



Travel rods on test: (from left to right): Agutter built cane; Scott STS; Shakespeare Expedition; Scott RG845, Orvis HLS.

Agutter

Travel rod 9 ft number 6/7 (4-piece)

This built cane rod is obviously much heavier than the modern graphite models considered previously. Whilst not a distance caster, and possessing a very slow action, we were reminded that where close-up presentation and turnover is concerned cane still takes some beating (!). This model flicked out flies very nicely indeed with little effort, it was only when a longer cast was required that the wrist starts to complain, and the wide loop on casting across a wind destroys the accuracy. Mends and reach casts were very easy to effect, and the caster has ample time to make his delivery due to the lazy action.

The aesthetics of cane are hard to ignore, as is the inlaid handle, but the weight of the blank and bulk of the handle would make the muscles scream on a long day on the river. This rod shows that cane, however, can still present a fly sweetly - and that's a fact not to be ignored.

Finish and fittings: Built spilt cane blank with full Wells cork handle with a 'rope' inlay, Bronze finish on brass screw reel-fitting. **Price:** £150