Subject: : Gear Talk
Topic: : Looking for a nice reel
Re: Looking for a nice reel
Author: : Heritage-Angler
Date: : 2010/7/8 8:17:43
URL:

In the interest of passing on personal experience....

I own 11 Ross reels - Evolutions, Rhythms, Gunnisons, and a Cimmaron. Haven't had a single mechanical problem with any of them. They're all machined from barstock aluminum, with an anodized finish. Ross's anodizing isn't the most durable finish on the market. They all scratch easily. The older style Evolutions are delicate. Drop one, and you'll see what I mean. The spools are very thin, and bend easily - they then rub on the frame. They're great performance-wise though, and very lightweight. I actually prefer the Rhythms, as they're a little beefier.

I bought a Lamson Litespeed when they first came out. The drag failed - twice. The problem was in the material the Torrington roller clutch was made from - it wasn't corrosion proof. I sold that one on ebay after the second failure was "fixed".

The new Lamsons use a stainless clutch that has been very dependable. Some Lamsons also have a new finish called "hard alox" that is easily the best reel finish available. You can scratch it with a nail, and the finish can be cleaned off with a Scotchbrite pad. It then looks like new. Very tough stuff.

All Lamsons are machined from barstock aluminum, except the Konic. The Konic is pressure cast, then machined. It also doesn't have the hard alox finish, but it's still tougher than Ross's type 3 anodizing.

I too was leery about the way Lamson uses an o-ring to hold the spool on, but it's been proven to hold up. The only problems arise when you change spools a lot. With just occasional spool changes, I haven't had any problems at all. Both Ross and Lamson guarantee their reels for life, but Ross's Worldwide reels have a lesser warranty.

Here's a pretty interesting video about Lamson reels.....

Hope all this helps in your decision, Jon.