

BY NATHAN BENSON & RONELL SMITH

Rods, Reels & Combos



If your store carries rods and reels, this is the guide for determining what you should stock for the coming season.

7000iC3 CT MAG

Abu Garcia

A size 7 round reel, this high-speed (5.3:1 gear ratio) baitcaster has been designed for fishing big water. The manageable 19.9-ounce reel features a MagTrax brake system that is easily configurable as well as a Carbon Matrix Drag System that provides a solid and smooth line drag.

» www.abugarcia.com;
712-336-1520

Sorön STX

Abu Garcia

Featuring the Fast Tie Design system, this spinning reel has two elastimetric rings that prevent superline from spinning on the spool. The body, body cover, rotor and bail arm are made from X-Craft aluminum alloy, creating an ultralight, extremely durable and corrosion-resistant reel, even in saltwater.

» www.abugarcia.com; 712-336-1520



Revo Skeet Reese

Abu Garcia

Customized by Bassmaster Elite Series pro Skeet Reese, the yellow and black frame isn't Reese's only signature detail. The aluminum reel weighs a mere 6.8 ounces, has a 6.4:1 gear ratio and features 11 High Performance Corrosion Resistant bearings for added smoothness.

» www.abugarcia.com;
712-336-1520



Saltist

Daiwa

Available with standard- or high-speed gear ratios, this lineup of levelwind saltwater reels offers a range of sizes to suit a variety of applications. Constructed from a one-piece aluminum frame, the reels feature corrosion-resistant ball bearings, a roller bearing and high-strength oversized gears.

» www.daiwa.com; 562-802-9589



Steez 100SH & 103SHA

Daiwa

These new baitcast reels from Daiwa are not only the lightest reels of their kind, but they're also among the fastest. With a blazing fast 7.1:1 gear ratio, a single turn of the handle reels in 29.8 inches of line.

» www.daiwa.com; 562-802-9589



Steez SVF Fle-X-Lite

Daiwa

Designed specifically for crankbait or jerkbait fishing, this bass rod series combines the flexibility of fiberglass with the lightweight, high-strength properties of SVF graphite. There are three baitcast models and two spinning models in the series.

» www.daiwa.com;
562-802-9589



Expert

Falcon Rods

Featuring the company's CrossMatch rod-building technology, which utilizes a weave of carbon fibers, all 15 rods in the series weigh less than 4 ounces. The rod series, which features Fuji components, offers rods for virtually any bass fishing application with 10 casting models and five spinning models.

» www.falconrods.com;
918-251-0020



GLX Crankbait Series

G.Loomis Inc.

The two 7-1 rods (CBR853 GLX and CBR855 GLX) in this line give anglers the same high level of performance they've come to expect from the series but with the added benefit of a GLX blank and RECoil guides.

» www.gloomis.com;
800-456-6647



ShakyHead Spinning Rod

G.Loomis

The company's amazingly popular Shaky Head line has been expanded to include a two-power GLX model (SHR822S). Like all GLX, the 6-10 rods comes with RECoil guides and has sensitivity to spare.

» www.gloomis.com; 800-456-6647

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Lightning Rod Shock

Berkley

A rod series designed specifically for fishing with superline, this line-up includes both casting and spinning options. The rods feature a slow-reacting tip for fewer lost fish and downsized aluminum oxide guides that reduce friction and decrease wind knots.

» www.berkley-fishing.com;
712-336-1520



Starfire Trolling Combo

Eagle Claw

The combo features the popular Starfire rod along with a prespooled levelwind reel. The reels are spooled with backing and 100 yards of Gudebrod lead core line.

» www.eagleclaw.com; 303-321-1481



Cimarron

Eagle Claw

Mixing cool styling with functionality, the Cimarron series reels feature three ball bearings, a one-way clutch and a polished aluminum spool. The reels are meant to stand up to the rigors of both weekend warriors and tournament anglers.

» www.eagleclaw.com; 303-321-1481



Titan Spincaster

Eagle Claw

The three new reels in this series feature the company's Star Drag system, a polished aluminum body and each comes prespooled with monofilament.

» www.eagleclaw.com; 303-321-1481



Elite Tech Bass Top Water

Fenwick

Fenwick has introduced three new rods to its Elite Tech Bass series, including this 6-2 topwater casting rod. The rod implements a shorter length for greater line control and a moderate fast tip to allow for some forgiveness on the hook set.

