

FISHING ROD INFORMATION

TO HELP YOU GET THE VERY BEST
FROM YOUR



THE WORLD'S BEST
SIDECAST FISHING REEL.

THE ALVEY REEL. The Alvey reel will cast successfully from any fishing rod, regardless of fibre, taper or length, with the exception of a rod with pistol grip mounting, and will give a better performance than any other reel. Even so, many factors such as length, taper, design and runner placements must be taken into consideration when the Angler is to expect to consistently cast long distance such as in surf or rock angling.

TO ASSIST IN YOUR SELECTION. To assist in your selection of the correct Alvey reel please enquire for latest catalogue. However, may we briefly suggest that for general surf beach angling you view models in the "650" range, (6½" diameter) which are available in plain or drag with Cedar or Plastic Spools. If your fishing entails a lot of fast lure spinning or competitive angling, we would suggest a model from the "700" series. Whereas, if speed is not important, and you are more inclined toward lightweight gear, the "600" models (six inch) may be the size desired to balance your rod.

THE SURF CASTING ROD.

LENGTH. The length of the rod varies to suit individual Anglers. A rod which is too long will give a top heavy set of gear, difficult to handle. Contrary to popular belief, it does not necessarily follow that the extra long rod will give consistently longer casting. Very often it has the opposite effect when the Angler is unable to drive the rod through the air, making it bend and give power to the cast from its flexing action. Whereas a rod which is too short does not keep the line above the breaking shore wave, and in rock fishing will cause a lot of fouling to the bottom rig, besides detracting from the distance cast.

We recommend that the length be between 12ft and 14ft, and the rod be designed to match the size reel used, to give a balanced set of gear.

BALANCE. The rod and reel should balance where the rod is normally held when fishing (viz. about 15 to 20 inches above the reel on a surf rod). This point of balance applies to any set of fishing gear, and is important, as it reduces fatigue to an absolute minimum. With most other types of reels, the rod is held below the reel, so instead of counter balancing the outfit, the weight of the reel is added to the weight of the rod. Under these circumstances, the Angler can't be blamed for sticking the rod in the sand, and hoping that a fish will find the bait. Sidecast Anglers, using balanced gear, with the short butt resting on the hip, or in rod bucket if desired, can fish for long periods with the gear in the hands, working the bait to find fish, and are always positioned to take action when a bite occurs.

ROD TAPER. The rod blank should be selected with a fast taper, giving a rod which is fairly rigid in the lower half, yet having a tip section capable of giving protective cushion to the line being used, and sensitive touch when hooking and playing a fish. The firm lower section will give the power to the cast, and will assist when playing, beaching or lifting a fish. A rod which has extreme flexing back toward the reel, could give a line-flog against the rod as a cast is made, and may cause trouble in maintaining direction and distance in the cast.

THE SHORT BUTT. We recommend a butt section of between 6 to 10 inches, for besides giving the balance already described, it places the Angler in a comfortable stance, with rod held in the upright position where it will give most benefit, elbows are at the side of the body, and hands are on the reel handles without any stretching or straining.

RUNNER PLACEMENT. The placement of rod runners play a vital part in the ability of the rod to give a smooth flowing cast, and must be given care and thought. Most rods have their own individual taper, so no hard and fast measurements can be given. However, a few general rules do apply. The first or leading runner, (sometimes called a stripping runner) is usually not less than 1½" in diameter and is high bridged. Where lines are to be used of 20lb strain and over, it is of benefit to have this runner larger, up to 3" in diameter. It is placed as far away from the reel as the rod strength will allow, working at the beginning of the bending arc of the rod. On fast taper blanks this would be at least half way between reel seat and tip, and could be even closer to the tip runner. Three or four intermediate runners are then spaced at decreasing distances (as would be normal on any fishing rod) toward the tip runner, conducive to the proper arcing of the rod. These intermediate runners do not necessarily have to be large or high bridged, as the correctly placed stripping runner feeds the line through even small runners. The attachment of too many large heavy runners can have an adverse effect on the rod action. If doubtful on the spacings, attach the runners temporarily with scotch tape and test the rod before binding on permanently. Should the line be fouling the hand, the lower section of the rod, or the bindings of the stripping runner, it is an indication that this runner is incorrectly positioned, or is of too small a diameter for the line being used.

