

ORVIS®

NEW ONE-PIECE MODELS

HELIOS **2**

FEED YOUR ADDICTION



MEN'S JOURNAL



HELIOS 2

ONE-PIECE

Why did we make them?

We made these rods primarily because we wanted to. We wanted to explore the different tapers and construction techniques for making a one-piece graphite fly rod, knowing that we would also learn some good practices for improving future generations of four-piece rods as well.

Overall, we feel the value of having them in the hands of many guides will also help promote the popularity and sales of our four-piece rods.

One-piece fly rods have become very popular amongst saltwater guides, particularly in Florida. For someone who does not travel and uses a boat every day, they offer a number of advantages:

- Because of the lack of ferrules they are lighter
- Although modern ferrules are extremely strong, they are still typically the weak point in a fly rod and if it breaks under stress it is usually at a ferrule. One-piece rods are inherently stronger when extreme pressure is applied.
- Ferrules can loosen over a day of fishing, especially if using large flies in a wind. They can also loosen during bumpy boat rides. Eliminating ferrules from the equation ensures that a rod won't break because of an improperly engaged ferrule, and a tip won't fly off during a cast or when fighting a fish.

However, one-piece rods also have disadvantages:

- The longest they can be made is about 8 feet 10 inches because 9 feet is the maximum length for shipping by standard carriers, and you need some leeway for protection inside the shipping box.
- They are at a greater risk for damage from doors and ceiling fans when moved indoors
- You can't fly with them without incurring expensive excess baggage fees. Many flights may not allow them at all. They must be shipped to a fishing destination.
- They won't fit in many vehicles without an external rod carrier.





Who are they for?

We made these rods primarily for guides, who take a rod directly from a truck to a boat and put them in their rod racks. However, many non-guides who own vacation homes near the water or drive to most of their fishing destinations may also appreciate the advantages of a one-piece rod, particularly if all the guides are using them.



How do they compare to Helios 2 Four-Piece Rods?

We started with similar taper profiles for these rods to our four-piece Helios rods, and then modified the tapers based on the feedback of guides after casting and fishing with them. Although our ferrule system ensures that our multiple-piece rods have an almost seamless taper, it's just common sense that the one-piece models will have a slightly smoother feel. In addition, because these rods are two inches shorter than Helios four-piece models, it was necessary to modify the tapers, thus the rods will be slightly stiffer than four-piece models because you have the same load on a rod that is two inches shorter.

We also made the reel seat insert red with a black nickel skeleton so they could be easily identified in the field and in photographs.



Helios 2 Big Game Rods & Outfits

Line wt.	Length	Pcs.	Flex	Item #	Rod Price	Outfit Price
8-wt.	8'10"	1	Tip	142M	\$895	\$1,369
9-wt.	8'10"	1	Tip	142N	\$895	\$1,389
10-wt.	8'10"	1	Tip	142S	\$895	\$1,389
12-wt.	8'10"	1	Tip	143M	\$895	\$1,409

What do guides think of them?

"I really like this rod! It handles line well and casts like a laser. It has more than one fish landed on it that weighed more than 20 pounds and each time I am confident it will withstand the strain. Overall, the H2 one piece is everything I hoped for with the ease and use of a boat rod."

—Capt. Lucas Bissett,
Louisiana Fly Fishing Charters,
Baton Rouge, Louisiana



Capt. Lucas Bissett

"The tip is a bit stiff for most casters. Although it is nice to have for into the wind performance. in the right hands it throws a super tight loop . This rod definitely looks good and shows me that Orvis is serious about being in the high end saltwater market!"

—Capt. Paul Tejera,
Fly Fishing the Flats, Florida Keys



Capt. Pete Frezza

"Overall I thought this rod performed great. Extraordinarily light yet definitely stronger, i.e., harder to break than the original Helios which I broke a number of under similar conditions. This rod fought at least 20 adult tarpon and was stressed tremendously by anglers of varying degrees of skill and never budged. Only had one angler complaint and that the rod should be 9' and that not having the extra 2" affected distance of casts."

—Capt. Pete Frezza,
Tavernier Key, Florida

"The 12 wt was put through excessive pressure continually and I was impressed with the back bone."

—Michael Dawes,
World Cast Anglers, Driggs, Idaho



Capt. Travis Holeman

"Bear tried to break it within 5 min of having it in his hand. First poon hooked he super horsed. Rod passed."

—Capt. Travis Holeman,
Holeman Brothers Guide Company,
Crystal Beach, Florida

“Caught an incredible 30# permit!!!! Clients that fished it really loved the rod. They had a lot of confidence in the rod and remarked how light it felt and how accurate it cast. It really gave them confidence and produced great casts when it counted.”

—Capt. Will Benson,
World Angling, Sugarloaf Key, Florida



Capt. Will Benson

“I liked that the rod loaded quickly, I didn’t need much line out of the rod tip to make a short cast. In addition, the rod was also fantastic for making long casts - I could carry a bunch of line in the air if needed, but could also false cast about 30 feet of line and shoot line to >80’. And it had good backbone for the snook I caught while sight fishing on the beach.”

—Capt. Aaron Adams,
Director of Operations, Bonefish Tarpon Trust



Capt. Kevin Milhailoff

“The H2 9 was compared against the Sage 1, Temple Fork BBK, and the Loomis Pro 1 one piece. Lighter and faster than all and had plenty of zip to send it if need be.”

—Capt. Kevin Mihailof,
Florida Everglades Charters, Chokoloskee, Florida

“Honestly the best 8 wt. one piece i have ever used. It has great finesse and feels amazingly agile. Unlike most one piece rods it has tons of feel for putting down the most delicate casts and does not feel like a broom stick. The rod has quickly become my go to rod for 95% of all fishing in north Florida.”

—Capt. Chase Hancock, Skinny Water Culture



Capt. Bruce Chard

“Very crisp and easy to form tight loops increasing distance and accuracy.”

—Capt. Bruce Chard, Key West, Florida