

Dave's award **Live Test 2** New Gear How to use it Specimen Test

# MACH 2 IS A HIGH FLYER

**Second generation rod and reel combo is spot on**

**MACH 2 XT MATCH ROD (£59.99) & REEL (£51.99)**

**T**HE more I see of Shakespeare's Mach 1, 2 and 3 ranges of rods and reels, the more I like them.

The originals were good and sold well, but the second generation Mach XT range for 2010 is better.

The thought process behind this kit is a good one. Shakespeare has simply produced three ranges of rods and matching reels at three different price points to suit every anglers' pocket.

The very tasty Mach 3 XT rods and reels are the most expensive with match rods costing about £90 apiece and reels between £60 and £70-odd.

The Mach 2 XT range featured here have rods and reels priced around £60, and the Mach 1 XT rods are priced £35 to £40 with reels under £30.

I loved the Mach 3 XT match rod and reel when I tested them back in issue 226, and wondered how the cheaper Mach 2 XT gear would stack up against them.

The Mach 2 XT reel is pure 'eye candy' and, for me, the best looking reel in the range. My 0.35 'Match' model (RRP

£51.99) comes with three quality aluminium spools (two deep, one shallow), and both single and double handles so you have the option of fitting your personal preference.

Seven ball bearings deliver smooth transmission and decent cranking power while the multi-disc front drag is steady and relatively smooth.

My only criticism is that, on a couple of occasions during testing, the line caught under the raised line clip on the spool during casting. I've had this with the Mach 3 reels as well, so be warned!

The Mach 2 XT Match rod (RRP £59.99) is built to handle reel lines from 3lb-6lb with hooklengths down to 2lb, making it ideal for commercial pools or rivers.

It has a nice, clean 'tip to middle' action capable of stopping big match carp, yet it will handle silverfish duties as I found with a nice bag of 4oz-8oz roach plus a couple of hard-pulling bonus common carp during testing.

**Look out for a live test of the Mach 1 XT in next month's edition.**

**For further information log on to [www.purefishing.com](http://www.purefishing.com)**

**Model looks**  
The Mach 2 XT reel is the best looking in the range



**True test**  
A couple of hard-fighting common carp tested the rod's strength

**"It has a tip to middle action capable of stopping carp"**

**Mach 2 in detail**



**Smooth operator**  
Seven good quality bearings help the Mach 2 XT feel silky smooth



**Line clip**  
I had a couple of problems with the line clip on this reel and on the Mach 3 XT



**Finger reach**  
I haven't got the biggest hands but finger reach to the spool was fine



**Comfort**  
The reel foot and the rod's screw down reel seat were reasonably comfy

**'Got a question?'** Please email me at: [dave.woodmansey@bauermedia.co.uk](mailto:dave.woodmansey@bauermedia.co.uk) and my direct line is: 01733 395139