

Redington CPX 13384 rod



Redington's CPX 13' 3" #8 Spey rod - a class outfit at a great price

For 2009 Redington has introduced a range of mid priced spey rods called CPX (Core Performance X). These rods are split into two types; Switch & Spey. The Switch rods all retail at \$349, while the Spey rods have a retail price of \$399. There are four rods in each series.

The day I received the series from the folks at Redington (to rate for the RIO web site), I was blessed with a calm day with temperatures in the mid 50's – rare indeed for this part of Idaho in late November - so it was straight down to the casting pond for a preliminary trial.

I cast all eight rods with Skagit lines, PowerSpeys, AFS heads and WindCutters, looking for a rod to take to the Deschutes with me that weekend. The Switch rods were nice, very nice, but the pick of the bunch was the 13384 – a 13' 3", 4 piece rod, rated for a #8 line. It felt "right", so it came with me to the Deschutes.

I have to say that I was pleasantly surprised by the performance of this rod. Most casters who know my preferences know that I like the faster, lighter action rods and this is certainly one of those. It's not quite as perfect as the trusty two - Sage's Z-axis 8129 and the T&T 13ft #7 (3 piece), but it is still a very fine casting tool with slightly more flex than the aforementioned favorites – a fact that will make this a better rod for novice casters - and in that mid price point area that will find a good foothold in today's economy.

In addition to the initial practice on the casting ponds at the back of RIO, I fished this rod for two days on the Deschutes and used everything on it. For Skagit casting the best line is 550 grains, with 10ft to 12ft of T-14 and a 5ft cheater – a great combination, for sure. I liked the 7/8/9 WindCutter for a "mid-belly" line and the 7/8 PowerSpey for a "long-belly" line, though I would call these lines the 'A' rating and casters could use one size heavier in each case without a problem. However, the pick of the litter was the 7/8 AFS head. I fished the floating, S1 (hover) and S4 (fast sinking) heads on the Deschutes with a variety of 10 ft VersiLeaders and it handled them all and with exceptional ease. There is enough flex and power to roll up and launch the fast sinking head with faster sinking VersiLeaders and big flies, yet with enough speed in the tip to cast the most wonderful loops. What a great combination!

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Summary



"A neat idea - a small hole in the reel seat that serves as a hook retainer"

Definitely the nicest mid priced Spey rod I have ever cast in the 12ft to 14ft length. The cosmetics are fairly good, not brilliant - what you would expect on a rod of this price. I don't know whose idea it was, but one feature I have never seen on a spey rod before was a clever little hole on either side of the reel seat for holding flies.

Rating

Action: 5 ½ out of 6

Cosmetics: 5 out of 6

Overall: 9 out of 10

Line Rating: WindCutter A: 7/8/9, B: 8/9/10, PowerSpey A: 7/8, B: 8/9, Skagit: 550, AFS: 7/8

Best Line: AFS 7/8

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