

TF

Where you'll find all the latest tackle for flyfishers every month

Gear *Guide*

KEEPING YOU UP-TO-DATE WITH THE VERY LATEST FLYFISHING GEAR **|||** By Robbie Winram

TROUT FISHERMAN
Tackle tester's choice



“...these rods do not skimp on performance or quality.”

Uniqua hits the spot

Info | Hardy Uniqua rods, £169.00 to £249

1 IF you thought you could never afford a Hardy rod perhaps it's time to think again. The new Uniqua range starts at a very reasonable £169 for the 7ft 6in 3wt through to the £249 10ft for an 8wt.

There are 15 single-handed rods altogether, a very comprehensive range, and interestingly there are several different line ratings in the 9ft, 9ft 6in and 10ft lengths. For example, the 9ft 6in is available in a 6wt, 7wt and 8wt (notice the single line ratings for 2010) so whether you prefer light line work with nymphs and dries or a beefier model for heaving out lures and Blobs, there's a rod to match your requirements.

Although these rods are the cheapest in the Hardy portfolio, coming in under the Demons that start at £239, they do not skimp on performance or quality. I tested out the 9ft 6in for a 7wt and the 10ft for an 8wt and found they both matched their line weights and were easy to load and cast with. They were crisp and responsive both at medium and long range and handled floating lines and a full range of fast sinkers with no problems. Neither rod is an out-and-out distance casting tool but are all you would need for a comfortable day's fishing from the bank or afloat.

Additional features include Duplon and cork fighting butt with a full wells handle, and double ringed uplocking hard anodised black reel seat with reel foot location marker. Both rods are fitted with two Fuji lined stripping guides and eight hard chrome snake intermediates with a hayfork tip ring. The blank is finished in a glossy dark green with matching whippings and silver highlights. The rods are supplied in a partitioned cloth bag and protected by a Cordura covered tube with a zip top opening.

Contact: www.hardyfishing.com

