

FIRELINE TEST RESULTS

This product has recently become available in South Africa. I heard and read some very good comments about it, and decided to see if it could be used for my type of fishing.

FISHING STYLE

I spin fish for Yellowtail, often make 100's of casts in a day and often fish in strong side wind

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this exercise was to test the product through actual use;

1. Determine the suitability for the type of fishing I do, and
2. The economic viability of using this product.

1. SUITABILITY

- Casting ability
- Ease of use
- Durability
- Abrasive qualities
- Knot strength

2. ECONOMIC

- Durability
- Loss of fish through line failure
- Other non quantifiable benefits
 - Confidence
 - Ease of use

3. RESULTS & OBSERVATIONS

- It burns off from thumb friction when casting
- Becomes woolly after use and sticks to reel more and more
- Can lose rod & reel from fish take or bad cast
- Too limp,
 - gets stuck in guides when casting
 - Gets pulled in to "wrong side of reel"
 - Very bad in side wind
 - gets worse as braid gets "wooly" and the stiffening compound wears away
- Wind resistance is more than mono when "woolly"
- Nightmare to clear tangle
- Abrasive qualities not good
- Not durable – expensive
- Cuts your fingers like ...\$h@#! Need to use a level winder or coffee!

23 November 2013

I repeated this test of about 5 years ago, with similar results and conclusion.

In an attempt to find a better casting solution for my long rod I again attempted to use braid on a conventional reel. I was also told the line "technology" is now far superior. For this test I used Jerry Brown 80 lb hollow core.

CONCLUSION

Not much has changed at all and the only benefit to continue with it is its strength, and the fact that it does not get damaged as easily as mono and perhaps less wind resistance!!

- New braid cast far better than old..... it has some more body because of whatever they put on it, but wears away after a few 100 casts.
- the reel makes a significant difference. A firm cast control (mags) is essential and a level winder will also make it much easier.
- I was able to cast well with it when doing this deliberately and carefully, and after laying line nicely on reel, but as soon as I had to retrieve fast, or when concentrating more on fish than on laying the line, cast hard or whatever..... trouble!
- As the braid got limper, it became much more difficult to use.

This is the main issue:-

On a conventional reel the spool spins faster and peels off line faster than the distance required by the casting weight, leaving some loose coils of line on, or in front of the spool. With mono this is good but has to be controlled to avoid backlash.

Braid is too limp, and tends to "stick" to the reel. If you hold 20cm of mono by the end it bends in a slow curve, or is fairly "stiff" whereas if you do the same with braid it hangs nearly straight down, it is completely limp, unless it's still new. So with mono the reel will "push" the line away from the reel providing a much greater margin of error. Braid will not get pushed away and adhere to the spool and quickly get pulled to the "wrong side"..... Bang!

The way to avoid it is to keep tension on the line when casting braid, cast harder and more directly towards the target, use tight cast control settings, use a heavier casting weight, don't cast high and rather not in to the wind and cast using the rod's "sweet spot" By doing so you lose any possible casting benefit from the thinner line.

So, don't use braid for spin fishing on conventional reels.

The manufacturers need to stop bragging about how "limp" it is, give it some Viagra or stiffer threads and it will work.