

If you are a fisherman seeking the ultimate performance in your baitcasting reel you cannot go wrong with a bearing upgrade! Ceramic bearings are the current craze of the fishing world and I can tell you this is one fishing craze that will not be going away because there is “substance” to this craze as opposed to just being a trendy thing to do!

Ceramic bearings are impervious to corrosion for starters which is a huge improvement over stainless steel ball bearings which will corrode faster than you can imagine if exposed to water, especially salt water! And this becomes a very costly thing to replace when they go bad in a reel! Beside durability the ceramic bearings have a much greater appeal to the average fisherman, their installation allows for longer casting distances, a fact I have observed and recorded during many hours of testing!

So changing out your stock ABEC standard bearings which are installed in your reel from the factory (like the Shimano BNT0194 which is present in all their popular baitcasting reels like the Curado, Citica, Chronarch and Calcutta models!) to a super ceramic Bearing like the **BOCA SMR103C YZZ#5 Lightning Series Bearing** is a smart upgrade for you reel, you’ll get longer and easier casting out of your reel when you do this But you may not have gone far enough with your bearing upgrade if you stop with just the SMR103C ‘s on each end of the spool because many of these reels have an ABEC standard Spool bearing installed on them as well, if you change the outer bearings and leave this one installed on your spool (located behind the drive pin on your spool) you wont get the maximum performance out of your reel that you could have. So we need to teach you how to replace this bearing!

The bearing we will be working with is the **BOCA SMR115C YZZ#5 Lightning Series Bearing**. By placing this super slick ceramic bearing on your spool will unleash the full potential in your reel. But doing it is risky and potentially expensive if you mess it up. We are going to show you how to do it right so that you don’t damage that expensive spool! This will require some simple tools that the average fisherman should have laying around the house. Slip Joint Pliers, a small hammer, a Jewelers screwdriver (straight not phillips) and a plastic bait tray.



I am a veteran reel repair tech and I can tell you through painful and expensive experience you don't want to try this any other way than what I am about to show you because if you bend your spool shaft even 1 degree off of its centerline you are going to decrease your casting distance like you wouldn't believe so we have to be very careful not to bend the shaft or flatten the spool rims in any way or the cost could be as high as \$40.00 to replace that damaged spool!

The first thing you are going to do is get the slip joint pliers and set them to their least open position, Grab your spool and place the pliers top jaw (which will be the one the doesn't protrude) right behind the drive pin on the upper side of the spool while the lower jaw protruding jaw) engages the top of the drive pin on the bottom side of the spool.





Press the pin flush against the lower side of the spool shaft by closing the plier's jaws.



Once this is accomplished the next thing we need to do is wedge the spool on top of one of the plastic dividers in our tray. This serves multiple purposes 1) we don't want to place the spool on a hard surface because the blow from our hammer might cause a flat spot to develop on our spool rims. 2) This allows the spool to have the support needed to protect from bending the shaft or flattening the spool. 3) The tray also will catch the pin once it is punched out of the shaft.



Take the jewelers screwdriver & hammer place the screw driver on the top of the pin and tap the pin out.
Do not pound the pin out. Make sure you have a firm grip on the spool so the spool stays in place.



Now that the pin is removed the bearing will slide off & the new **Boca Bearing** can be easily installed.





Once the new **Boca Bearing** is installed the next step is to re-insert the drive pin. Press the drive pin back into the shaft with your fingers as far as possible. Take your slip joint pliers, place the bottom jaw on the drive pin, and the top jaw just behind the hole on the top of the shaft so the pin can be pressed into place. Gently squeeze the pliers so the drive pin is approximately equal on both sides of the spool shaft.





You have now just completed the spool bearing up grade. By using the **Boca Ceramic Bearings** you will be able to notice a considerable difference in overall performance of your baitcasting reel.

