

NEW SERIES

# BARGAIN HUNTER



STEPHEN STONES

AT's new 'Bargain Hunter' columnist

The temperatures are rising and the daylight hours drawing out, which can mean only one thing - time for tench! This week I've been on the lookout for items to help with your spring campaign chasing this most enigmatic of species...

## 1 LAID-BACK BARGAIN

**JRC Two-leg Bedchair**  
(Price: £39.99)

A ridiculously cheap deal on this sturdy bit of big brand JRC kit. Weighs only 8.5kg, perfect for overnightriders or for just lounging about in the sun waiting for your float to go under or your buzzer to sound! Available at this price for April only, and to shop online at GO Outdoors, you need to buy a discount card costing just £5 a year.



SAVE £70  
WAS £109.99 NOW £39.99

Available: [www.gooutdoors.co.uk](http://www.gooutdoors.co.uk), Tel: 08450 020888

## 2 SAVE YOUR RODS

**Shimano Tribal Extreme Quiver + Three Sleeves**  
(Price: £59.99)

There's no point damaging expensive rods when this quiver combo from Shimano is such a steal at under £60. The spacious main chamber can house a bivvy, and up to six made-up rods can be attached to the sides in the three additional rod sleeves provided and secured with an adjustable click-lock strap. You also get long and short zippered outer pockets, a rigid waterproof base and a cushioned adjustable shoulder strap.



SAVE £122.01  
WAS £181.99 NOW £59.99

Available: [www.climaxtackle.com](http://www.climaxtackle.com), Tel: 01246 412233

## 3 PINPOINT THOSE RUNS

**CK Fusion Expert Wireless Alarm Set**  
(Price: £40)

Three matching alarms, a remote receiver and storage case...all for £40! Each alarm features cool blue LEDs with push-button controls (five volume levels, five tones and three levels of sensitivity). In a non-glare, rubberised matt black, the alarms link to a receiver, which tells you which rod you have the bite on. A great entry-level multiple alarm set-up.



SAVE £50.99  
WAS £90.99 NOW £40

Available: [www.dragoncarpdirect.com](http://www.dragoncarpdirect.com), Tel: 01159 631777

## 4 SAVINGS AT THE SHARP END

**Sufix Coated Braid Hooklinks**  
(Price: £4.99)

In the market for a few new spools of hooklink material for your tenching? Eric's Angling has dozens of the most popular types on offer at up to 60 per cent off! Among the ones currently in the sale are Camfusion, Camo Skin, Heavy Skin and Sheath Skin. There are normal braids and monos at stupidly low prices as well!



SAVE £7  
WAS £11.99 NOW £4.99

Available: [www.eric'sangling.co.uk](http://www.eric'sangling.co.uk), Tel: 01132 640295

# 2-FOR-1 ON DAY TICKETS

FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN SAVE - TURN TO PAGE 49

# TOP COMBO | CARBONACTIVE F1 MINI RODS

# MINI MARVELS TO TAKE APART COMMERCIALS

## Prestons targets the F1 specialists

BY MARK SAWYER  
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**Walk into any tackle shop and you'll find a plethora of species-specific carp, tench and barbel rods available.**

However, the ever-resourceful Preston Innovations is the first major tackle manufacturer to make a move towards catering for the massed ranks of match anglers that fish for hybrid carp species - hence the 'F1' name of this rod.

This year the company has extended its Carbonactive Mini range to include the 9ft and 10ft F1 Mini models.

Both these delightful little feeder/lead rods suit the fine line tactics that are so often required when targeting these fish. The

playing action of both lengths is identical, and the F1 blanks are best described as being of the 'soft through action' type.

The rods' softly refined curves are specially built to handle the unique 'dart and jag' F1 fight characteristics and keep hook pulls to a minimum, especially at close quarters, and there is just about enough casting power to propel a small 30g frame feeder.

The 10ft version as used for the Angling Times live test is recommended for casting distances of up to 40yds, while its shorter 9ft stablemate is ideal at up to 30yds.

If you need any longer casting distances than those stated above then the sad truth is that these great looking, pencil thin, lightweight

pocket-sized rods will not be quite man enough for the job.

But if you're a regular visitor to a snake lake packed out with F1s or small 'proper' carp, or indeed any short-range feeder venue that requires pinpoint casting accuracy, then it will be an altogether different story. Either one of these wands will be perfect for the task in hand.

Having the right reel for the F1 Mini rod - or any short rod for that matter - is of paramount

importance if you're going to get the absolute best from it. And there is nothing that would suit better than matching up the rod with one of Preston's new Inception 3000 Mini reels.

But be warned, fishing with one of these reels may prove to be an expensive move on your part because once you've done it, you will undoubtedly want them on all your rods.

As the name suggests, Preston's new 3000 Inception Mini is perfectly matched to use with any of the company's Carbonactive Mini rods, although they do work equally as well with any commercial rod set-up.

Brilliant for use with all pellet wagglers and small feeders, the 3000s have a silky-smooth 10 ball-bearing running operation, an exceptional parallel line lay system that prevents bedding-in, and a light magnesium body.

The easy to operate precision front drag is sealed to protect it from the elements, and each reel is supplied with a spare match spool.



The forgiving action of these rods is ideal at close quarters.

