

Tackle bag

MAGNUS ANGUS tests the Greys GR50; kit to keep a boat tidy; a wooden net-clip; and a new range of reels

Well-designed and under £150

Greys GR50 9ft #5 4pce

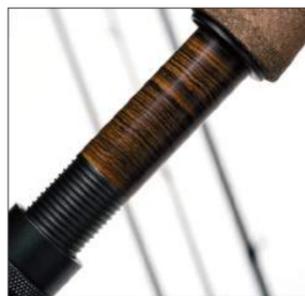
This GR50 feels like a fast, modern rod, the action high up the blank. A well judged tip-stiffness means I can cast short, but this rod seems to excel at middle to long range. The butt end of this is not too stiff; casting long I can feel the rod working into the lower part of the blank.

I found myself comparing this to the Jet which was being tested on alternate days, this feels fractionally heavier in the hand, certainly faster action and stiffer, just a fraction less touch, less sense of the line. I could get a slight wobble from the tip of the GR50, but had to work hard for it. This is a well designed and made rod.

Cosmetically, I'd say a more functional than thoughtful composition, the build is good but not a match for the Jet, the components are not as refined and not as expensive, but perfectly serviceable. In the end, I quit comparing.

In my hand, this matches a #5 line very well, feels soggy with a #6 and I had to try a little too hard with a #4 – in my opinion, this is a genuine #5.

In my hands the overall stiffness of this GR50 suits hauling but I don't have to; any



Wood spacer.



Powerful for small stillwater and rivers.

stiffer and it would demand it. In my opinion this would be a fine rod for an ambitious caster, coming to grips with hauling. As a fishing rod I would happily fish this on small stillwaters and rivers, this has the beef to handle decent fish and the casting power to throw lures. Perhaps not a delicate dry fly rod but a very competent all-rounder.

SPECIFICATIONS

GREYS GR50 9FT #5

Sections: 4

Action angle: 72°

Stiffness: 116.2g

Weight: 90.9g

Rings: One lined butt ring, dark single-leg snakes

Handle: Reverse half-wells

Fighting butt: No

Cork quality: Fair, some filling

Reel seat: Wood spacer, grey metal fittings

Blank: Grey matt

Thread: Black

Build quality: Good

Rod bag: No

Rod tube: Nylon covered, sectioned

Price: £139.99

From: Greys stockists

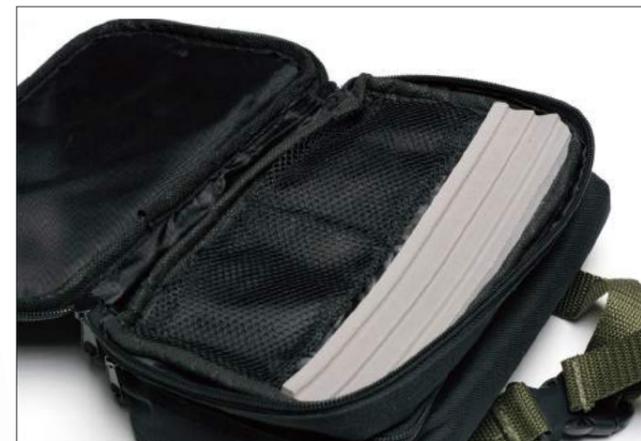


Single-leg, serviceable components.

Keeping it ship-shape

Stonefly Boat Caddie Range

Four products in the range, Stonefly has designed these for boat anglers. A couple of these are linked products, i.e. you need a clamp to use the other parts.



Inside: a couple of tippet pockets and a fly patch – just what I need at hand in the boat.

Boat Caddie Locker

A neat idea. This is a small nylon fabric pack with straps so I can fit it to a boat seat or thwart board. Think of it as a small chest pack for your boat.

There's two pockets, the top

layer has a fly patch and a couple of tippet pockets, the lower level can take a fly box and has elastic for tools and fly treatments.

Price: £25.



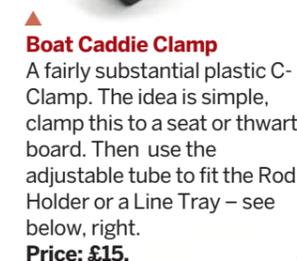
Fitted to a clamp, the rod holder makes a neat job of carrying a couple of rods.

Rod Caddie Rod Holder

The original idea was that this gadget would help the angler carry a pair of rods, then they could use the extending spike to sink the holder into the bank while fishing. It's a nice idea, even if it just prevents one of my precious rods being trampled by careless anglers/ramblers/cattle roaming the banks.

With the introduction of the Boat Caddie range, the spike fits into the Clamp, so I can stand my rods vertically in my boat? Personally, I don't want a spare rod standing vertically in the boat when I cast – it's bad enough when I have a boat partner!

This takes a couple of rods. Price: £15.



Boat Caddie Clamp

A fairly substantial plastic C-Clamp. The idea is simple, clamp this to a seat or thwart board. Then use the adjustable tube to fit the Rod Holder or a Line Tray – see below, right. Price: £15.



Boat Caddie Line Tray

Again fits to the Clamp. A fairly compact frame, fitted with a coated mesh bag. Use as a stripping basket rather than dumping fly line all over the seat and base of the boat ... where my line unerringly manages to tie itself in knots before attacking the hooks on my boots. Or is that just me?

I like this idea. Using a line tray takes a little practice and discipline, but the effort pays when you spend more time fishing and less time untying knots ... and feet? Price: £25.

It takes a little practice and discipline, but the effort pays when you spend more time fishing.

Locate and lock

Hemingway Magnetic Net Holder

The prosaic name gives this away, without that I have a couple of cord loops and a small wooden oval – pull on the loops and you find powerful wee magnets holding the halves firmly together. Loop one end to a net, the other to a ring on a jacket, bag, pack, waders or waistcoat. When you finally hook a fish which needs a net – pull firmly and the net comes free – deal with your trophy, then wave the net in the general direction of the loop when the magnetic



Magnet is disguised within a wooden clasp.

half is attached and the two halves 'thunk' together.

I have a wooden framed net I wear on my back. One side of this holder loops to the D-ring on the back of my wading jacket, the other to the front lip of my net. The handle of my net is now conveniently at the small of my back; it's easy to grab my net and almost as easy to put it back.

This comes from a small range of gear for tenkara fishing, so this looks lower tech, dark Padouk wood and soft cord, hiding the strong little rare-earth magnets which do the work. Price: £9.99 From: Right Angle Fishing.