

New tackle

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

SNOWBEE SFT NEOPRENE SOCKS, £23

2 A DRAWBACK with conventional neoprene socks can be their bulkiness. But that's not an issue with these ultra lightweight versions that will keep your feet warm and dry all day long. Made from a four-way stretch 1mm neoprene, fusion technology has been applied to weld the seams, which are then sealed with a highly elastic tape for 100 percent waterproofing. As there are no seams they are incredibly comfortable. The inside surface is almost silky to the touch and makes fitting very easy, even with sweaty or damp feet. Available in S, M, L and XL.

Verdict: Super light and very warm
Contact: www.snowbee.co.uk



TROUT FISHERMAN | 7 PAGE GEAR SECTION

LOOMIS BACKING, FROM £14.99

3 THIS very fine diameter braided Dacron is available in 20lb (£14.99) and 30lb (£16.99) versions, which are supplied on two connected 100 metre spools. Or if you need more backing, to pack out a larger reel for example, you can buy a 300 metre spool of 30lb backing at £22.99. The 20lb is fine enough for a nail knot or attached loop to loop or grinner knot to a rear braided loop. It has a two-tone colour of dull orange and black.

Verdict: Very strong and fine
Contact: www.shimano-eu.com



Loomis backing comes on two 100 metre connected spools, or a larger 300 metre spool.

GREYS PLATINUM REEL CASE, £24.99

4 MEASURING 35 x 12 x 13.5cm this padded case, with its trademark bright orange lining, will comfortably house five 7/9wt reels or one reel and seven cassette spools. This is achieved by moving the four padded Velcro dividers to fit your individual requirements. Additional storage for accessories is provided in the lid and in a padded swing-leaf. The case has a carry handle and a padded, adjustable and detachable shoulder strap.

Verdict: Total protection for delicate reels
Contact: www.greysfishing.com



COMP-LITE FLY BOXES, £9.99 - £14.99

5 SLOTTED foam fly boxes seem to be all the rage at the moment and the Comp-Lite is the latest offering from the Richard Wheatley Company.

Two boxes were sent in for review, the 9401 with slot foam in the base and lid is capable of holding 240 flies, while the 9402 that has the addition of a swing-leaf can hold 480 flies. The foam will easily take patterns from size 10 down to 20. The boxes are made from a tough, lightweight polypropylene giving them strength without weight, and measure 125 x 92 x 32mm, ideal for storing in a jacket or waistcoat pocket.

Quality of materials, workmanship and finish is of a very high standard.

Verdict: Great price for a cracking product
Contact: www.richardwheatley.com



DEER CREEK FIREWORKS BRAID £1.99

6 THIS non-tarnish, reflective flat braid has a variety of uses including shellbacks, bodies, tails, wings, throat hackles and wing posts, to name but a few. It is 3mm wide so is small enough for many trout patterns and it comes in six colours: shimmer yellow, pearl, black, red, gold and silver, with hints of pearlescent, translucent or metallic filaments. These are mixed with fine supporting fibres to give the material durability. It is very easy to work with and I would like to see more colours added to the range.

Verdict: Versatile, easy to use
Contact: www.deercreek.co.uk

Hundreds of flies can be stored in these quality, well-designed fly boxes.