» www.fenwickfishing.com; 712-336-1520



Elite Tech Walleye

Fenwick

A 12-rod series designed for the variety of techniques and presentations used in walleye fishing, these rods are sensitive and strong. Available in both casting and spinning models, there are rods for the following techniques: jigging, rigging, slip bobber, crankbait, bottom bouncer and trolling.

» www.fenwickfishing.com; 712-336-1520

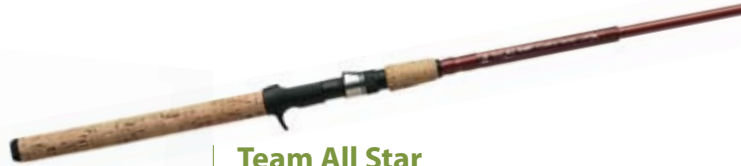


Techna AV

Fenwick

There are three new models in this rod series, which features ultrathin IM8 graphite rod blanks. There is a 7-1 casting rod (for swimbaits and frogs); also new are a 7-0 spinning rod (for fishing soft baits around heavy cover) and a 7-6 spinning rod (for in-shore and salmon fishing).

» www.fenwickfishing.com; 712-336-1520



Team All Star Crankin' Rods

All Star

Designed specifically for crankbait fishing, this rod series features lightweight and sensitive multi-modulus graphite blanks and Fuji aluminum oxide guides. The moderate-action rod series is offered in four lengths (6-8, 7-0, 7-2 and 7-10).

» www.allstarrods.com; 712-336-1520



Mojo Bass

St. Croix Rods

Created for young anglers, this aggressively styled series has a black cherry finish, Batson Forecast guides and split grips. There are 12 technique-specific rods, and each is affordably priced, with most under \$100.

» www.stcroixrods.com; 715-762-3226



Legend Elite

St. Croix Rods

The company has restyled the Legend Elite line of freshwater rods. They are still tough as nails and made of the same high strain/high modulus blanks. Now, however, they feature a more conservative forest green pearl finish and have standard cork handles, not split grips.

» www.stcroixrods.com;
715-762-3226



RSC3

Rhino

Featuring a smooth, three-bearing drive system, this newly redesigned spincast reel has got tough gears, a sealed thumb-cast release and auto Bait Alert technology. The reel is available as part of a combo package that includes a 6-foot Rhino Indestructible medium action GlowTip rod.

» www.rhinofishing.com;
918-836-5581



Legend Xtreme

St. Croix Rods

Some of the most impressive rods at ICAST 2008, this line of strong, light bass and walleye rods is made of high modulus graphite, RECoil guides, Fuji SiC tip tops and split grip handles. There are 16 models available, each containing the eye-catching blue-green finish on the blank.

» www.stcroixrods.com; 715-762-3226

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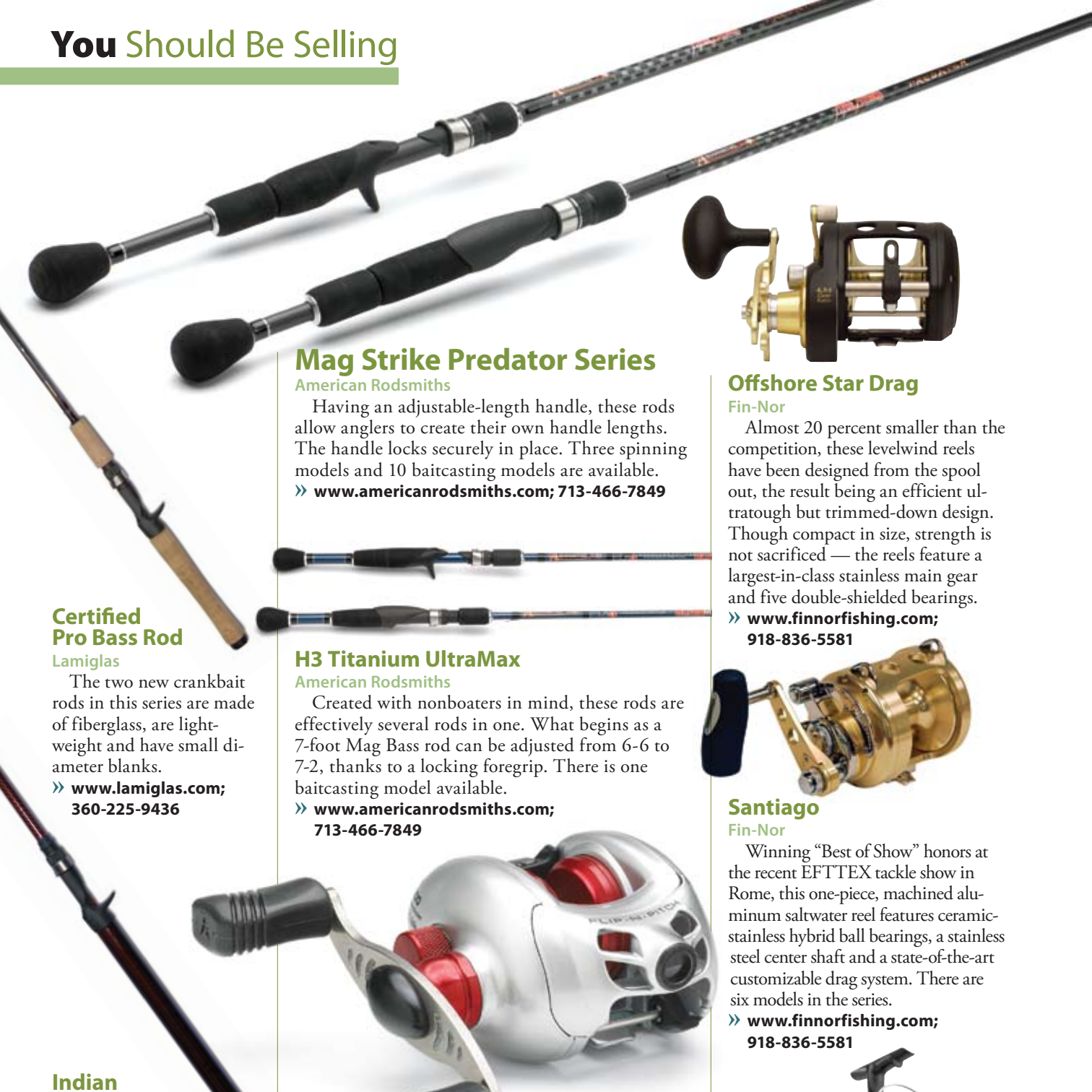


