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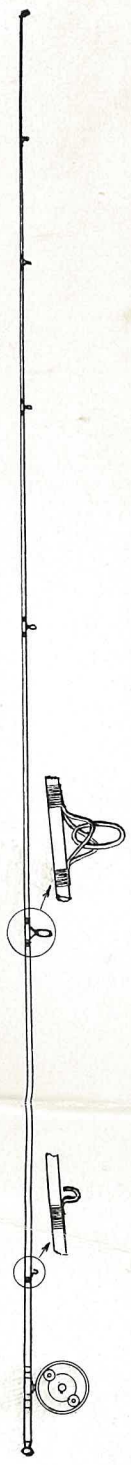
RODS THAT HAVE PROVED MOST SUCCESSFUL
WITH ALVEY SIDE CAST REELS.

As manufacturers of Alvey side cast reels, we are frequently asked for recommended specifications for Rods to suit our reels, particularly surf rods.

Whilst our reels can be used quite well on practically any type of rod other than those with a pistol grip, there is no doubt that rods designed or altered to suit side cast reels give much longer distance casts and make much better balanced and comfortably outfits to use.

We do not claim to be rod makers, but we know the type of rods best suited to our reels, so we will endeavour to describe the rods that are almost exclusively used by leading side cast anglers, many of whom have won fame in interstate angling championships and International casting tournaments.

These rods are hollow glass or Hollow Rangoon cane. They are light, but strong enough to cast a 4 oz. sinker or spinner. They vary in length to suit individual requirements but average about 14 feet. The reel (usually ~~about~~ $6\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter for surf fishing) is mounted about 6 to 9 inches from the butt. The outfit 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 rod for any type of fishing (see sketch) and is most 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 counterbalancing the outfit, the weight of the reel is added to the weight of the rod. Under these circumstances, you can't blame anglers sticking the rod in the sand and hoping a fish will find the bait.



Side cast anglers seldom put their rods down or use rod rests. With the short butt resting on the hip or in a rod bucket, if desired, they can fish for long periods without undue fatigue.

The placement of the runners plays a big part in getting distance and is most often neglected by beginners. No hard and fast measurements can be given to suit all rods, but a few general rules apply. The first or leading runner is usually not less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter and is high bridged. This is placed as far away from the reel as is practical, usually one third to half the distance between the reel and the tip. The next three or four runners and the tip are spaced at decreasing distances as would be normal on any reel, conducive to the proper arching of the rod (see sketch). If doubtful about these spacings, attach the runners temporarily with Scotch tape and test the rod before binding them on permanently.

The Alvey Open Runner though not essential, is a very valuable asset when fishing. This is fitted a few inches above the place where the rod is normally held when fishing. This open runner controls the line near the reel, keeps it within easy reach of the fingers, which are always used when fishing to detect the bite and distribute the line evenly on to the spool when winding in. When playing a big fish, it prevents the cutting action of the line on the fingers (see sketch). This sketch shows how the rod is held with the left hand when fishing. The line passes over the fore finger for sensitive touch. The rod is held at a 90 degree angle. When the bite is felt, there should be no strike, but when the rod has taken a good bend the angler will lean back and wind at the same time to set the hooks.

Once hooked keep the bend in the rod all the time, whether giving or taking line until the fish is landed.

When casting, the line is slipped out of the open runner, so it does not restrict the cast as an ordinary runner in that position would do.

See photo of Ian Phillip (Champion Beach Angler) in action. Ian was just about to lean and wind to set the hook, when this picture was taken. Note how the butt of the rod rests against the body with the left hand holding the rod at the point of balance, the left fore finger touching the line and the right hand on the handle ready to wind.

Dear Col,

I'm enclosing a note from Dave and also an Alvey brochure which is distributed in the eastern states.

With regard to rods, the only ones we would consider are the female, (hollow, or semi-solid) canes, but the first essential is lightness. A heavy cane will kill you on a long competition. If you grasp a 14' - 16' cane by the butt and can lift it EASILY and wave it around comfortably with one hand, then it is worth considering further. Next is its action. A sloppy rod is useless as it lacks power.

If you hold a good cane with both hands and give it a sharp flick it will bend only slightly over the lower $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{2}{3}$ ds. of its length, with most of the action towards the tip.

No two canes are identical and we suit the rod to the conditions. On the beach in calm weather, we use a lighter rod than we would in rough weather. Off the rocks we use a rod which is strong enough to lift fish, and of course, a heavier line - .50 m.m. On the beach, .40 or .45 m.m. is quite sufficient. .45 m.m. would probably be the "all round line."

I like a rod which is about 14'6" long, $1\frac{1}{8}$ " diameter at the butt and $\frac{3}{16}$ th" diameter at the tip but the final measurements depend entirely on the action of that particular cane.

If you think a cane is too long, cut it down one notch at a time until it feels right.

The winch is fitted so that the centre of the reel is about 8" - 9" from the butt. A shaped hand grip is an asset as also is an Alvey open runner.

The first runner should be about $1\frac{1}{2}$ " - 2" in diameter and at least halfway up the rod, but I like it about 7' - 8' from the reel depending on the taper of the cane.

A tip and three runners spaced progressively closer towards the tip complete the outfit. Do not use stainless steel runners - they groove and cut the line. Gottlieb porcelain runners (wire mounted, not bridged) are best, for if you break the porcelain, you can still fish using the wire loop. Heavy runners kill the action of a rod.

If the cane has set (or natural bend, most have) the reel and runners are placed under the bend. This gives maximum power when the rod is turned over for casting (see photos on brochure). The runners are usually placed on the notches for strength, particularly towards the tip.

A moving bait is effected by using the minimum size sinker, consistent with casting conditions and sweep (or drift).

With an offshore wind it is possible (and advisable) to use a whole garfish and no sinker at all.

When a cast is made, and the line slack retrieved the rod is kept nearly vertical, and the tip is brought back slightly now and then to ensure that the sinker has not buried in the sand (the semi-flat round sinkers are preferred here). The bait should drift slowly along and you walk along the beach keeping level with it.

In those large offshore channels on Waitpinga it should be possible to use a small sinker and feed a bait out with the run, given the right conditions.

When a bite is felt, after a moments hesitation, and keeping the rod tip up, start a steady wind. The fish will keep attacking and the rod tip will start to curve down steadily as the strain comes on. Do not be over anxious and do not strike unless you are using a heavy sinker. The fish will hook itself against the spring of the rod. From here on keep the rod up and play the fish in.

With a big fish, line may be given by slipping the palm of the hand around onto the drum of the reel and using it as a brake.

The bait is drifted along the gutter several times at varying distances out and if no bites are felt, move on to the next hole or gutter. One half tide up to one half down seemed to be the best with the formation existing while we were there, particularly if high tide falls at dawn or dusk.

The same techniques apply for salmon and tailor. The main essentials being the use of whole sea-gar on chained hooks (use up to 5 hooks, if necessary), keeping the bait moving, and fishing when the fish are there, rather than going out for a few hours in the sun.

Moving all the time can be tiring if no fish are about but the idea is to assume the fish are there, somewhere and to go looking for them.

But if fish are scarce, it sometimes pays to anchor a bait out in the best water you can find and possibly pick up that odd one that sometimes wanders through.

I hope that these few hints will give you a start
- there is no substitute for experience.