PRICES

- Preston Innovations Inception 3000 Mini Reel £169.99
- Preston Innovations Carbonactive Mini Series F1 9ft model £129
- Preston Innovations Carbonactive Mini Series F1 10ft model £139

# AND INCEPTION REELS



## INTERVIEW

**Preston Innovations consultant Tommy Pickering, the man who had the original F1 rods and used them with the 3000 Mini Inception reels** realised I had found the perfect combination for my short-range feeder fishing. The soft action of the F1 Mini is perfect for cushioning those last-minute lunges, while the smooth action of the Inceptions and their large diameter spools makes casting and winding in effortless."



## QUICK BITE

Drennan will shortly be releasing a new Method feeder and mould system. Watch this space for an exclusive Angling Times first viewing.

### A CROOK ON THE LEVEL

If you find yourself struggling to loosefeed with a catapult when using a pole, or simply need a break from holding it every now and again, then this hands-free new pole crook from Korum may well be just the thing you need. Designed to fit on all Korum accessory chairs, and no doubt a multitude of other chairs and seatboxes, set it up directly behind your left or right hand side, and then balance the butt of the pole underneath the crook, with the rest of the pole resting over your knee.

**Price: £12.99**



### SUPER-FIT POLE FLOATS

Preston Innovations' super-robust new Tyson range of floats all have bodies that have been coated in a tough varnish that prevents rig-line from cutting into them, even under pressure from big fish. They are all constructed with good quality carbon or fibreglass stems that allow flexibility without snapping or bending. The five pattern series features two all balsa up-in-the-water dibber type floats, as well as two traditional body down patterns, and a modern diamond-shaped body model. All have very secure eyes, good sized bristles, and will prove popular on commercials.

**Price: £1.30**



### ROLL OUT A WINNER

This superb new pole roller from Maver is currently one of the hottest tackle items on the match market across the UK and Europe. With four very sturdy legs that can be extended downwards up to three times, it allows for plenty of height adjustment for those tricky banks that slope away from behind you. The Comp XL Flat Bed has two independent flat rollers with two upright end rollers, and a central third upright, perfect for double shipping when using two rollers. It is also especially handy for when you have section extensions behind you that may need to be fitted in a hurry. The roller is lightweight, extremely stable, and has a push-button mechanism.

**Price: £59.99**

# GRAND DESIGNS

THE WEEKLY LOOK AT TACKLE INNOVATIONS FOR 2011

## TRI-CAST TRILOGY XS 16M COMPETITION



### BEST POLE YET FROM TRI-CAST

The 16 metre flagship Trilogy XS Competition pole clearly points towards the pursuit of excellence Tri-Cast has embarked on.

This high value product has helped the Rochdale-based company to put down a marker that highlights its build quality and commitment to design.

Constructed from a special carbon cloth used in the company's aero-space business, the impressive Trilogy XS is quite simply the best pole Tri-Cast has yet produced, and it has been responsible for

setting tongues wagging on match venues across the length and breadth of the UK since it was first unveiled.

The pole forms the upper tier of Tri-Cast's best-ever selling XS range of carbon products and is currently available on a promotional offer at just a pound under £2,000.

The Trilogy is definitely built to be fished with, rather than just admired, and is a no-frills, straightforward, honest performing power model that is very well suited to bagging-up on commercials.

However, I must stress that I would not class it as an out-and-out power pole. It has far too much balance, agility and guile to be labelled up as just another heavyweight carp cruncher.

It features eight kits that can be ordered to suit your individual requirements, as well as a cupping kit, cups and a holdall that will also house several ready-made rods.

**Price: SSP £1,999 RRP £2,999**

## NEW FOX HOOKS



### HOOKS FOR BIG-CARP ANGLERS

These new affordable carp hook patterns are selling like hot cakes – hardly surprising, since they are being vaunted by Fox as the replacements for the very popular Series range.

All four patterns are finished in a special Kuro non-reflective black coating for added concealment properties. They have been selected from the Series range and then updated using the latest advances in

Japanese hook manufacturing technology.

The result is the superb new S1, S2, S3 and S4 models that are available in barbed and barbless versions in sizes from 2 to 10.

They offer exceptional value for money to the big-carp angler on a tighter budget, costing just £2.99 for a packet of 10.

The S1 model is a classic long-shank shape with an inturred eye, making it perfect

for bottom baits.

The S2 is a modern wide gape, short shanked, beaked point model with a straight eye that gives it plenty of rig versatility.

Finally, the S3 pattern is a curved, short shanked hook with a super-sharp straight point that maximises the pricking effect – this hook would be particularly good for use with pop-ups and KD rigs.

**Price: £2.99** for a packet of 10

## NASH FISH FRENZY

### BUDGET CARP BAITS

At a time when most of us are strapped for cash it makes a pleasant change to be able to report on a new range of quality branded bait products that will literally be 'going for a song' this summer.

The new Nash Fish Frenzy counter display range features tried and trusted hookbaits and feed products, including Halibut and Strawberry soft hookable pellets with matching types of pastes, as well as two sizes of 2.3mm and 6mm fish-friendly low oil coarse pellets in 400g bags. There are also two special milled designer Method mix

groundbaits, again in Halibut pellet flavour, and a bright red pellet in the very popular Strawberry/Scopex flavour that should prove a big hitter.

All Fish Frenzy products come in handy session packs containing enough bait to go fishing for up to five hours.

The Method feeder mix bag, for instance, holds enough groundbait for up to 30 casts with a typical flat Method feeder.

**Prices: Fish Frenzy Coarse Pellets 2.3mm/6mm 400g bag £1.99. Fish Frenzy Method Mix Groundbaits 400g bag £2.49. Fish Frenzy Pastes £1.99. Fish Frenzy Squidgee hookable pellets £1.99 per tub.**

