

Greys always gets it right

ALAN YATES is excited about the new Greys rods from the House of Hardy. Here he tests the top of the range Apollo, the Triplex long rods and the reel up all-round Centaur

TRIPLEX THREE-PIECE

RRP: 16ft model, £299.99; 15ft, £269.99; 14ft model, £249.99

The Greys Triplex is one of my favourite sea fishing rods, the original being the yardstick for many other long three-piece beachcasters that have helped to revolutionise British shore fishing.

The model is still impressive and the range has been extended, with a 15ft version slotting neatly between 14 and 16-footers along with a reduction in weight of 10 per cent across all rods.

They are designed for both the low multiplier and high fixed-spool reel user and there are five models to complement each casting or reel preference.

Triplex rods are the easiest beachcasters to cast and fish with. Their extra length means casting produces a large arc of the lead along with a slower tip speed. If your timing is poor this rod can convert your efforts into a super cast.

The longer blank results in a through action, which produces a progressive return for the caster, slowing down the complete casting movement while allowing for a big increase in power.

Most anglers find an immediate increase in their distance potential and moving up to the 16ft model puts anglers in the big league where they can reach distances only previously dreamed of. Being a three-piece rod it is easy to transport too.

The 16ft multiplier model I tested, which has an adjustable slide lock reel seat, put the lead as far as I am ever going to need to cast.

TECH SPEC

SECTIONS: Three sections (5ft 7in/1.70cm)

COLOUR: Red

GUIDES: Nine Fuji SIC chrome

CASTING: 4-6oz/110-170g

LENGTH: 16ft/4.87m

HANDLE: Sure Grip shrinkwrap

REEL SEAT: Slide lock

TIP: White section



The Triplex range now features a 15ft model and is 10 per cent lighter

CUSTOMER CONTACT

All models are available from your Greys dealer.

All Greys rods come with a worldwide extended warranty provided you register within 60 days of purchase.

For further information contact: Customer service department, Hardy & Greys Ltd, Willowburn, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 2PF.

Tel: 01665 602771

Web: www.greysfishing.com



THE APOLLO

RRP: Match £279.99 to £299.99 for the Extreme 140

This rod likes it rough and has long held a reputation for being suitable for the roughest rock and kelp.

There are now four Apollo versions offering some variation within the range. Choices include a match rod with a more sensitive tip and a distance rod for putting big baits well out and keeping them there in a strong tide. There are 13ft and 14ft models for heavy ground.

All have a slimmer parallel butt section than previous models, giving them a crisper feel, but it is not all about casting because these rods have plenty of guts to wrestle big fish from the roughest ground.

I tested the 13ft 6in Distance model, which performs best reel up. My only observation is that a reducer added to one of the range would make it more suitable for the low reel caster.

TECH SPEC

SECTIONS: Two equal
COLOUR: Black
GUIDES: 10 Fuji
CASTING: 4-6oz/110-170g
LENGTH: 13ft 6in/4.11m
HANDLE: Sure Grip shrinkwrap
REEL SEAT: Slide lock with trigger grip
TIP: No marking

THE GREYS CENTAUR BEACHCASTER

RRP: Bass model £169.99 to £199.99 for the 12.6ft M

This is a new model with five rods in the range, including a bass rod, two for fixed-spool and two for multiplier use.

I tested the TX123M and it came out with flying colours, particularly because its action suited my power, - dare I say it is softer than many of the Greys models of the past? The action will undoubtedly find favour with the lesser mortals among us.

The rod was particularly stable in the rod-rest, with its slimline build able to resist the wind and allowing the tip to react only to the tide and, more importantly, bites.

The Fuji SiC chrome rings and a chrome finish slide lock reel seat with trigger grip complete an attractive rod that will find lots of fans among those who like to cast with the rod up the butt.

TECH SPEC

SECTIONS: Two equal
COLOUR: Grey, black whipping
GUIDES: Eight Fuji SiC chrome
CASTING: 4-6oz
LENGTH: 12ft 3in/3.73m
HANDLE: Sure Grip shrinkwrap
REEL SEAT: Slide lock with trigger grip
TIP: No marking