

Reviews

CHARLTON MAKO REVIEW

To most keen fly anglers, the recent announcement that Jack Charlton had recommenced building high quality fly reels and had released a new range was great news. Charlton reels certainly enjoy a great reputation for quality, innovation and reliability and have featured in many world record claims. In fact, since Jack started manufacturing reels in the early 90's demand has exceeded supply considerably. Charlton reels was acquired by 3M- Scientific Anglers around the turn of the century and not long after production stopped. As a testament to the high regard Jack's reels were held in, the asking price for second hand Charlton reels was often a few times greater than its new price .

Jack's latest series is called the "Mako". It has 4 reel diameter sizes ranging in between 4 and 5.5 inches. There is an option of different line capacity spools within each of the smaller 2 sizes. The reels are available in gold, silver or black (Type III hard anodised) or combinations of those colours. More details on the specifications of each can be found at <http://www.makoreels.com/> . The reels are only available from the website or a small number of dealers currently carrying them. As you'd expect the reels are manufactured in the USA.

I purchased the 9550 with the Black Type III anodising. My choice was for the 1012 spool as this was the weight rods and lines I intended using it for. Jack describes this finish as "bullet hard" and after a few heavy bumps on the deck with no visible damage, it's hard to argue. It comfortably holds 300m of 60lb jigging braid and a standard length WF11 intermediate. The reel certainly feels well balanced with the 10 and 11 weight rods I have attached it to so far. The reel has a very classy audible click, with the incoming and outgoing easily distinguishable. The reel handle is a very comfortable shape and is constructed from wood. Those of you who enjoy the versatility of quickly changing spools will appreciate the simple, yet secure quick spool change.

The drag adjustment is on the opposite side to the spool. The drag is constructed from carbon and Jack credits his background in military and aircraft design with giving him access to different methods and ideologies. The drag is completely sealed and impervious to water, sand and salt which may effect it. Being inaccessible, it is also maintenance free. The entire drag range is available within 1 turn of the drag knob, which has obvious advantages for those seeking to repeat an exact drag setting.



The reel certainly exudes quality and in my opinion is a pretty neat piece of gear. Time will be the best judge to determine if the Mako lives upto the reputation of the previous Charlton reels. With a great design, and a fantastic pedigree, its already heading down that path. It has quickly become one of my favourite reel's for Moreton Bay's longtail tuna.

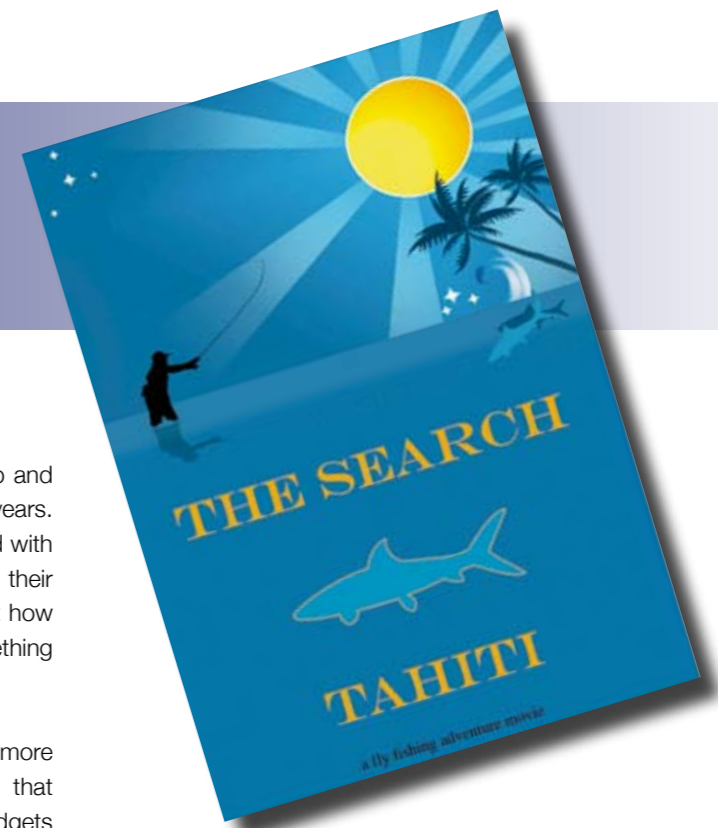
Review by Geoff Volter.

THE SEARCH - TAHITI

Fishing movies are thankfully moving on from the grip and grin style that has dominated at least the last ten years. Random shots of whooping and hollering interspersed with guys waving from behind a console while gunning their motors to the next fishing spot, or rabbiting on about how wonderful it is to be fishing while skull dragging something over the side is glorified reality TV.

A breed of producers driven by lifestyle and passion, more than out-and-out profit, have been quietly bucking that trend, spending much time and effort on minimal budgets to produce first class adventure stories. *Wildfish* and *A River Somewhere* were the forerunners of the modern era, spurring on a new generation of younger producers. At the top of this pile are Nick Reygaert and Kent Fraser of Gin-Clear Productions.

