

About:

- [Our Bass Pros](#)
- [Our Friends](#)
- [Advertising](#)
- [Sponsorship](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Site Map](#)



weightless, and actually quivers like a live earthworm. A slight jerk of the rod sends the lure darting up, down, and sideways in a totally unpredictable motion. Even when a light weight is added, the lure still glides, rather than plummets, to the bottom. This natural, built-in action, accidental or not, is what gives any angler using the lure a wide choice of presentations. Here are some that Yamamoto uses in his tournament competition:

Shaking

"Shaking is a good technique when you're fishing standing timber as well as steeper bluffs," explains Yamamoto. "I like to use either a 3/16 or 1/4-ounce screw-in sinker and 14 to 20 pound test Sugoi fluorocarbon line, pitch to the target and let the Senko fall straight to the bottom. "Then, you can just start shaking your rod tip, which will cause the Senko to jump one to two feet above the bottom. When you stop shaking, the lure simply glides back down. I don't think it matters how much you raise the Senko off the bottom; just the fact you're moving it is what's important."



Weightless

"Normally, I prefer to fish a Senko weightless," explains Yamamoto. "I believe this is the most effective way to fish the lure, because of its horizontal fall. When I'm fishing it this way, I try to create a lot of falls, which is to say I pick it up and let it fall several times before I reel it in.

"This is a year-round technique, and you can modify it to suit the mood of the fish. Instead of picking the lure up, you can jerk it. Or, for suspended bass, you can simply let the lure fall and drift with the current or the breeze. I think the best hook to use when you're fishing the Senko weightless is the owner Rig 'n Hook; with it, the lure is completely weedless and can be fished practically anywhere."

Wacky Worming

"Although a weightless Senko is an excellent bedding bass technique, some anglers prefer to use what is commonly known as the Wacky Worm technique," explains the Texas-based pro. "With this, you simply hook a Senko right through the middle with the hook exposed and fish it weightless.

"With the hook in the middle, both ends of the worm seem to have increased action when you shake your rod tip. I think this works best when you can actually pitch or crawl the lure right into the bedding area. Some people insert a small weight, like a piece of nail, in one end of the worm to give it some casting weight, but there is no weight on the line. This is usually a pretty light line technique for clear water, and it can be deadly."



Carolina/Mojo Rigging

"I personally do not do a lot of Carolina rigging of any type, but I do know the Senko is used this way," continues Yamamoto. "It can be rigged weedless with either the Owner Rig 'n Hook or the straight shank Gamakatsu hook, and with a short leader for shallow water or a longer leader in deeper water.

"One of the techniques we're seeing more and more in professional tournaments is shallow water Carolina rigging with light lines and very light 3/16-ounce sinkers. With a 12-inch leader, you can cast this pretty accurately; I've seen a lot of fishermen working boat docks this way with a four-inch Senko.

"A Mojo rig is basically a down-scaled Carolina or split shot rig, using a light, elongated sinker. It was designed for small plastic lures, and a four-inch Senko works

well with it. One of the best presentations I've seen is simply to cast toward the shallow end of a point and just slowly crawl the Senko out to deeper water, raising your rod tip occasionally to lift the lure off the bottom so it can glide back down."

Drop-Shot Rigs

"One of the really effective ways to fish a Senko for inactive bass holding near the bottom is with a drop-shot," Yamamoto points out. "This is basically a vertical presentation in which the sinker sits on the bottom while the Senko sits anywhere from 6 to 18 inches up the line above it.



"Just tie on your hook with a Palomar knot at whichever height you want it, and then tie on a sinker so it's at the end of your line. The Senko will stand nearly straight out when put on the hook; all you have to do is drop this rig down, let the sinker hit bottom, and gently start shaking.



"You can actually "walk" a drop-shot Senko across the bottom, too. With a short pitch or cast, let the lure sink, then move it along, simply by raising your rod tip. You can walk it slowly by crawling the sinker across the bottom, or even hop it the way you would a jig. Either way, the Senko is quivering and shaking there just above the bottom."

These are just a few of the techniques anglers are using now to fish Senkos. Professional anglers, and casual anglers alike, from Clear Lake in California to Lake Fork in Texas, and even to the St. Johns River in Florida and Lake Champlain in Vermont, are discovering the Senko's versatility, so new techniques are sure to be added. That's especially true at Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri, where, thanks to Yamamoto's remarkable catch, the lure is now an accepted part of the arsenal when the lake plays tough.

Other Senko Fishing Information:

- [Senko Secrets](#) Gary Yamamoto's Senko fishing tips
- [Wacky Worming - Senko Style!](#)
- [Fishing the Senko](#) - First Impressions
- [Senko Lazy Susan](#) The Pro Staff compendium of Senko tips
- [Sensational Senko Tips](#) Round-up of web site articles
- [Sinking the Senko](#) A humorous story!
- [Texas Rigging a Senko](#) What hook sizes work best
- [Senko Tips for River Smallmouth](#)
- [Baby Senko Tips](#) Fishing with the 9J and 9S Baby Senkos





[[Home](#) | [Free Stuff](#) | [Free Ezine](#) | [Insider Forum](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Site Map](#)]

Copyright © 1993-2000 Gary Yamamoto's Inside Line Magazine | [Privacy Policy](#)

RANKED: 6 Visit the SuperTop100