

DM 30 / DM 45



## Star Drag Reels

Casting, Level-wind and  
Line Counter model reels.

## Owner's Manual

World Wide Web: [www.Cabela'sfishing.com](http://www.Cabela'sfishing.com)

## CONGRATULATIONS!

You have just purchased one of the world's finest star drag reels. At Cabela's we take great pride in the superb quality and outstanding performance of our reels. Serious anglers around the world are discovering the quality and incredible durability of Cabela's reels. Your new Cabela's star drag reel will require a reasonable amount of maintenance to perform as it was intended. Please follow the simple maintenance procedures to ensure your Cabela's reel always remains in optimum condition.

## MAINTENANCE

Your Cabela's reel is designed to provide years of dependable performance when properly maintained. To keep this reel working at peak performance, we recommend a light freshwater rinse following every fishing trip to remove foreign debris from entering the reel, such as salt,

sand, oils and any other contaminants. Do not spray the reel directly. A direct stream of water can force contaminants inside the reel. Try to avoid any high pressure spraying. This type of misuse exposes the reels internal components to the environment by creating standing water. This may result in future problems. In order to better protect the drag system in this type of situation, we recommend tightening the star drag, before rinsing the reel. By tightening the star drag adjustment, the multi-disk drag system is being compressed, eliminating any gap for water and air to accumulate. Performing this step will protect the drag system from moisture and condensation. Following the freshwater rinse, we recommend spraying the exterior of the reel with a water displacing lubricant. There is no need to wipe down the reel following this process, as the lubricant will form a protective film on the surface of the reel. This film allows the exterior of the reel to be moisture and corrosion free during storage. Wiping down the reel will only remove this protective film.

"It is said that a reel is only as good as its drag system," therefore we recommend completely backing off the drag system, after every fishing trip and prior to long term storage. Long-term compression of the drag washers may result in a bumpy drag and or a loss of drag pressure. Performing this step will also relieve unnecessary pressure from the reel during storage. As a final step, prior to storage, we recommend disengaging the spool lever to free spool and placing the clicker to the on position. This will keep the reel tangle free by preventing the spool from moving and eliminate any unnecessary overruns.

Cabela's recommends professionally servicing your reel at least once a year. This service should include greasing both the main and pinion gears, along with checking that the drag washers have a thin layer of Teflon based drag grease. This thin layer of grease allows the reel to perform smoothly and dissipate heat more efficiently, while fighting aggressive fast running fish. At this time apply a light machine grade oil

to lubricate the drive shaft, handle nut, clicker switch and all other moving parts. If you own a level-wind reel, it's extremely important to periodically apply light machine grade oil to the worm gear of the level-wind mechanism. This will ensure a lifetime of smooth casting and retrieving. If you own a line counter reel, there is no special maintenance for the counter mechanism. This counter is a mechanical function and works in conjunction with the rotation of the spool.

## **SETTING THE DRAG**

When setting the drag on a star drag reel, roughly set the drag at 25-30% of the lines breaking strength. For example, when using 20 lb. test line, the drag should be set at around 5 to 6 pounds of pressure.

In order to properly set the drag, mount the reel on the rod, run the line through the line guides and attach to a dependable spring scale. Make

sure that the scale is securely fixed to a stationary object. Raise the rod tip similar to a fishing situation, engage the spool to the strike position and pull back on the rod. As the rod is pulled back, note the scale reading as the drag begins to slip. Tighten or loosen the drag and continue this process until the desired drag setting is achieved, for the line being fished.

## **SPOOLING LINE**

For best results fill the spool approximately 1/8" (4mm) from the rim of the spool. A full spool will make it easier and faster to retrieve line. We recommend using a commercial line winder machine, available at most fishing tackle stores. When spooling the line yourself, be sure the line does not twist.

To avoid twisting, load the fishing line in the same direction it comes off the spool. Line should always be applied tightly on the spool. Applying tension to the line with your finger can help to pack the spool tightly. This will help

maximize casting distance and eliminate line twists, while fishing.

## **FUNCTION & APPLICATION**

Cabela's star drags reels were designed to offer incredible value, ease of maintenance and excellent performance. All of our star drag reels have been designed with oversized drag systems to insure, plenty of drag pressure. These reels have been designed to fish for everything from Walleye and Salmon to Grouper and Tuna.

Cabela's is easy to use Line counters have been designed for precision counting when fishing for Salmon and Walleye. To operate the line counter reels, all you need to do is press the button on the top of the line counter. This will reset the counter to zero. Next, disengage the spool release and let line out. The counter mechanism will measure the amount of line, stripped off your reel in feet. As a note your line counter will be most accurate with a full spool of

line, because the movement of the spool controls the counting mechanism.

Adjusting the tension control knob on the right side plate can further enhance castability. Do not over tighten this knob, as it can cause internal damage to the reel. For maximum casting distance, back the cast control knob off until the spool moves freely. The spool should be in the free spool position when performing this step. Be careful not to loosen the control cap too much, it may result in losing the cap completely, causing the reel to be inoperable. There is a large degree of adjustment in this cap; there should be no reason to be at either extreme of adjustment.