THE OPEN RUNNER. Though not essential, the Alvey open runner is a valuable asset when fishing. This is fitted a few inches above the place where the rod is normally held when fishing. This openrunner controls the line near the reel, and brings the travel of the line comfortably through the fingers of the left hand. The line passes over the forefinger which gives sensitive detections of a bite, and the rest of the fingers are used to distribute the line evenly onto the reel when winding in. When playing a big fish, an open runner prevents the fingers being cut by line action. Being designed with an open side, it allows the line to be slipped free during a cast, preventing the cast from being choked by a runner positioned too close to the reel.

THE REEL SEAT. Often referred to in our area as a winch fitting, the reel seat is preferably a plated screw type which has a locking nut to prevent the reel from becoming loose. However, rod clips, and even radiator hose clips are often used as a temporary measure, particularly during alteration, balancing and testing a surf rod. Many good surf rods are in use, on which slight alteration will give the desired result. Usually, all that is necessary is to seat the reel nearer the butt end, and replace the two runners closest to the reel. The first runner to be replaced with the Alvey open runner, and the second with the high bridged Alvey runner.

ROD MATERIAL. The selection of your rod must give you a completed unit with strength, power and desired taper, yet must retain the lightness which makes it easy to handle. A good test is to lift the blank by the extreme butt end, with one hand only whereon you should be able to move it through the air without any feeling of heavy weight. The ideal fibre, is tubular glass, which gives all the desired features. However, if circumstances dictate that you chose a cane blank, make sure that it has a central core, is reasonably light, yet has the power to do the job for you. Solid glass, or any other solid fibre, while sometimes almost indestructible, introduces too much weight to give a surf rod over 12ft long which is comfortable to use.

FERRULES. While it is preferable to leave the blank in one piece when possible, the transport of a long rod can bring problems. Many ferrules are now being marketed which do not necessitate part of the blank being cut away to allow them to be fitted. We recommend this type of fitting, as they allow the rod to maintain its natural bending arc, and do not cause a stepdown in the taper diameter. It is now possible to have a two piece surf rod which is dependable, and very unlikely to be suspect at the joint.

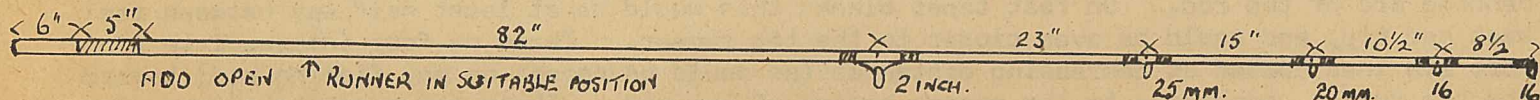
THE ESTUARY ROD. In estuary fishing, long powerful casts are rarely needed, and line strains have been reduced to .030 (9lb) and often very much lighter. This calls for a much greater degree of line cushion, so the rod taper selected would be slower, with the bending arc beginning right back toward the reel. The length of the rod would be considerably shorter, but it can be too short, giving a fast convulsive register of a bite. We would recommend a length of between 8ft and 10ft which will provide a longer yet slower action area.

THE MATERIAL. The material can be fibre glass in either tubular or solid, Rangoon cane or Splitcane, as variation in weight is not so readily noticeable. Because of the lighter construction of the rod, often five or six intermediate runners are necessary to follow the bend. However, the leading runner is still kept as far away from the reel as is practical and the Alvey open runner is a valuable aid in most instances. The short butt is retained, and a perfect balance is still sought.

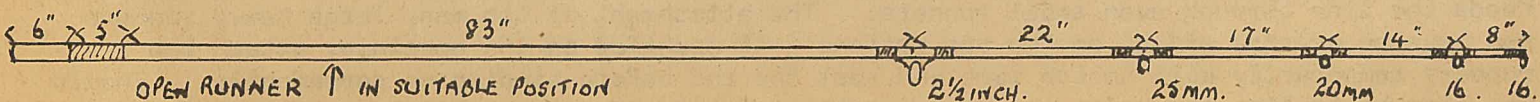
THE REEL FAVOURED. The reel favoured varies from 4½ to 6 inches in diameter, whichever will give the balance and speed of retrieve required. Estuary rods are quite successful when ferruled for easy carrying.

There is a wide selection of fast taper tubular blanks for surf angling, with new improved blanks appearing each week. Purely as a guide we show specifications of the runner placements on two popular blanks.

12'6" Rod - Suitable for lines 9lb to 15lb strain from conolon blank 10505 extended with wooden butt.



13'0" Rod - Suitable for lines 15lb to 20lb strain from sportex blank 3904 with wooden butt.



Lighter lines give better casting and keener touch. Always fish as light as your ability allows.



REMEMBER : IT'S THE ALVEY REEL THAT FILLS THE CREEL.

(Form - South Africa - Fishing Rod)