

ON TEST: MAVER CARP (FROM £29.99)

CARP ON THE CHEAP

Quality tackle at budget prices just gets better as shown by Maver's new entry Carp rod range, says Editor Kev Green

CATCHING a 10lb-plus carp is a landmark achievement that is getting easier to accomplish with every passing year.

As hundreds of man-made fisheries mature, the small carp originally stocked are rapidly growing into double-figure lumps that test tackle to the max.

This has led to much more carp gear being launched as many pleasure anglers gear up to cope with these specimens.

Of course, the cost of gearing up to catch bigger carp can be considerable, and with many anglers just looking to bag an occasional 'bonus' carp while they mainly target other species, budget-priced tackle is increasingly popular.

The latest entrant to this

Classy end caps are all the rage and the Maver Carp rods look suitably smart

crowded market is Maver Carp with a huge new range of luggage, terminal tackle, chairs and rods.

In this test I'm looking at the two entry-level rods in Maver's extensive range – the £29.99 Abyss and the £55 Genesis.

CHEAP BUT QUALITY

The £29.99 Maver Abyss is a great value rod which will be a hit with anglers on a budget.

Available in two test curves, 2.5lb and 2.75lb, I plumped for the stiffer version which offers the best marriage of casting performance and fish-playing subtlety.

During my test I caught several carp to double figures and I enjoyed each battle. While I had enough power to stop a fish running out of control, the rod maintained an absorbent, springy feel that stopped hook-pulls at the net.

It is pointless to quote what distance you can cast with this rod because your casting style, rather than the quality of the rod, will dictate how far a leger will fly.

However, as long as you don't overload

Both Maver Abyss and Maver Genesis offer a balance of power and 'give' for carp fishing



the rod by casting too big a weight (I used a 2.5oz leger with a very small PVA mesh bag), the Abyss is more than adequate for the vast majority of angling situations.

Decorated in tasteful graphics with lined rod rings, a line clip and a screw-fit reel seat, you get lots of rod for under £30.

As such, it's ideal for someone putting out a 'sleeper' rod for a bonus carp.

STEPPING UP IN CLASS

The next step up in the Maver Carp range is the Genesis, a five-rod range including three fishing tools (2.5lb, 2.75lb and 3lb test curves), plus spod and marker rods.

I opted to use the best all-

rounder, the 2.75lb model, sporting a £55 price tag.

Having used several rods in this price bracket, the Genesis does face stiff competition, but this rod makes a good fist of facing up to the market leaders.

Once again, Maver has resisted producing a garish rod, opting instead for minimalist graphics, an attractive reel seat, SiC-lined rings and a classy metal end cap.

Beyond the cosmetics, the carbon blank is nicely responsive, enjoys excellent casting performance and has plenty of 'give' needed for playing fish under the tip.

I found a 2.5oz leger was the best casting weight when used with a rig carrying a one-inch

long PVA mesh bag. If you use PVA bags a lot, as I do, always bear this in mind before you commit to buying.

A tackle dealer should let you attach a reel, run line through the guides and tie on a PVA-loaded rig so that you can get a true feel for a rod's performance.

As soon as I started using the Genesis I felt it was well suited to my preferred style of mini PVA bag fishing.

The Genesis is a good quality rod that'll do a good job for the majority of commercial water carpers, and for under £60 it represents solid value for money.

● For Maver Carp stockists call 01527 406300

IYCF Editor Kev Green caught carp to double figures when he fished the Maver Carp rods for the first time



VENUE FACT FILE

Kev tested the Maver Carp rods at Fields End Fishery, near Daddington, March, Cambs PE15 0TY. Contact Charlie or Viccy on 01354 740373 or visit www.fieldsendfishery.co.uk

UP CLOSE: A LOOK AT SOME OF THE FEATURES...



SiC-lined rings are a mark of the quality on offer in Maver's new Carp range



Understated, minimalist graphics always add a touch of class to a rod



Genesis screw-down reel seat looks high-tech



Joints between Genesis sections look tough and hard-wearing

