

Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : What do you know about this Orvis reel?

Re: What do you know about this Orvis reel?

Author: : DGC

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URL:

The click is the drag. Many caliper checks are like this, as are many spring and pawl designs which is what you have. The Orvis Clearwater is likely built by BFR (British Fly Reels) which is where Orvis used to make its reels as well as various models of Cortland and probably a few others.

In the old days the idea of the drag was to simply prevent overrun, not provide drag, as whatever drag that was applied was accomplished by rod angle and feathering the line in you fingers or against the grip. Frankly, for most of my fishing this is still my preference. If I regularly fished steel, Delaware River 20-inchers, carp or salt, i.e. anywhere a bigger fish may run hot, then a better drag would be a a good idea.

Many spring and pawl designs such as yours copy the Hardy check or are variations on it and do allow you to add or reduce tension, but usually in a limited way. If there is no tension adjustment on your reel, you may be able to rotate the pawls so that the pay out is tighter than wind in, but that would be it unless you fiddle with the springs themselves which is a tricky proposition.