

Flyfishing

& TYING JOURNAL

SUMMER 2015

Product Reviews

Preston Singletary



Wm. Salter & Grandson Tribute Fly Reel

I've been following the development of this reel for over a year now and am happy to say that my expectations have been exceeded. This handsome reel has been designed and is being manufactured in England and in the tradition of Hardy, Young, Farlow, Dingley and others, manages to combine the best features of modern production techniques with the good looks, durability and classical appearance of many of the iconic British reels still sought after by discriminating anglers and collectors of fine-quality reels. The name, "Tribute", is meant to represent just that, a tribute to over a century of the manufacture of high-quality fly reels in Redditch and this reel is certainly worthy of that appellation.

The full-cage reel features a 3 3/16-inch-diameter spool with a 2-inch-diameter arbor, making it not a large-, but a mid-arbor, and with a width of 1 1/8 inches, a reel suitable for a 4- or 5- weight line with 25-50 yards of backing and, thus, the ideal size for a trout reel. The reel is fully machined from a billet of hard aluminum alloy and tips the scale at 4.9 ounces. Its graphite-colored, hard-anodized finish is set off with solid, polished naval brass highlights and a hard, simulated-horn handle (unusual and described as

"Salter-shaped") and it would be difficult to imagine a more attractive combination. The dual spring-and-pawl mechanism is readily converted from right- to left-hand wind and offers an adjustable check with a moderate but positive range of resistance, while a palming rim offers all of the additional fish-fighting friction that could possibly be desired.

Outside of the Hardy works in Alnwick, there is no town more closely associated with the production of fine fishing tackle, especially fly reels, than Redditch in Warwickshire, and the Tribute has upheld that proud tradition in an outstanding manner. The first production run of the Tribute has been completed and, after allocation to magazines and other media outlets, the remainder is available for purchase (I was assured that I received the first one to reach these shores). The first full-scale production run will be completed and available by the time you read this review. The reel is available from the Wm. Salter & Grandson website: www.wmsalter.co.uk/reels.htm. The price is \$440.92 (at the current exchange rate), plus insurance and shipping which, to mainland USA, is \$41.25 (via UPS) or \$26.90 (via Royal Mail). \$467.82 - \$482.17 (including insurance and shipping).

