

Uniseine Version 4.0

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Photos by the author.

Uniseine is the name of my one-person seine. Version 4.0 indicates that it has undergone three rebuilds. When I'm collecting fish alone (as I often do, since it's peaceful and quiet, and it scares fewer fish), or when the rest of my collecting party is too hot, cold, tired, or wet to join me, the Uniseine has proven its effectiveness.

I use my Uniseine more than a Perfect Dipnet. Its area of netting is larger, and its pressure wave in the water is much weaker. What's more, in some states dipnets are illegal because the net has four sides. This is not to say the Uniseine doesn't have limitations. I wouldn't recommend it for stalking topminnows, lifting plant mats for Pygmy Killifish or *Elasoma*, or catching darters in water more than two feet deep. But for most other applications, it'll catch a lot of fish.

Here's how the Uniseine came about. A few years ago, Jim Graham (he of the Ultimate Fish Collecting Vehicle, Summer 2006 *American Currents*, p. 29), saw fellow NANFAN Bill Flowers use a seine tied to a pair of crutches. Jim decided to add hoops for his arms and S-curves to his seine brails. Jim's version became Uniseine 1.0. For version 1.5, I added offset brail ends that hooked under my arms. Version 2.0 had pin-lock 45°-swivel handles and pullout extensions for chasing fish from under the bank. Since its connectors were fragile and loose, version 3.0 went to galvanized pipe fittings. In version 4.0, the brails unscrew so the net can easily fit in the car (Fig. 1).

The Uniseine has multiple configurations:


- Turn the handles above the net (Fig. 2) for seining up- or downstream, in front of you, or to your side.
- Brace the galvanized fittings against your hips for maximum lifting.

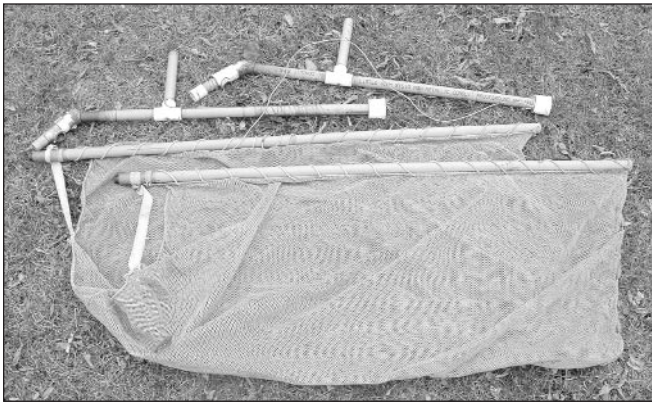
- Hold the brails with the handles tucked under your arms to slip the net under fish horizontally.
- Set the net downstream while you hold the knobs on the handles and kick.
- Toss the net to the bank and pull it back.
- Give one joint a small twist and the net can stand as a tripod (Fig. 3).
- Swivel both joints and the Uniseine can reach into deep holes (Fig. 4), seine up- or downstream, or reach sideways while drifting downstream under overhanging bank cover.

Fish collecting is a hobby. So have fun designing and assembling your own one-person seine. To get you started, here are the parts I used in Uniseine 4.0.

Parts List

- 3/4" PVC (2 10' pipes, 2 tees, 2 1-1/2" reduced down to 3/4" reducer bushings, one coupling, custom made pivot stops (Fig. 5))
- 1/2" galvanized steel (2 tees, 2 45°-elbows, 2 1"-nipples, 2 5"-nipples (cut in half), one 3"-nipple (cut in half))
- 4 3/4" x 3' painted hardwood dowels (as PVC reinforcement)
- 2 wood screws to join the wooden tees together
- 4' x 4' seine with normal weights (no floats needed)
- elastic cord
- strong cord

Construction tip: Heat the ends of the PVC pipes in boiling water before pounding them into the galvanized pipe. 



Counterclockwise from top left: *Fig. 1.* Handles unscrew for easy transportation. *Fig. 2.* Handles are positioned for running the seine or setting for a downstream kick. *Fig. 3.* The net can stand alone as a tripod. If the current is too strong, use the cord to hold the net in place. *Fig. 4.* Swivel handles to increase net's reach. *Fig. 5.* Left joint, front and back view.

(The right joint is a mirror image without the bottom coupling.)
Nipples are forced into PVC pipe. Brail is screwed in by hand. 45°-elbow easily moves a half turn before hitting the stop.