

Loop Rod Review

Dry Fly Innovations sells Loop rods and reels. In fact the rods I use are both Loops in a 4wt and a 5wt. In general I have found them to be the finest performing rods I have ever fished. They have a unique combination of both power and finesse which is demanded of a dry fly rod.

I have been staying on the Henry's Fork for a month testing some of the Loop rods that I haven't fished with. Keep in mind I only fish a dry fly so my evaluations will all be tilted toward the surface. Here is my honest evaluation of the Loop rods I've tested.

Evotec Cast 590-4M (\$469) – 5wt/9 ft/4 pc/Medium Action

Evotec Cast 490-4M (\$469) – 4wt/9 ft/4 pc/Medium Action

These rods in both the 4wt and 5wt are perfectly designed for soft, careful delivery on spring creeks or other technical water. The medium action slows down the presentation for soft landings and precise targeting. By design this is not your long-cast rod; it's much more suited for short- and medium-range casts to rising fish. I landed several large rainbows on these rods and was shocked with both the strength and power for a medium-action rod. If stealth and accuracy are paramount in your fishing world, either of these rods are a great choice. Here are a couple of fish brought to the net on these rods.



Evotec Cast 590-4MF (\$469) – 5wt/9 ft/4 pc/Medium-Fast Action

Evotec Cast 490-4MF (\$469) – 4wt/9 ft/4 pc/Medium-Fast Action

Wow! I was blown away with this rod in both the 4wt and 5wt. The design is a brilliant combination of power, accuracy, and speed to target. I fished the 5wt on the lower Henry's both from a boat and wade fishing. From the boat it was the perfect tool to drive a big fly to micro zones against the edge.



The rod loads quickly then shoots to target almost effortlessly and it's a super wind rod. In fast water I landed a 5 lb. rainbow and 5½ lb. brown trout. Neither of the fish were tougher than the rod.

I was extremely impressed with backbone of this rod in the fight.

In the late evening I fished the 5wt in a Size 18 caddis hatch. By softening the casts, it performed perfectly in the hatch. Photo'd here is a 4 lb. brown trout and the rod on the Henry's Fork Vernon boat ramp.



I fished the 4wt at Hebgen Lake, Montana, where accuracy and long casting are demanded. Again the rod met and surpassed the objective. Downwind, you can nearly cast all your fly line to a pinpoint location. Although the hatches hadn't developed at

Hebgen in early June, this 5 lb. brown trout was delivered to the net on this rod. The fish ate a #16 Black Flying Ant by Dry Fly Innovations on a 70 ft. precision delivery.



I had a lot of trouble changing to another rod after testing both the 4wt and 5wt Evotec Cast in a medium-fast action! I was so blown away, I bought the rods in both 4wt and 5wt. These are the finest dry fly rods I've ever fished.

Q Rod Series 490-4 (\$229) – 4wt/9 ft/4 pc

Q Rod Series 590-4 (\$229) – 5wt/9 ft/4 pc

This is another great performing rod at its price point. I've handled many rods at twice the money that didn't execute as well as the Q. I tested these rods at Hebgen Lake and the Henry's Fork. They will deliver long casts to target and are soft enough for delicate delivery on slick-surface water. I preferred the 5wt over the 4wt because the Henry's Fork region harbors a lot of big fish, but the 4wt performed its duties quite nicely as well. Here are a few fish hooked with the Q Rods. [Photos of unused fish]

For a starter rod or a great all-purpose rod, the Q Rod Series is a super choice and it won't break the bank in the acquisition.

