

Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : Is Your Butt To Heavy?

Re: Is Your Butt To Heavy?

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URL:

Yes, balance is enormously important to me. I fish everything from light graphite sticks to a very heavy 8'6", swelled butt bamboo. It's not weight that leads to fatigue, it's misbalance. Balance it and even a heavy rod will not lead to too much fatigue. Aside from fatigue, the casting itself is improved with proper balance. If where you're applying power (your hand) is too far from the center of gravity, physics is working against you, and it's harder to quickly accelerate and stop the rod, which leads to open loops and sloppy casting.

I suppose my method is similar to yours. When the reel is loaded with line, and put on the rod, I want the balance point to be ON the grip. Anywhere on the grip is ok, and perfect is in the middle of my hand.

But, as you say, when you string it out, that balance point moves up a little. So your strung - balance point just in front of the grip is probably about the same as my unstrung - balance point on the grip. We prefer the same balance, just measure differently. And your method is more accurate, as it would take into account differences in the line weight/taper, etc. Ultimately, I think the differences in weight due to those are insignificant. They may move that balance point a half inch or so, but it doesn't have to be perfect, merely reasonable.

It's a bit of an issue for me that modern, high quality reels are too light. In a rod made of any material, I prefer "power sticks", which tend to thicken near the handle and taper slowly until the tip, where they taper more quickly. This leads to a "tip heavy" rod compared to the noodles out there like Superfines and the like. And it requires a heavier reel to balance. I have been known to wrap lead around parts of the reel.