

Recon Rods



How do they compare to Access Rods?

Recon fly rods are a replacement for Access rods and offer a big improvement in cosmetics, swing weight, tracking, and overall performance. We put everything we could into these rods to make them the finest rod in the made in USA \$400-range, that we possibly could.

Recon rods use an improved un-sanded ferrule design, which provides better ferrule engagement and fewer issues with the occasional twisting or dis-engagement of ferrules during fishing. The plastic reel seat filler and shiny gold anodized reel seats of the Access rods have been replaced with a more subtle black nickel anodized aluminum reel seat with a dark burl wood spacer (in the freshwater models) and a plain aluminum spacer in the saltwater models.

“Honestly this is an incredible price for an incredible fly rod. I think about how great this rod fishes and then I think about the MSRP and know that folks will be getting an incredible deal. I won't be surprised it this is the best seller for the next 3 years.” Colby Trow, Mossy Creek Fly shop

Like the Access rods, the blanks of the Recon rods are made in our Vermont rod shop, and the rods are also finished and assembled entirely in our shop.

The Chinese-made, Cordura-covered PVC case of the Access rods has been replaced by a classic aluminum rod tube, 100% made in USA.

They do not use the same blanks as Helios rods—Recon rods use a blend of intermediate and high-modulus graphite raw material with standard resins, and do not utilize the thermoplastic resins that used in Helios 2 rods.

The tapers are entirely new and are based on the Award winning design protocol used to develop the Helios 2. They do not come in a choice of mid or tip flex. We have chosen the best taper for each Recon model based on the rod's line size and what that line size is typically used for. This should result in less customer confusion amongst intermediate and novice fly fishers.

"You reach that little extra point in the line length to get a little more load and BAM you just start feeling everything and casting extremely well, like having an epiphany." Captain Tuck Scott, Bay Street Outfitters

How do they compare to Helios 2 Rods?

Recon rods are great casting and fishing tools. They are light and responsive and are a better casting tool than the Access rods. They track beautifully. If H2 Rods did not exist, they would be the go-to rods of the people who have tested the Recon rods in the field.

Helios 2 rods are lighter in the hand and have lighter swing weight, and Helios 2 rods also have that amazing ability to cast well in close but then pull surprising reserve power for long casts of playing a big fish.

Helios rods use a different, more advanced raw material with thermoplastic resins, which give the rod more precise fiber alignment and allows us to make the tips lighter for quicker response and lighter weight, because of the inherent strength of the thermoplastic resins. Helios 2 rods also use a proprietary trade secret to increase impact strength in the tip. The materials used in Helios 2 rods are more costly than the material used in Recon rods.

Helios rods also use advanced Recoil guides, which are lighter and more flexible (and much more expensive) than the standard hard-chrome guides on the Recon rods.

"It ain't a sissy." Bubba Smith, Fisheads of the San Juan

How do they compare to the competition?

There are many excellent mid-priced fly rods on the market today. But if you look at the chart below, no other fly rod in this price point is as light in weight, or feels as light in hand (“levered weight”) as the Recon rods. This means a more pleasant casting sensation and less fatigue after a long day of fishing.

BRAND	MODEL	PRICE	WEIGHT	LEVERED WEIGHT	MADE IN USA?
REDINGTON	VAPEN RED	\$ 349.95	3.34	105	No
SAGE	RESPONSE	\$ 395.00	3.24	87	Yes
TFO	BVK	\$ 240.00	3.18	93	No
SCOTT	A4	\$ 395.00	3.12	97	Yes
ORVIS	RECON	\$ 425.00	2.63	67	Yes

Who is the target customer for Recon rods?

- Obviously, the fly fisher who wants a technologically advanced, great-casting rod but can't quite justify the price of a Helios.
- A new or novice angler to whom made in USA is important.
- An experienced fly fisher who already owns an H2 or other premium priced rod who wants a second rod for a different purpose (like a trout angler looking for a bass or saltwater rod for occasional use) or just wants a backup rod for a trip in case a rod breaks.

