



Hollander Cutthroat Trout

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Model Cutthroat Trout—Frame diameter 3.42 inches, spool diameter 9.96", spool width .92", weight five ounces. Price: \$400, serial numbered, boxed, reel pouch and tools included. Spare spools \$70 each.

The large-diameter Model Cutthroat Trout reel is suitable for freshwater or light saltwater angling, with a maximum capacity of a WF9F line plus 115 yards of 18-pound backing. The Cutthroat also accommodates a DT7F line with 75 yards of 18-pound backing. Smaller lines fit this reel with correspondingly larger amounts of backing. According to reelmaker William Hollander, installation of the maximum line/backing combination still leaves a $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch clearance between the line and spool rim.

Two spools, either ventilated or nonventilated, are available. The solid-flange, nonventilated spool is suggested for steelhead and heavier fish. The ventilated spool is unique, with pie-shaped ventilation slots instead of round ventilation holes. By varying the size of the ventilation slots, Hollander can balance the spool without adding a counterweight. The smallest slots are 180 degrees from the handle to offset the weight of the handle on the opposite side of the spool.

The reel has a unique latching system that allows easy release and change of spools, even when wearing

heavy gloves. The heart of this system is the hexagonal spindle, that rotates on two precision, sealed ball bearings. A hex-shaped hole in the spool is keyed to the shape of the spindle, and a matching hex-shaped latch with a large lip (mounted at the end of the spindle) need be twisted only 30 degrees to fasten or release the spool. The large lip on the latch knob can be gripped easily by gloved fingers.

The Cutthroat has an unusual brake and drag-control combination. The brake and drag controls are incorporated into a single, rim-mounted concentric button and knob arrangement that rotates in a beryllium-copper bearing. This knob is twisted to adjust the drag (which has a quiet click), and it also applies braking when depressed. The angler encounters only one quarter of the drag resistance as he reels in, regardless of the drag setting. With heavy drag settings, this pressure can be significant, and I would prefer to have a light setting that remains constant regardless of how the drag is adjusted.

Braking is available by pressing on the drag/brake button, and the degree of braking is proportional to the amount of pressure applied to the button. The brake shoe is made of Dupont Vespel®, a polyimide-resin aerospace material, and there is no play in the braking system because the shoe always engages the brake rim. With this design, it seems difficult to maintain heavy brake pressure, and it might be uncomfortable to apply continuous pressure during an extended fight with a big fish because you must keep working the $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch brake button with a finger tip.

Internally, the Hollander has totally protected stainless-steel spindle bearings. It has a stainless-steel-roller line guide, anodized, machined spool and frame, and a titanium-alloy reel foot—all of which are expected in a fine reel like this. Overall, the William Hollander Model Cutthroat Trout reel is excellent.