

Fishing Tips

Clipping Up

During casting when clipping up, pointing the rod at the target area will make the lead stop dead in its flight, bouncing violently back, causing tangles and stress at the clip, which can result in breakage of the line or the clip.

Immediately on the cast point the rod up at the sky or even backwards away from the target area, then anticipating the end of the cast move the rod forward to catch the cast as it hits the clip.

This will gently slow the cast as it approaches the target area, when this technique is mastered it will feel as though you are placing the lead on the surface.

Spodding and Marker Reels

It is generally accepted that lower specification reels are used on the spod or marker rods, however, it is likely that spod and marker reels are cast out up to a hundred times more in a day than a carp rod reel and the spod rod retrieves under great pressure so yes, do expect failure on lower specification reels.

Storage of Bivvies

Shelters should always be stored dry. Storing them wet can lead to deterioration of the waterproof membrane of the material and taped seams.

Effects of casting with different sized spools

It is generally accepted that big pit reels will allow longer casts than standard sized reels. This is because as the line comes off the spool during the cast, a much longer spool lip is revealed on the standard sized reel, creating greater drag that slows the cast. This is called lip effect.

This effect is demonstrated very clearly with 12 or 15lb nylon. However, if 6lb nylon or a high quality fine braid is used, the lip effect is greatly reduced and even after 120 yards have been removed both sized reels will show very little effect. Another factor to consider is that the larger in diameter the spool of a reel the larger the coils of line that need to pass through the rings of the rod. This creates another drag factor, this time in favour of the standard sized reel. It has been shown that if both sized reels are loaded with a fine line and shock leaders are used, then the standard sized reel can have the advantage.

Main Lines

With so many lines available, choosing the right one can be very confusing. Because so many lines labelled the same behave very differently to each other we suggest buying a line by diameter rather than referring to labelled breaking strain. For general carp fishing in weed and snag free situations we recommend lines between 0.33 and 0.35mm. These will typically break at between 16 and 18lb. For more demanding waters with snags and heavy weed, a thicker line of between 0.35 and 0.40mm will withstand abrasion, nicks and minor damage better and typically break between 20 and 22lb. For distance casting a lower diameter line of 0.25 and 0.30mm are the best choice, typically breaking between 10 and 15lb.

Although the breaking strains mentioned here seem very high, there's no need to be alarmed. You have been fishing with these breaking strains perhaps for many years without realizing it! Remember that breaking strain do not give the complete picture.

Cost, suppleness, abrasion resistance and value for money should also be considered.

Braids

The Pros

Most braids are exceptionally thin, making them superior casting lines. They have almost near-zero stretch which improves bite indication and makes them ideal for use with a marker rod set up.

Braids have greater abrasion resistance by diameter than nylon and do not suffer from ultra violet deterioration; therefore the need to re-spool is less often. Also line twist problems are fewer with braid.

The Cons

Care must be taken when spooling new braid. You must not overload the spool (otherwise wind knots will occur) and the braid must be spooled under very firm pressure. Loose loops that form after casting can cause wind knots at a later stage, so keep the braid firmly wound on to the spool at all times. The lack of stretch in braid can result in lost fish due to hook pulls or hooklink breakages if care is not taken. Zero stretch can also result in broken rods if the braid gets wrapped around rings during casting or general usage.

Carp Rod Advice

Reliability

Most rods these days are very reliable, so you can buy with the confidence that even the cheaper models will not be prone to breakage. However, performance, durability, high quality fittings, up to date cosmetics and specialized design will add to the price.

Test Curve

The test curve is the weight required to bring the rod tip to a 90 degree angle to the butt while the butt is held horizontally. This measurement provides a guide to the stiffness of one rod compared to another. The test curve on its own is not an indicator of casting capability. However, of more influence on the rods casting potential is the action of the rod. For example a fast-taper 2.75lb test curve will have greater capability than a through-action 3.5lb test curve rod, but the through-action rod will have other benefits over the faster-action rod.

Actions

For simplicity, only three types of action tend to be referred to in the press; namely through-action, semi-fast or fast-taper.

However, there is a whole spectrum between these, and there points in the spectrum where the definition of the action is a matter of opinion. For example some people may describe the same action as either a semi-fast or through action. Also semi-fast and fast-taper actions become confused. The result is that the action of a rod described in the angling press is sometimes incorrect.

Through-action

These rods are a dream for playing fish as the rod can be allowed to play the fish without the angler having to continually adjust the clutch or back wind. They also

minimize the chance of hook pulls, allow the use of lighter breaking strain main lines and hooklink materials and are the best action rods for casting shorter range. They also perform well when using light leads. Through-action rods are not a good choice if distance casting could be necessary and only the high test curve models are suited to method fishing and PVA bag work.

Semi-Fast-action

These rods are also referred to as medium action; progressive, compound-taper or parabolic, and most general carp rods are built to have this action. These rods generally play fish well and cast PVA bags and method balls accurately with ease. They do not require specialist casting techniques to achieve good casts. However semi-fast rods are not ideal for extreme range or continual long range work and not suitable for use with large PVA bags or method balls. This is the 'all rounder' action. There are however many variations that are labeled semi-fast taper so gaining knowledgeable advice is important.

Fast-action

These rods are best for extreme range or long distance casting, but require a good casting technique to realize their full potential. They are also the best for casting heavier weights such as larger PVA bags or method balls. This is the least enjoyable action with which to play a fish, with a greater chance of hook pulls or hooklink breakage. Fast-action rods are also difficult to cast accurately at shorter range (under 70 yards) because a little extra effort on the cast results in a lot more distance, generally making it difficult to place a bait under an overhanging tree for example.

Character

The action and test curve affect the character of a rod, but there are other factors that influence the feel, balance and recovery rate and therefore change the character.

The type of carbon cloth used, the position, number and type of rod guides, the reel seat, the type of handle and other factors can all have an effect.

Weighing Advice

In the interest of fish care, always use the sling wet and for weighing accuracy drain off or slightly wring out any excess water depending on which type of sling is used. Always tare the scales with the sling on the hook. This is because the slight pressure on the hook takes up any slack in the springs, improving accuracy when the scales are zeroed. Prevents mistakes being made by trying to deduct the sling after weighing.

When weighing do not hold the housing of the scales as this will lead to over weighing. Always hold or support the scales by the top ring or hook provided.

Using a weigh staff or tripod makes taking readings easier.

In all cases, weigh over a substantial unhooking mat.

Bait tips

To help prolong the life of fresh boilies, mix with pellets, which in turn will absorb moisture content and help prevent mould development.

Keep Pop-ups in a fridge or cool place when not in use, also once a week add 10ml of boilie dip/soak to them and shake well.

The majority of these tips are by kind consent of the Tackle Box