

UTÖ

The spoon known today as the Utö, belongs to the oldest Swedish types of spoons. In the 1920s the famous old firm of Leidesdorff in Stockholm marketed its version as the Skeddrag (spoon) Nr. L.151, and according to their catalogue this design dated back into the 19th century, as early as 1882. But a similar pattern may have existed long before that.



Leidesdorff Skeddrag Nr. L.151.

It's uncertain when the name 'Utö' was first used, and by whom. It may have originated somewhere in the early 1930's. I've found it mentioned for the first time in a Leidesdorff catalogue from 1936, but alas my documentation is rather scarce.

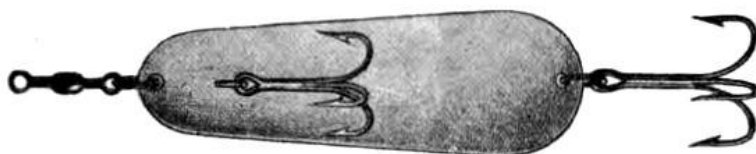
»UTÖ-draget». Strömlinjetyp.



- N:o SM. 151/9. Extra stor. Längd 100 m
Vikt 40 gr. Färger: Samtliga ovanstående.
Pr st. Kr. 2
- N:o SM. 151/8. Medelstorlek. Längd 90 m
Vikt 35 gr. Färger: lika ovan. Pr. st. Kr. 2.
- N:o SM. 151/7. Vanlig storlek. Längd 75 m
Vikt 26 gr. Färger: lika ovan. Pr st. Kr. 2.

The Utö-draget (pattern 151) as it appeared in the 1936 Leidesdorff catalogue.
SM stands for matt silvered.

As there was no patent resting on the Utö model or name, a considerable amount of larger and smaller Scandinavian companies took advantage of that and produced this popular type of spoon, with or without the name Utö. Into the 1960's these companies included Wigarts, Paul Berghaus (P.B. or PeBeCo), Lundberg en Broderna Sandströms Skidfabrik (BSS).

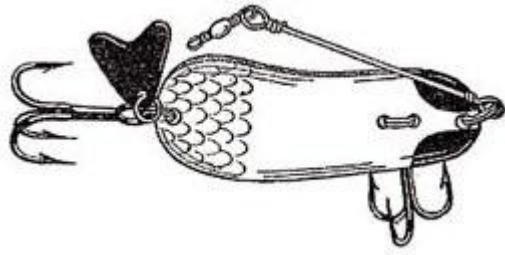


- N:o P. B. 1151. "Utö"-draget. Utvändigt försilvrat, invändigt förgyllt.
- | | | | |
|--------|------------|------|------|
| Längd | mm. | 75 | 95 |
| Vikt | gram | 25 | 35 |
| Pr st. | | 1.70 | 1.80 |

Varje drag stämplat med följande stämpel, som garanterar kvaliteten:



The Utö spoon as it appeared in the 1937 Paul Berghaus (P.B.) catalogue.



Nr 95. Utödraget. Utförande: silver/guld
och helt silver.
Längd 75 mm. Vikt 25 gram. Kr. 1: 85
» 95 » » 35 » » 1: 95

Nygrens catalogue, Göteborg 1956 : Utödraget (Utö spoon).



Utö spoon by BSS (Broderna Sandströms Skidfabrik), Stockholm, ca. 1950.



A Utö spoon and box in very nice condition by P.B. (Paul Berghaus) (Coll. John Fishkat)



Older Utö spoons without a firm's name on front or back. The right one is stamped 'Utö' with a logo also used by P.B., Bete and ABU.

The best known producer of Utö spoons in the 1960's and 1970's was the Bete company, founded in the 1940's by Tage Tysklind and based in Sweden up to 1978, after which it moved to Finland.



Bete Utö, Sweden, ca. 1960's

In 1978 Bete became part of the Finlandia Uistin company, based in Finland of course, and well known for producing the famous Nilsmaster wobblers.



Utö-skedarna är kända havsfiskebeten. Deras breda och jämntjocka form ger rovfiskar ett intryck av ett större byte. Utös form gör att den simmar lugnt och därför är särskilt bra i svala vatten. Den minsta modellen på 10 g kan även användas till abborre. Materialet består av nysilver, mässing och koppar. Ett Bete-drag som blivit mörkt kan lätt putsas upp.



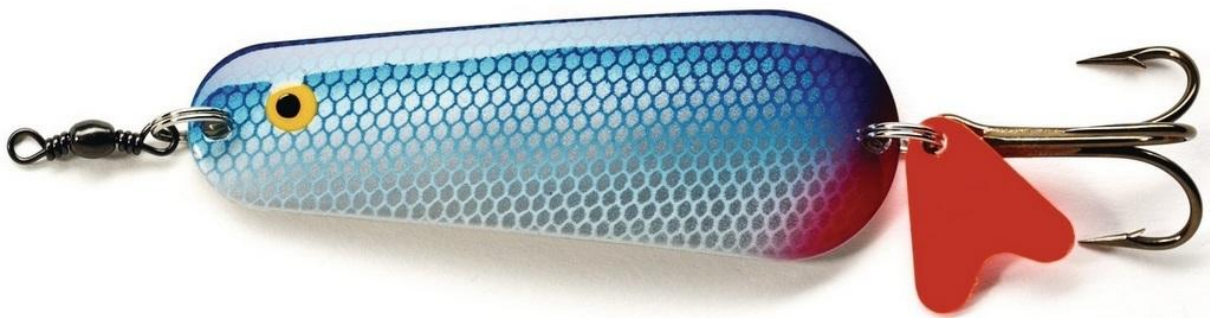
Längd / Vikt
6,2 cm, 16 g
7,5 cm, 23 g
9,5 cm, 34 g

Bete Utö, Finland 2014

As Utö spoons were popular and sold very well by the early 1970's, the Swedish firm of ABU began producing its own line of Utö spoons in 1974. Initially there were four sizes: from 42 to 78 mm weighing 7 to 25 grams. The lightest two sizes were dropped over time and a heavier size was added: 92 mm at 35 grams, one of the truly great pike spoons. Until 1981 the ABU Utö was produced in Sweden, after that production went to the Far East (Japan, Taiwan, China).



ABU Utö from the 1970's.



ABU Utö, recent model.

The Utö is a comparatively heavy spoon. This makes it well suited for long casting and for deeper waters, say 5 ft. or deeper. But being rather broad it has a good 'lift' to it, which makes it possible to use it in shallower waters as well, even with a moderately slow retrieve. The ABU Atom may be a more famous pike spoon. It's made in exactly the same sizes and weights as the ABU Utö but with a different, corrugated profile. Yet I prefer the strong and more regular action of the Utö to the drunken fluttering of the Atom. But who am I? I may be the first one that gets hooked by a certain type of spoon, in the tackle shop, but the final decisions are made in the murky depths. ■

NB. Living in the Netherlands my access to Swedish and Finnish historical sources on Scandinavian lures (old catalogs and magazines in particular) is but very small, regrettably. Therefore I lack the material to produce a well documented and solid history on the Utö spoon. Consequently this article should be regarded only as a modest attempt to produce a rough outline from the limited information I possess. I'm sure there must remain much room for improvement. So if anyone has more information on the subject I would be very glad if he or she would be kind enough to share it with us. Thanks to John Fishkat, who already supplied some information and pictures.

Hans van der Pauw, 2015-2016