

BY KEITH JACKSON

Fly Tackle



From tournament-legal fly rods to lightweight reels for saltwater, the category appears poised for growth.

Tibor Spey

Tibor Reels

Spey or double-handed fly casting requires a reel large enough to hold the longer, thicker lines. It also requires a reel that is designed to put up with the stresses of the larger, stronger fish one encounters. The Tibor Spey will handle all that and then some. The modified drag system includes a knob with “witness” marks for returning to earlier settings.

» www.tiborreel.com;
561-272-0770



Deer Creek Switch Rods

Temple Fork Outfitters

Designed by double-handed gurus Mike Kinney and Bob Meiser, these switch rods utilize the Axiom layup process that combines Kevlar and high-modulus graphite. The result is a light, crisp rod that gives the maximum result for the least effort.

» www.templeforkflyrods.com; 214-638-9052

Mini Magnum

Temple Fork Outfitters

If you're looking for a pry bar to lever big fish out of heavy cover, the Mini Magnum might well be the ticket. This 8-foot rod is designed for 300- to 400-grain lines and is made of S-Glass and high-modulus carbon-fiber blanks.

» www.templeforkflyrods.com;
214-638-9052

Axiom Series Fly Rods

Temple Fork Outfitters

The proprietary process of sandwiching Kevlar between two sheets of graphite provides a rod that won't change much in its cross-section during casting. This makes for a fast rod that is sharp and crisp. While the rods will fish close, their reserve power and fast action is best suited for big water and large flies.

» www.templeforkflyrods.com;
214-638-9052

FW-1

Nautilus Reels

While saltwater reels are the company's bread and butter, the new, lightweight freshwater series is a welcome addition. Designed for 1- through 3-weight applications, the FW-1 reels are large arbor with a sealed carbon-fiber drag.

» www.nautilusreels.com;
888-397-7335





CCF 12DD

Nautilus Reels

Brute force saltwater reels are Nautilus' mainstay, and this new model in the CCF series is meant to target tarpon, midsize tuna, sailfish and other bluewater gamefish. But like the DD in its name, it's a double-duty reel that will work well for double-handed or spey applications.

» www.nautilusreels.com;
888-397-7335



Precision Platinum Fly Lines

Cortland Line Co.

This series of lines comes in two versions: regular and salmon. Both have extended heads with long rear tapers; and both feature welded loops and Dyna-tip technology to keep floating tips up.

» www.cortlandline.com;
607-756-2851



Sterling Fly Reels

Cortland Line Co.

These midarbor reels are machined from a solid piece of barstock aluminum. They feature an enclosed Rulon drag and are suited for use in freshwater and saltwater.

» www.cortlandline.com;
607-756-2851



Pro-Cast Fly Rods

Cortland Line Co.

The Pro-Cast series of rods is a medium-fast line with a soft tip to cushion tippets but has the strength to hammer a fish or punch out a cast. The rods range from light brook rods to medium-heavy saltwater rods.

» www.cortlandline.com; 607-756-2851



Shore Stalker

G.Loomis

Casting with precision to targets is exactly what this rod series is made for. It is designed for shallow, shore-line work and intended for targeting a host of species from perch to pike to trout, muskie and peacock bass. These shorter-than-normal rods range up to 9 weight.

» www.gloomis.com; 360-225-6516



Guru

The Waterworks-Lamson

Though starting at a mere \$100 retail, these fully machined reels feature large arbors and share the same components and designs with the company's more expensive reels. They are available in 3- to 10-weight sizes.

» www.waterworks-lamson.com; 208-726-1513

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Gold Cup Fly Rods

Bass Pro Shops

Intended for heavy-duty freshwater and saltwater use, these rods run from 7 to 14 weight, feature premium components and appear to be very well designed.

» www.basspro.com



Battenkill Large Arbor VI

Orvis

This venerable series of reels has been lacking in updated, large-capacity models for strong fish. Now that need has been addressed with the BLA VI. It's the same, value-priced machined reel with a strong, smooth drag.

» www.orvis.com; 802-362-3622



VO2 Reel

Orvis

For a tough, no-fail drag, the VO2 is hard to beat. The drag is located around the rim of the spool, significantly increasing the Rulon-to-cork surface that in turn helps in dissipating heat and relieving the sticking of the drag on big-game species.

