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Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : What is the best rod for under \$250.00?

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I know, I know. That is quite a question. One as wide as the Plains, right? Sure. Basically, I am looking for some or any input on the decision.

Obviously, it goes without saying that I want to get my hands on the some of the top runners and give 'em a swing. Also, I'll be going to the Fly Fishing Show in Jersey this weekend so that should help some too.

The rod in question will need to be suited to roll casting on streams of 50 feet or less in width for the wiley trout wherever I may find him; from the industrial Bushkill in Easton to the scenic Upper Delaware River above Hancock, to the trickle of Tom's Creek. We're talkin' a basic Eastern U.S. trout fishing rod. Mostly Eastern Pa. but will probably hit Maine over the summer. I don't have the money to travel West yet and my wife doesn't want fishing to be our family vacation so...

Basically, I'm thinking TFO, Redington, Sage, R.L. Winston. On paper going into this thing before I test 'em. I started fly fishing last year and bought a thrifty rod to give it a try and see what I think. Now that I have dabbled I want to upgrade a slight. Notice that word, slight, and the price in question in the subject heading. No Z-Axis's here baby unless you're buying it for me. LOL!

Anyways...

TFO: Great warranty and great reviews but some have been mixed at times and rating lower aesthetically.

Thinking the Finese or the TiCrX.

Redington: Great warranty. Connected with Sage; need I say more. Good reviews. Rates higher aesthetically.

Thinking the Wayfarer or Red.Fly I believe.

Sage: Great warranty. Great reviews. Rates high aesthetically. Thinking Fli due to its reviews but its over my target price a slight or thinking Launch which has less stellar reviews but a nicer price.

Winston: Great warranty. Havn't read any reviews on the only one in the price range which is the Ascent but I found one on the Vapor and it didn't fare too well.

Also, what could be a whole other subject but hopefully won't need be would be a reel to back to the selected rod. But heck, maybe I should pick the rod first, right. But if you just can't help yourself make the reel less than \$100. I have less to say about these but would like it to be a larger model and no plastic need apply.

On paper I am thinking Fli or TiCrX or Finese as the frontrunners but what do I know. Anyways gut feeling says TFO for all the right reasons. Those being price and quality and with the former being low enough to save me some dough and enough to make it worth my while to dump a Sage.

So what'ya think?

Any guidance would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks much.

Chris