
Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : Rods... what's the difference?

Re: Rods... what's the difference?

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URL:

While there are differences between the line weights, the truth is, in PA, you COULD get away with pretty much 5 wts only.

A "fast action" 5 wt really gives you a tool that'll do the same as a medium action 6 wt or a slow action 7 wt, if you catch my drift. Heck, you can even put a 6 wt line on that 5 wt and MAKE it a medium action 6 wt. It'll perform better in close, fine (a bit slower) at medium distances, but worse at long distances.

I'm no "expert" but obviously farther along than you. I have a bunch of 5 wt's in various lengths and actions, and one 7 wt for bass and steelhead. That's IT. Most of them share a reel fitted with 5 wt line. I also have a spare spool for that reel with 7 wt line on it. That goes on my short brookie stream rod if the conditions are overly thick, being that it'll only cast short distances in those circumstances. I have a separate reel for the 7 wt rod, as it requires a bigger reel to balance correctly.

Also, keep in mind, it's better to buy a rod which will fit what you're going to become, rather than buy one to fit you now, that you'll be unhappy with later. That's not to say "go expensive", as most of us have some \$100 rods that we like better than some \$300 rods. But it is to say that if you already have a servicable rod for the type of fishing you do, keep it, and use it, and don't bother buying a new one until you get reasonably proficient at casting it and learn what it does well and what you'd like it to do better. Then that will lead you to your next purchase. It is a good idea, though, to fish with others, not only to learn from them, but also to try out their rods. That's how you learn what the differences are between them. When I fish with others, it's reasonably common to switch rods with them for a few minutes. Hence, me knowing how that cahill casts.

If you do just want to buy one now, cause you want to, not need to, I understand. It's hard to beat, say, a 9 ft 5 wt with a medium-fast action in the 2-3 hundred \$ price range. That's gonna be your standard workhorse rod. It's gonna be high enough quality for you to grow into and not hold you back while you improve. Even in 20 years, you'll still like it well enough to use, even if you do find that there's a different model that you would have liked a little bit better, possibly at a better price. You'll have added specialty rods by then too, one for the little streams, one for the bass/steely's, etc.

Always, always, test cast rods before buying. It's a little harder being that your cast hasn't stabilized yet, and what you like today may not match what you like in 5 years. But go in with a price range and knowing approximately what you're looking for. Pick several rods that fit the bill. Ask the shop to give you a lined reel and go outside. Cast at realistic fishing distances, as what feels best at that range may be different than the one that feels best when you're casting as far as you can cast. Go with the one that feels best at normal fishing range! Any reputable fly shop is going to let you do this, or even big box stores like Cabelas. If they tell you no, take your business elsewhere.