Gin-Clear Productions has clearly spent considerable time on developing this story about exploring some of Tahiti's 120 islands in search of giant bonefish and the rumours that seem to both entice and guard their locations. In doing so, it has captured that superbly entertaining style of television production, where fishing is the glue that binds the story together, rather than dominating it. It is a travelogue of guys going on a grand adventure with no real idea if it'll work. These are always the finest of journeys. It shows the nerves and setbacks integral to adventure - seasickness, lost fish, language barriers, uncertainty, no fish, strong winds, no food, sunburn, rash, sharks, coral bommies...it's all there, and it is all important.

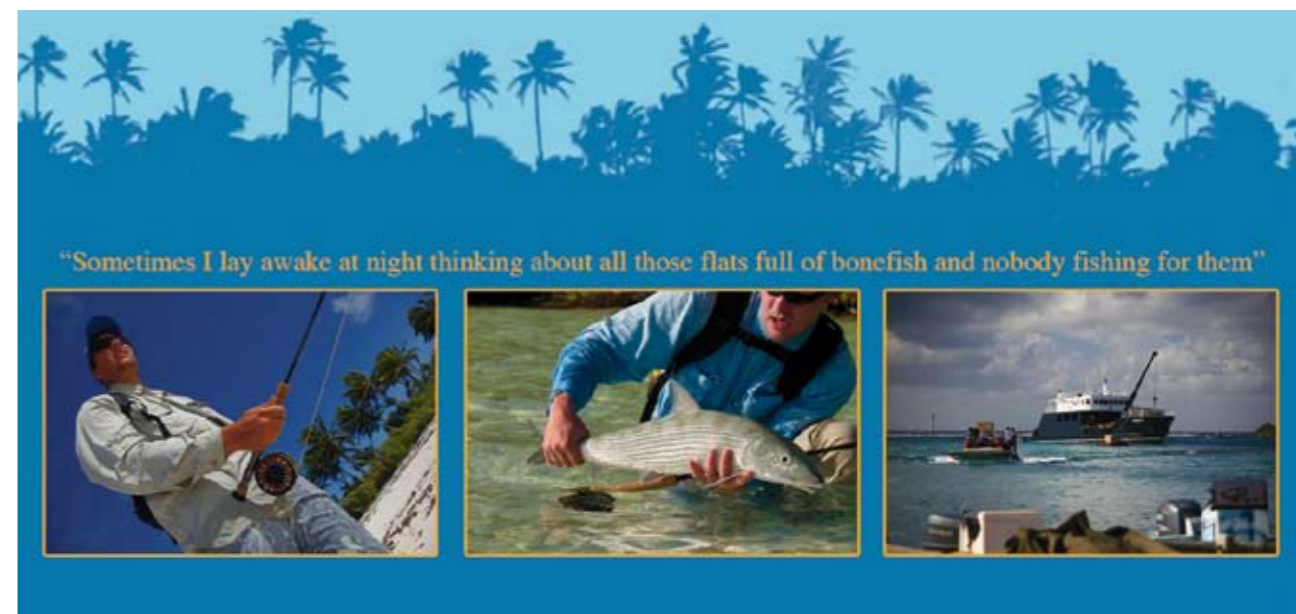


But is also shows the grand part of the journey. Undiscovered flats, inches deep, with huge bonefish. It shows guys hooking fish for the first time. And losing fish for the fourth time...in a row. It shows endless fishing opportunities, camaraderie, grown men squealing with delight and everything else that would make you wanting more.

I was also mightily impressed with what appears to be going on behind the scenes - these guys are setting up a research project to study bonefish and give back into a community that welcomed them as family. It is a noble gesture and one I certainly hope achieves its goals.

This is the sort of show you're more likely to see on ABC or SBS than commercial stations. It is raw and emotional, and it is all the better for it.

The Search - Tahiti is available from www.gin-clear.com or from all good tackle stores.



Reviews

PELAGIC BLACKFIN SHORTS

Finding clothing specifically designed for fishing can be a difficult task. If you're tired of the usual Columbia pants and vented shirts it becomes even tougher trying to get something with a bit of style yet still functional enough for the demands of saltwater fly fishing. In a lot of situations surf board shorts and Hawaiian print shirts just don't cut it.

Enter Pelagic Clothing. The name Pelagic, and their great range of clothing, seems to be little known in Australia

outside of the gamefishing community. I have to admit I knew nothing of them until I spent a short stint at Lizard Island during the black marlin season. There I saw a lot of the crews decked out in Pelagic gear and figured I should track down some for myself as soon as I got the chance.

I've been wearing a pair of Blackfin board shorts for 6 months and they're my first choice for everything from a day out on the water chasing tuna to hitting the gym or hanging out in cafes when the fishing's blown out. The stain resistant finish means that blood and fish slime simply wipes off and even after being thrashed for six months mine come out of the wash looking brand new every time. Being quick drying I'm often stepping into them straight out of the wash as well. The pockets are nice and roomy with drainholes and there's even a special reinforced pocket to slip your fishing pliers into... no more holes! Finally, the Blackfin also come in "Big Boy" sizes for those whose physique doesn't quite match that of the average surf bum.