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You Should Be Selling



Certified Pro Bass Rod

Lamiglas

The two new crankbait rods in this series are made of fiberglass, are light-weight and have small diameter blanks.

» www.lamiglas.com;
360-225-9436

Indian River Signature Series

Lamiglas

Designed by Florida guides Jim Ross and Russ Rivers, the series contains seven new light tackle models, each of which contains Texalium rod blanks and Texalium handles.

» www.lamiglas.com;
360-225-9436

Mag Strike Predator Series

American Rodsmiths

Having an adjustable-length handle, these rods allow anglers to create their own handle lengths. The handle locks securely in place. Three spinning models and 10 baitcasting models are available.

» www.americanrodsmiths.com; 713-466-7849

H3 Titanium UltraMax

American Rodsmiths

Created with nonboaters in mind, these rods are effectively several rods in one. What begins as a 7-foot Mag Bass rod can be adjusted from 6-6 to 7-2, thanks to a locking foregrip. There is one baitcasting model available.

» www.americanrodsmiths.com;
713-466-7849

F500 Flip-N-Pitch

Ardent Outdoors

A truly innovative reel made specifically for flipping and pitching, the F500 has a fixed ceramic eye instead of a levelwind guide, a narrow spool aligned with that eye to help line go on smoothly and an internal drag set at 22 pounds of pressure.

» www.ardentoutdoors.com; 660-395-9200

Offshore Star Drag

Fin-Nor

Almost 20 percent smaller than the competition, these levelwind reels have been designed from the spool out, the result being an efficient ultratough but trimmed-down design. Though compact in size, strength is not sacrificed — the reels feature a largest-in-class stainless main gear and five double-shielded bearings.

» www.finnorfishing.com;
918-836-5581

Santiago

Fin-Nor

Winning “Best of Show” honors at the recent EFTTEX tackle show in Rome, this one-piece, machined aluminum saltwater reel features ceramic-stainless hybrid ball bearings, a stainless steel center shaft and a state-of-the-art customizable drag system. There are six models in the series.

» www.finnorfishing.com;
918-836-5581

Sargus

Penn

Designed for inshore saltwater fishing, the Sargus spinning reel is constructed from a rigid aluminum for corrosion resistance and decreased weight. The reel also features a waterproof felt drag system and high-speed gear ratio.

» www.pennreels.com;
712-336-1520



Torque Lever Drag

Penn

Made of forged and machined aluminum to give the angler a balance of strength and light weight, this reel is meant for big game salt-water fishing. The reel features four stainless steel ball bearings, a 6.2:1 gear ratio and a completely adjustable drag cartridge.

