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Tenkara conclusions

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Date: : 2013/5/11 22:01:33

URL:

I bought a Fountainhead tenkara rod a little while back thinking that I may be able to find some use for it. I was thinking:

1. My fiance/kid brother could use it because it's simpler to cast than a fly rod, but would still give them the fun of catching a fish on a dry fly.
2. It may be fun to nymph with if I ever really wanted to czech nymph
3. It may be useful for backpacking since it's so lightweight.

Also, judging by all of the videos and promotional material online I thought maybe I'd enjoy just using it as a primary rod.

Well, I've been messing around with it for a while, and I have to say that I'm not thrilled with it. Here's why:

- A. It's no fun to cast. All you do is flick the line out in front of you. Casting a fly rod is **way** more fun. I'd even say casting a spinning rod is more fun.
- B. It's no fun to land fish. I just pick up the rod, grab the line, and haul them in.
- C. It's not useful for most of the streams I fish with. It's long and unwieldy, and most of the trout streams I fish are dense and brushy. The length of the rod really limits what spots I can get to. Plus it's impossible to cast underneath anything since you really have to make an overhand cast to get the fly anywhere.
- D. Managing the line is a nightmare. Unlike a fly line, a 15 foot piece of fluorocarbon is **not** easy to untangle. I got some of the line keepers that attach to the rod, and that helped a little, but it's still a pain. I prefer having a reel to keep line on.

I think maybe it will still be fun to have on a backpacking trip. I doubt my kid brother would be able to use it without getting the line hopelessly tangled, and my fiance isn't really interested - she says that traditional fly fishing looks more fun and more versatile.

I haven't tried it for "Czech" nymphing yet. Maybe I will. Though that style of nymphing seems like it may bore me as well since there's no actual casting involved. We'll see.