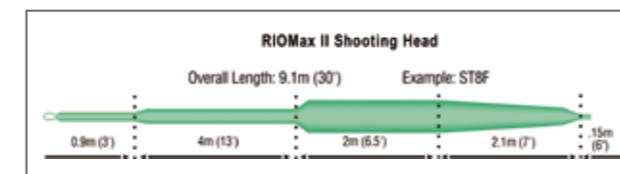
For more info on Pelagic's range of performance offshore clothing check out www.pelagicgear.net.



New Gear

RIO MAX II SHOOTING HEAD

RIO's new RIO Max II shooting heads are designed to give the ultimate in long distance casts. Traditional shooting head designs feature a thick back section that drops down in flight, reducing the flight time of the cast. The RIO Max II shooting head features a unique taper design with a progressively lighter back section that stays in the air longer, translating into greater distances.



In addition, the front-loaded taper design stabilizes the head in the air and prevents the characteristic "dumping" at the end of the cast (typical of traditional shooting heads.) The increase in weight at the front not only makes it possible to load the rod from the very first cast, but also makes it easy to cast big flies, or cope with unfriendly winds.

Each shooting head is manufactured to fit within the current AFTMA standard and RIO recommends that casters step

up two lines sizes for a given rod size to compensate for the shorter head length. For technical fishers, the shooting heads are labeled in grain weight, as well as AFTMA standards.

RIOMax II shooting heads are 30 ft long (9.1 m) and come in a range of sizes, between ST6 and ST12 and in six different densities. Each head features RIO's bullet proof, slim welded loops at the rear end. The loop is color and bar coded to identify the size and density.



HIDEFSPEX

Looking for the highest performance in a pair of polarized glasses without the weight of traditional glass lenses? HiDefSpex - a company at the forefront of lens design for Olympic trap and skeet shooters have now turned their technology towards designing the finest polarised fishing sunglasses.

HiDefSpex use a state of the art bullet proof polycarbonate polarised lens material that is extremely light, but unlike other polycarbonate lenses HiDefSpex actually have optical properties better than a glass lens. Lens features such as the HD polariser, anti reflective coatings and dielectric flashing helps optimise detail and clarity whether you're spotting fish in difficult conditions or just enjoying a day on the water.

Another bonus with HiDefSpex is that because the range

has been designed specifically for fishers, the lenses have a hydrophobic hard coat which is bonded to the lens exterior. When driving the boat or getting spray on the lenses, the water beads off them instead of interrupting your vision. The hydrophobic coating and unique frame designs also virtually eliminate fogging.

Every pair of HiDefSpex comes with a floating lanyard and hard case and the unique HiDefSpex guarantee. If you accidentally break your HiDefSpex frames they will replace the frame for free. If you scratch the lenses they will replace them for \$50 per lens (half the price of other lenses on the market). HiDefSpex retail for \$350 or \$470 with prescription lenses. (For those with prescriptions HiDefSpex can do progressive lenses with no loss of quality).

HiDefSpex are available at Fish Head on 07 3207 9965 or visit www.fishhead.com.au



New Gear

TIBOR LINEMASTER

The Tibor LineMaster™ Line Management System lets you change lines quickly and easily, without going to a tackle shop or needing a second person to maintain tension on the line.

Steady tension makes the difference. This is the only line winder on the market with an innovative, spring-loaded disk system that holds the spool firmly in place while you remove or load line and backing in a reliable, one-person operation that applies the steady tension required to prevent line from tangling or binding as it winds. An ideal system for any angler and guide, the Tibor LineMaster converts easily to a left or right-hand wind. The neoprene-lined Leg Saddle acts as a convenient “third hand” for solo operation in the field, and the Table Clamp fits all standard counters, allowing for hands-free operation at home or on the road.

The Tibor LineMaster has all the tools of a portable Line Management System. The neoprene transport pouch even includes a storage pocket, indelible marker, pipe cleaners and an easy labeling system to wrap, identify and organize your lines – anytime, anywhere. It's the do-it-yourself Line Management System you've been waiting for – made in the USA by the people you trust for the highest quality fishing products.



SNOWBEE XS CARTRIDGE REELS

This fabulous new reel offers XS performance at an entry-level price. The quality die-cast frame is formed from lightweight alloy, which is then powder coated and oven baked for a tough, chip and saltwater resistant finish. The drag system is identical to that used in the well proven XS reels and features the same multi-disc stainless steel & broflon drag system with a huge 22.6 cm² drag surface area. Never before has there been a reel of this performance at this price!

Initially only available in the 7-8 line size (\$195 with 5 cartridge spools plus case), it is now available in line sizes 4-6 (\$120 with two cartridges plus case) and 11-12 (\$195 with 4 cartridge spools plus case).



X-FACTOR FLY BOXES

This new series of foam insert fly boxes come in 6 different configurations and retail from \$20.

Features include:

- * 24 row foam
- * Tri Slit foam with fly threaders
- * Tri Slit foam with 12 row foam
- * 8 row foam
- * 12 row foam with fly threaders
- * 12 row foam

Dimensions: 12cm x 6cm

X-Factor fly boxes are available from leading tackle stores or contact www.ejtodd.com.au.

