

New Innovative Fishing Products 2005

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Last week I attended the ICAST show in Las Vegas as I do every year. ICAST is the annual convention of the American Sportfishing Association (fishing tackle manufacturers). This year's show had an unusual amount of new and innovative products so I decided to tell you about a few of them. We have not had a chance to test these products yet but are looking forward to trying them out in the near future.

Secureprop

The Secureprop, manufactured from 304 stainless steel, has a collar which fits over the lip of the propeller hub and holds a flat cover plate in position which covers the propeller nut. An ABUS padlock, included, secures the unit making it impossible to remove the prop. The cover plate is fitted with a reflector making the prop more visible while towing the boat. www.secureprop.com

Drop-Shot Weight Keeper System

You're in rough water trying to connect that lure with a bunch of treble hooks to the little loop just above the reel. Well your life just got a lot safer and easier. The Drop-Shot is a tensioned open-ended clip. You can quickly and simply slide a hook, line or dropper into the clip.

The clip is gold plated stainless. It is sold with a special self-adhering shrink tape, no adhesive, so you can add one to any rod. The manufacturer told us the tape is salt-waterproof and UV resistant. For rod builders, the clip is also sold without the tape.

A few rod manufacturers are currently testing the Drop-Shot and building rod prototypes. By next year you should start to see the Drop-Shot on new rods at your local tackle shop. www.phoenixblazerods.com

Rapid Release Rod Holder

The Rapid Release allows the angler to remove the rod from the holder and set the hook in one motion. As good a selling point as that may be, I wouldn't buy one specifically for that reason. I would buy one because the ease of removing a rod from Rapid Release is miles ahead of the competition!

The Rapid Release is hinged at the base and snaps closed at the top. Pulling upward on the rod releases the snap and the rod is free. As the bottom half of the rod holder is stationary, it can be used to support the rod butt as the rod is removed from the holder.

Rapid Release is manufactured in the US and is backed with a lifetime guarantee. Mounting accessories are available for any situation you could think of including an adapter that fits Scotty and Cabela's bases. www.rapidreleaseco.com