» www.pennreels.com;
712-336-1520



Medalist

Pflueger

Built to stand up to the harshness of saltwater, this aluminum spinning reel features a drive train supported by stainless steel ball bearings and a one-way clutch bearing for instant anti-reverse. The bearings and carbon fiber drag system are sealed, ensuring corrosion doesn't become an issue.

» www.pfluegerfishing.com;
712-336-1520

President LP

Pflueger

Built on a one-piece, solid aluminum frame, this low-profile baitcasting reel can handle the punishment that comes with big fish and big water. The 6.4:1 reel features a six-pin adjustable centrifugal brake system and a smooth, multidisc carbon fiber drag system.

» www.pfluegerfishing.com; 712-336-1520



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Copperhead Trigger

Mitchell

Mitchell's popular Copperhead spinning reel is modified here with a trigger added to the bail system. The modification allows for smooth, one-handed casting by simply pulling and releasing the trigger during the cast.

» www.fishmitchell.com; 712-336-1520

Ugly Stik Jr. Combo

Shakespeare

Winner in the Kid's Tackle category at this year's ICAST, this combo is a downsized version of the tough and durable Ugly Stik. Available in three color choices, this 3-8 rod features the company's E-Z Cast spincasting reel prespooled with 6-pound-test line.

» www.shakespeare-fishing.com; 712-336-1520

Cabo PTs Star Drag

Quantum

Available in three different models, this saltwater baitcasting reel sports a cast aluminum frame and side covers. The reel has an impressive list of features, including eight double-shielded PT bearings, continuous anti-reverse and six-layer corrosion protection.

» www.quantumfishing.com; 918-836-5581

Catalyst PT

Quantum

New to the redesigned, lower-weight Quantum PT family of reels, the Catalyst consists of four baitcast models and a spinning model. The baitcast reel is available in right- or left-hand models and with "Burner" and "Speed" gear ratios. The spinning reel comes with the springless magnetic bail system.

» www.quantumfishing.com; 918-836-5581

Deceiver MTL3

Shakespeare

Featuring a hybrid three-piece body, this spinning reel consists of a metal stem and sideplate and a graphite body for cushion and improved gear feel. The reel also features a 9+1 bearing system, a double-ported aluminum spool and a titanium-coated spool lip.

» www.shakespeare-fishing.com; 712-336-1520

Tour KVD Rod Series

Quantum

Featuring a blend of lightweight graphite and E-glass construction, this one-of-a-kind Kevin VanDam-inspired rod series consists of six models for various applications. Every parabolic action has been personally custom-tuned by VanDam to accommodate his style of fishing: long casts and error-free execution.

» www.quantumfishing.com; 918-836-5581



Nickelodeon Gift Boxes

Zebco

Available as either a Dora the Explorer or SpongeBob SquarePants kit and packaged in a convenient gift-wrapable box, these Nickelodeon character fishing kits are sure to be a hit with kids. Each kit includes a telescoping combo, a tacklebox, a casting plug and bobbers. The 3-foot combo comes prespooled with 6-pound-test line.

» www.zebco.com; 918-836-5581



Reflexions

Okuma

Billed as inexpensive but premium quality, these rods are made of graphite, have cork split-grip handles and blank-thru construction. Each rod comes with stainless steel guides with zirconium inserts, and there are actions to fit just about any application.

» www.okumafishingteam.com;
800-466-5862

Zebco 33 with BiteAlert

Zebco

The world-famous Zebco 33 spincast reel gets an update here with BiteAlert, a built-into-the-reel bite detector that signals a strike with flashing red lights and an audible alarm. The feature can be turned on or off with the push of a button, and the technology is also available on Zebco's new 30-size spinning reel.

» www.zebcocom;
918-836-5581

C3 Carbon Concept Rods

Okuma

Made of light, sensitive, 40-ton graphite and featuring extra-fast actions, these rods have Fuji reel seats, titanium guide frames with zirconium inserts and are of a one-piece construction. There are 14 rods in the series.

» www.okumafishingteam.com; 800-466-5862

Big Show Rods

Castaway Graphite Rods

Designed by Bassmaster Elite Series angler Terry "Big Show" Scroggins, these rods come with Grade A Portuguese cork handles, Fuji reel seats and the company's multimodulus blanks. Half of the 10 rods, all casting, feature the popular RECoil titanium guides.

» www.castawayrods.com; 936-582-1677



Sea Demon

Okuma

These combos feature an E-Glass rod having double-foot guides, titanium oxide inserts, a nylon gimbal butt and a custom wrap on the foregrip. The reel choice is a Sea Demon aluminum spool levelwind reel or a Classic Pro graphite spool levelwind reel.

