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Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : Old South Bend bamboo fly rod

Re: Old South Bend bamboo fly rod

Author: : barbless

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URL:

Gone4Day, that rod is a late model Horrocks-Ibbotson Majestic.

Montague, H-I. and South Bend were the largest American rod manufacturers in the bamboo era.

It's probably a 6-7 weight rod, in the middle of the H-I lineup in terms of quality.

Go on, try it out. It will be, um, heavy- 5 1/2-6 oz. And you'll need to slow down your casting speed- feel the rod working and wait for the line to bend it on the backcast, which will take around a "one-one thousand" to happen. You may want to try a size heavier line, too. But many of the 9' rods are just not very good- either soggy or broomsticks.

If the ferrules click when it's wiggled and waved, the ferrule glue is dry and the rod may snap. Quick fix- re-melt the glue by heating the metal ferrules with a lighter. Better fix- pull the ferrules, clean the old glue, epoxy them back on. They aren't serrated under the thread, which means you don't need to rewrap them for the rod to work fine.

Most of the H-I rods don't have a great reputation-EXCEPT for the two-piece shorties: the Tonka Prince, Princess and Tonka Queen. All of those rods have a nice crisp action- not by any means "fast" in the graphite sense, but nice sweet casting rods that are lots of fun to catch fish with.