

What's new?

Our pick of the best new game-fishing tackle



"Sends a shooting-head out like a rocket": the new double-hander from Daiwa.

DAIWA WILDERNESS XT SALMON ROD

£150-£180

DAIWA SALMON rods have had a loyal following for many years so the new Wilderness XT is important – not least given its affordable price bracket of between £150 and £180.

The cosmetics are good. The four-piece blank has a gloss metallic-brown finish. Daiwa's Stephen McCaveney told us, "It is contemporary; it belongs with the colours of the river."

There is modern and durable composite-cork at the handle's butt and neck to protect the graded cork above and below. This Dura Cork is increasingly popular and is a cork by-product that has been processed with rubber. The attractive no-nonsense and

secure aluminium alloy reel seat has two uplocking nuts and a collar. There are no alignment guides, which is a shame.

Daiwa rods traditionally have spigot joints, but the XT has the overfit type, which helps to make the rod lighter. It feels very well balanced. A heavier reel seat was considered as a counterbalance in early prototypes but in the end it was deemed unnecessary.

How does it cast? Stephen says, "The loading point is higher up than that found in a traditional through-action rod. Call it a middle-to-tip action. It's definitely not a tip action. It's got a great deal of power and will send a shooting head out like a rocket." We've had a cast and got on very well – it's well worth consideration.

SPECIFICATION: Daiwa Wilderness XT Salmon Fly rod

LENGTH (ft)	WEIGHT (oz)	AFTM	PRICE
12	8.0	9	£150
13	9.6	10	£160
14	9.9	10	£170
15	11.5	11	£180

CONTACT: www.daiwasports.co.uk; 08450-607-607

Hides Classic 3-in-1

£7.99

THIS CLEVER cloth widget combines the roles of spectacles case, cleaning cloth and cord. It is made from soft DuPont microfibre in three parts: two arms and an unfolding body.

Insert the arms of your sunglasses or spectacles into the arms of the widget and then hang your specs around your neck. Unfurl the widget's body and use the material to clean lenses. Fully unfurl the body and then enclose your glasses with the material, securing them by tying a knot with the cloth arms. This cocoon won't protect the glasses from crushing but will prevent the lenses from being scratched. In many colour options.

CONTACT: www.fishingmegastore.com; 0870-9200-1120

Hardy priest

£14.99

THIS ELEGANT priest is heavy enough for salmon. It has an easy-to-grip hard foam handle, an anodised aluminium shaft and a brass head with a chrome finish on which is embossed "Hardy". It's nine inches long. A great present for a fishing friend?

CONTACT: www.hardyfishing.com; 01665-602-771

Cloudveil 8x Pro jacket

£369

CLOUDVEIL IS an upmarket American outdoor clothing firm that began making fly-fishing garb three years ago. Its 8X Pro Jacket is well designed and feels expensive to the touch. It should: £369 is a great deal of money and this cost is largely derived from the best waterproof and breathable material you can buy – Gore-Tex Pro Shell.

The jacket features: two bellows chest pockets for fly-boxes; two waterproof Napoleon pockets for mobile phones and tippets; and two zipped handwarmer pockets. Clever touches include curved exterior cuffs that extend along the backs of hands to prevent the snagging of fly-line, and a waist drawcord that can be tightened so that the lower half of the jacket can be rolled up inside the chest when deep wading.

The Gore-Tex in the arm and shoulder is Rip-Stop, which protects the fabric from tears. The inner cuffs are made with neoprene tightened by velcro. There are D-rings in the bellows pockets and one on the back for a net. The back pocket allows the whole jacket to be rolled up into it.

SIZES: S, M, L, XL, XXL.
CONTACT: www.cloudveil.com;
www.johnnorris.co.uk; 01768-864-211