» www.orvis.com; 802-362-3622

Saltwater Helios Rods

Orvis

The new Helios blank is nearly one-third lighter than the Zero Gravity blank, yet it's a strong, fast blank that is combined with the highest-quality components into a top-of-the-line rod.

» www.orvis.com; 802-362-3622



Roaring River GLX Switch Rods

G.Loomis

Switch rods work as single-handers then switch readily into double-handed mode when a spey cast will dodge overhanging trees. These 11-foot rods do double duty as beach rods because the extra length gives greater casting distance.

» www.gloomis.com; 360-225-6516



Journey Youth

Ross Worldwide

Using their own kids as test subjects, Ross designed the Journey Youth fly rod, a small rod with a grip sized for smaller hands and an action that accommodates many different casting styles.

» www.rossreelsworldwide.com; 970-249-1212



FlyStik

Ross Worldwide

These tournament-legal rods are ideal for use from a boat for trout or snook. They also have the backbone to handle large carp or bulldog a largemouth out of the weeds. Ross' design and top quality components make these rods a true value.

» www.rossreelsworldwide.com; 970-249-1212



Imperial

St. Croix

This series takes the throne again after a redesign that sees the blending of two high-modulus and high-strain graphites into a blank that is light, crisp and fast. Combining the blank with high-quality components creates a kingly product at a commoner's price.

» www.stcroixrods.com; 800-826-7042



Sage Fly Reels

Sage Manufacturing

Nineteen new reels have been added to the Sage lineup, and they vary from the steelhead/saltwater/spey size 6000 to the 2000 series with a machined spool and foot. Six series are available, and features range from top-of-the-line drags to an ultra-lightweight clicker reel. Spare spools are available for all models.

» www.sageflyfish.com; 800-533-3004



A3 & A4

Scott Fly Rod Co.

The medium-fast action A3 blanks feature an intermediate-modulus graphite blank and top-quality components. There are single and double-handers up to 10 weight. The A4 series features fast actions, casts tight loops and will bang flies out in most conditions.

» www.scottflyrod.com;
800-728-7208



Brook Fly Rods

Cortland Line Co.

With 10-foot fly rods, you can cast farther, mend long lines easier and follow drifting nymphs (or indicators) more readily. However, most long fly rods are heavy. Not the Brooks, however, which are delicate 4- and 5-weight rods ideal for smaller flies and lighter presentations.

» www.cortlandline.com;
607-756-2851



Rise Series

Redington Tackle & Apparel

These machined, midarbor reels, 12 models in all, feature a Koyo one-way clutch and ceramic-coated bearing as well as a smooth-as-silk drag. And with the choice of four colors, you can accessorize to your heart's content.

» www.redington.com; 800-253-2538



Red.Core CPX

Redington Tackle & Apparel

The CPX series rods have been updated to use the Red.Core technology, a spiral core wrap that reduces weight and improves durability. The 34 models in the series feature a full range of rods from spey and switch to 3-weights.

» www.redington.com; 800-253-2538



Predator

Redington Tackle & Apparel

The specialized Predator rods are designed to cast big flies into tight cover and then force fish out with the extra power in the butt of the rod.

» www.redington.com; 800-253-2538



Damsel Fly & Dragon Fly

Wright & McGill

The Damsel Fly series (three reels in all) are targeting women through the Fly Girl brand, but both series are machined from bar-stock aluminum to shave weight and feature large, graphite-disk drags.

» www.wright-mcgill.com; 303-941-8752



Super Series Quick Change

Abel

The Super Series QC lets a big-game fly fisherman change spools on a whim — with no tools. The large-arbor, sturdy drive system and faultless drag make this a no-fail option for anglers chasing big fish. A 7/8 reel is in production with two larger models to follow.

» www.abelreels.com;
866-511-7444



Boron IIX

R.L. Winston

The double-handed rod, a 12 1/2-footer for a 6/7 weight, is not only one of the lightest spey rods around, but it's also ideal for summer-run steelhead and smaller salmon.

» www.winstonrods.com;
406-684-5674 **FTR**