



# Fisherman Mobile

Just like in real life, the anglers in this mobile seem to always drop their lines where the fish never go. And it seems equally appropriate that as the boat in the mobile turns with the wind, the fish continue to stay a safe distance from the lures. penetration. Once the pattern is firmly in place, move to the drill press and start drilling out your entry holes, using 1/8" and 1/4" bits to drill as many holes as is practical for each waste area. For the holes at each end of the leaf veins I used a 1/16" bit.

## Getting Started

The four fish in this mobile are pictured on the following pages. The best way to transfer these shapes is to photocopy them, then temporarily glue the patterns directly to the wood with a spray adhesive.

As with every woodworking tool, your scroll saw should be well tuned before you get started. Make sure the tension is properly adjusted and the blade is running square to the table. A good rule of thumb for choosing blades is to use one with at least three teeth touching the wood at any given time while cutting. For the 1/8" thick waves and fish in this project a 20 teeth per inch blade works well.

The boat is band sawn from a knot free piece of poplar. Start by cutting two crisscrossing kerfs in the bottom face of a 2" x 3" X 6" block of wood. A good carbide tipped saw blade leaves an 1/8" wide kerf, which will accept the wave pieces perfectly. Cut the kerfs 3/4" deep, centering the first cut on the width of the block and the second on the length. Now drill two holes for holding the anglers. Chuck a 7/8" brad point bit in your drill press and adjust the machine to bore 7/8" deep into the top of the boat block. The hole positions are shown in the boat elevation drawing.

To shape the boat, first cut its top and bottom profiles on the band saw, then cut the sides. As you can see in the elevation drawings, the very bottom of the boat is flat. This keeps the boat stable as you cut the side profiles and makes it easier to join the boat with the waves. Once you've cut

the boat out of the block, file and sand it to final shape.

## Making Waves

The 1/8" thick waves are made from two pieces of 1" x 16" long maple, using the half size pattern. Make four enlarged photocopies, cut out the patterns and carefully attach them to the wood with a light coating of spray adhesive. To get the arching look of the waves, I drilled 1/2" holes every inch and then removed the rest of the waste with the scroll saw. Remember to leave a flat section in the middle of each wave to fit the kerfs in the bottom of the boat. In addition, I recommend shaping the last wave in each segment to match the curve of the boat hull where the pieces meet. The last step is to drill 1/32" holes at the ends of each wave and then cut one of them in half.

## Cutting Your Fish

In my collection of wood I have scraps from a number of exotics as well as many uniquely colored domestics. These are ideal for the fish in the mobile. Typically, I choose brightly colored woods like padauk, cocobolo, purpleheart, walnut and mahogany. Cherry and maple also work well to add some contrast.

Once you've transferred the patterns to the 1/8" thick wood, cut three of each with the scroll saw. Next, drill a 3/8" hole for the eyes and the 1/32" hole for the fishing line. Make sure to position the smaller hole so the fish will be balanced when suspended on the line. I did this by attaching some tape to the end of the line and carefully moving it until the fish hung straight. Then I used an awl to mark my drilling locations.

Making the fish eyes is a lot easier than you might think. Begin by drilling a 3/8" diameter by 1" deep hole into a piece of scrap that's clamped to your drill press table. Now slip a 2" long piece of 3/8" birch dowel into the hole. Switch to a 1/4" bit and hold the dowel with pliers while you drill entirely through its center. Make several pieces of dowel so you have plenty of material. Squirt some glue into the hole in the dowels and insert pieces of lightly sanded 1/4" diameter walnut dowel. You can slice off small 1/8" thick wafers with the scroll saw and glue them into the eye holes.

### **Finishing The Pieces**

I used Deft's new line of primary color dye-stains on the upper parts of the mobile. The powder stains mix with water and are applied with a brush. The waves and small dowels are blue and the boat is stained green. I used yellow on the fishermen (available from hobby and craft suppliers) to make them look like they're dressed in rain slickers.

The next step is to drill holes in the two figures for their 1/8" dowel fishing poles. Clamp the figures lightly in a vise and drill the 1/4" deep holes at a downward angle. Stain the rods blue and glue them in place.

Complete the finishing by spraying all the parts with two coats of Deft clear finish. This leaves a shiny surface and brightens the mobile. When the finish dries, use epoxy to glue the three wave sections and the two figures to the boat.

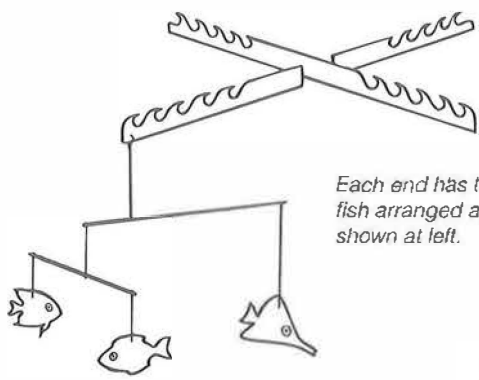
### **Assembling the Mobile**

Because the fish are made from different woods and are different sizes, balancing the mobile is a trial and error process. As you can see from the photo on the preceding page, each of the four wave segments holds

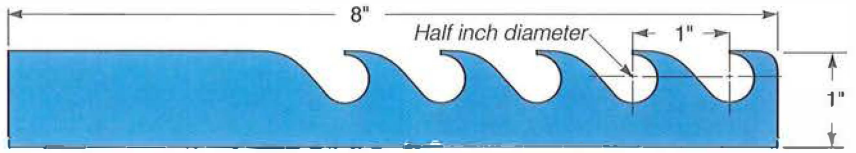
three fish, two on the short 1/8" dowel and one on the longer dowel. It's not really critical to have a perfectly balanced mobile, but you don't want things to get too crooked.

Get started by cutting the fish line to the lengths you want and securing them to the fish. Begin temporarily tying them to the rods (the four larger rods are 7" long and the four smaller ones are 5-1/2' long), using the lead photo as a guide. A second set of hands really helps here as you tie on your fish and move them in and out until they're balanced. Once they are level mark the spots and drill 1/32" holes to secure the fish to the rods. Now tie each of the four subassemblies to the ends of the wave segments.

Finish up by tying a line from the corner of one wave segment, through a fish line swivel, and then tie it to the end of the opposite wave segment. Do the same on the other wave segments, looping through the swivel one extra time to help keep the first line from slipping, and then adjust the swivel until the mobile is hanging straight. Attach a fishing leader to the swivel and rig the angler's lines with the most brightly colored jig you can find after clipping off the hooks. Try to place your mobile in a breezy area of the house, out of reach of little fingers.



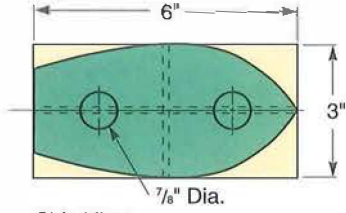
Each end has three fish arranged as shown at left.



Half Size

**Boat Elevations**

Top View



Side View