» www.okumafishingteam.com;
800-466-5862

Skeleton Series

Castaway Graphite Rods

The 16 technique-specific rods (8 freshwater, 8 saltwater) in this group cover just about any application. The rods come with split-grip handles, have no foregrips and feature solid titanium Fuji guides.

» www.castawayrods.com; 936-582-1677





Alton Jones Signature Rods

Kistler Rods

Bassmaster Classic champion Alton Jones has designed three technique-specific rods for the company. The lineup, which includes a spinnerbait, crankbait and football jig rod, is made on the company's Magnesium TS line, which is lightweight, strong and ultrasensitive.

» www.kistlerrods.com;
281-259-8033

SuperCaster Pro

U.S. Reel

The newest SuperCaster can hold 221 yards of 10-pound test. The body is made of a strong composite material and features a carbon fiber sideplate and rotor.

» www.usreel.com;
314-962-9500



SC1000 & SC1000 Pro

U.S. Reel

Billed as the reel that will outcast any standard baitcaster, the SC1000 features a "seesaw levelwind" instead of the usual eyelet and is said to smoothly lay the line on the spool while decreasing tension for longer casts. Also unusual, the line comes off the bottom of the spool, which is said to reduce backlashes. It's available in 6.6:1 and 7.1:1 (pro) retrieve ratios.

» www.usreel.com;
314-962-9500



Argon

Kistler Rods

This new series is said to be 25 percent stronger than a comparable product, thanks to expanding the blank's wall thickness during production. The rods feature Fuji's concept alconite guides and reel seats and have split-grip handles.

» www.kistlerrods.com;
281-259-8033



Swimbait Rod

Powell Rods

This 7-11 medium-heavy rod can handle medium- to large-size swimbaits with ease. It has a split-grip handle and powerful butt yet is light enough to be used with magnum topwaters such as Black Dog Bait Co.'s Lunker Punker.

» www.powellco.com;
888-635-9763



Flippin' & Punchin' Stick

Powell Rods

A 7-10 medium-heavy action fast power rod, this stick is surprisingly lightweight but with the backbone to horse big fish from cover. It also balances better than just about any rod *FTR* has handled.

» www.powellco.com;
888-635-9763



Curado E

Shimano

Proof that you can make a great thing even better, the new Curado E series is compact, lightweight and more reasonably priced, starting at \$179. Available in 200 and 300 sizes, the series comes in three gear ratios and can handle everything from freshwater bass and walleye to inshore saltwater. Your customers will love the metallic green color, too.

» fish.shimano.com;
877-577-0600



Clarus A & Convergence

Shimano

The 71 Clarus A freshwater salmon/steelhead/inshore saltwater rods have been totally restyled but still feature IM-7 graphite blanks and Fuji components. The redesigned Convergence freshwater rods are made of IM-6 graphite blanks and include salmon/steelhead mooching models as well as muskie rods, which contain Carboloy tips.

» fish.shimano.com;
877-577-0600

Tyrnos

Shimano

The five new reels in the saltwater trolling series include two speeds, the Tyrnos 8 and 10, and the two-speed Tyrnos 8II, 10II, in addition to the large capacity, long-range special 50ILLRS. The reels are compact, feature Shimano's A-RB anti-rust bearings, oversized gears for increased power and are made with diecast aluminum frames and graphite sideplates.

» fish.shimano.com;
877-577-0600



Stella Saltwater

Shimano

There are six new reels in the series, and they are durable, smooth and feature several innovative design features, among them a cold forged aluminum spool having a proprietary coating on the spool lip. Built for heavy-duty saltwater use, the reels can hold up to 500 yards of 12-pound test and withstand drag pressure up to 65 pounds.

» fish.shimano.com; 877-577-0600



Wildlife Series

Airrus Rods

These rods are made with Fuji concept alconite guides and Fuji reel seats and are made using the company's multimodulus blanks.

» www.rodsbyairrus.com; 936-582-1677



Jeff Kriet Spinning Rod

Castaway Rods

Four years in the making, this 6-10 rod, designed by Bassmaster Elite Series angler Jeff Kriet, has a soft tip but plenty of backbone. It's great for any light-line application, such as dock skipping, shaky heads and drop shotting.

» www.castawayrods.com;
936-582-1677



T6 Series

Airrus Rods

A light, tough rod having an aluminum screw-lock butt cap and three options for guides, the T6 comes in red, blue, silver, gold or black colors.

» www.rodsbyairrus.com;
936-582-1677

FTR