
Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : Made in America or

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Date: : 2009/3/19 23:27:59

URL:

Being made in America is very important to me as a flag-waving, gun-toting American Liberal. However being just that, I compel myself to consider all factors. The foreign-made rods are very good. The Cabela's L-series is great. The LL Bean Orion 3 is fantastic. The Redington CPS WAS one of the best rods out there. I will assume that it's replacement, the CPX very well may be much the same. (I own the CPS and it is simply a great fast-action rod in all aspects) Looking and trying rods out over the last couple years makes me fearful for American rods. In my opinion, after a fair piece of trial casting, the expensive American rods provide ever-diminishing returns in performance. It has seriously come down to a matter of taste. They are tweaked to different performance sub-sets with design and construction differences that can be hard to notice unless you are directly comparing rod to rod. I cast a Scott A2, a rod and company of which I am/was a fan and own 2 original Alphas, and wondered how they can compete against TFO's or Redingtons or imported St. Croix's and many others. And as far as having a stable company to stand behind their products, ask an owners of Powell rods..Oh, wait, THAT'S ME! I have an 8.5, 5 wt LGA that is to DIE for! But if I break it, it's done.

I'm disappointed with many USA manufacturers's offerings and their prices. Untill they can make a really good rod for \$550 again, (Remember the XP and SLT? heck a lightened RPL would be great), they are not really in my good graces. Why the Fickity-Foo do they think they need to make \$700 and \$800 rods as the main-stay of their company? I suppose they think they are like Lamborghini or Ferrari. Sad to see the best Scott could do for \$500 was make a graphite broomstick that lasted maybe 3 years before elimination last year.

American reels, however, are great. I'm a big Lamson fan. I'm very happy with American reel makers. Maybe rods are like waders. Easy to break or damage so all that expense and crap they have to deal with is priced into the rod along with marketing and research. Reels are far more resilient an item, so easier to love.

Syl