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Gear

TROUT FISHERMAN | 9-PAGE GEAR SECTION

Guide

KEEPING YOU UP-TO-DATE WITH THE VERY LATEST FLYFISHING GEAR ■ By Robbie Winram

Recoil rings spring back into position.

Hardy Zentith Sintrix rods from £549

1 FIRST the science. Sintrix stands for 'silica nano matrix' and put simply these rods are made from a carbon fibre held together with a resin impregnated with silica nano spheres.

Hardy say this produces a material that is "significantly stronger and potentially lighter than traditional carbon fibre."

Now the reality. I first cast a prototype saltwater Sintrix rod about 18 months ago when they were in their infancy so I was very keen to see the production freshwater models.

I had the 9ft 5wt and 10ft 7wt for review. The shorter 9ft rod (£549) has the power to easily lift, cast and deliver a 5wt line at distance if that's what you want, but at the same time it is versatile enough for crisp presentation and accuracy at short and medium range, especially with delicate dry flies. I tried the rod with 4, 5 and 6wt lines (the Hardy Marksman and Snowbee Delicate Presentation) so I could see how it performed each side of its main rating. And while the 5wt rating was spot on it did also manage the 6wt without buckling.

The 10ft 7wt (£649) is a totally different animal with bags of steel and power in it. It also has a fast action and an equally quick recovery when casting and loading the rod. If you are looking to target trout at range and need to lift long head lengths and aerialise even more line this rod takes it all in its stride. It will also handle floating lines right through fast sinkers such as Di-5s and Di-7s which need backbone to control them and especially when pumping them up from depth. This rod is more tuned to medium and long range casting than close up work and might be a little pokey for fishing dries. And because this is a steely blank I did feel my arm begin to ache after a while. For overhead and false casting and for double hauling these rods excelled. For continuous motion casts like the roll and switch which require a little more flexibility from the blank I felt they lacked just a little.

Hardy's promotional film showed the rod with an almost impossible curve on it, and while the fish I landed didn't quite produce this effect (!) the way the blank compresses is quite extraordinary and visually heart-stopping!

Verdict: With rods this technically advanced and at this price I feel a long-term test is needed - so watch this space!

Contact: www.hardyfishing.com

TECH SPEC

- The 10ft rod is a four-piece light olive blank with matching whippings and a silver-blue highlight thread.
- Cork and composite fighting butt, fitting onto a two part skeletal alloy reel seat with two uplocking rings. There is a full wells cork handle (which has a surprising amount of filler considering the price!)
- Two Fuji silicone carbide stripping rings with nine top of the range titanium single leg recoil guides plus a tip ring and keeper ring.
- Silver dot alignment markers.
- The fittings and furniture on the 9ft 5wt are the same except it has just one stripping ring, a half wells handle and no fighting butt.
- Aluminium screw-top rod tube with a fabric outer slip case. Inside is a partitioned cloth rod bag.

