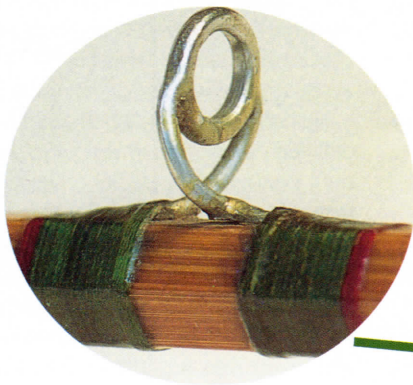
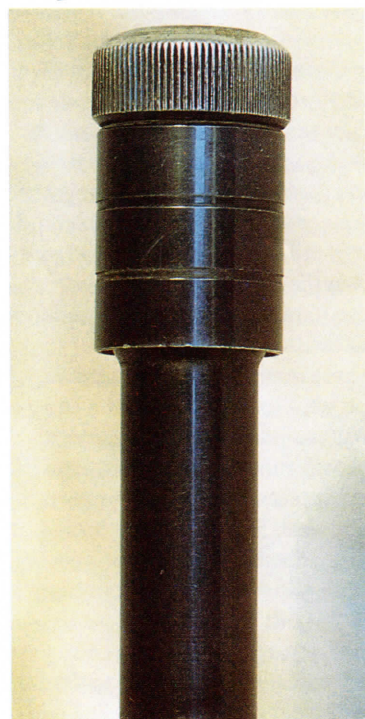
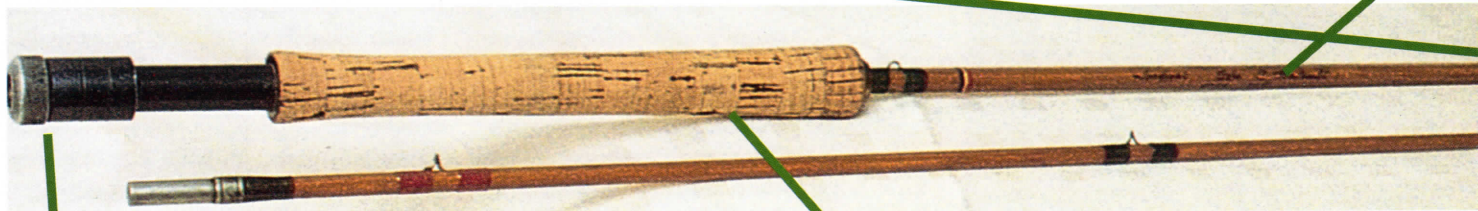


# WHAT TO LOOK

Agate/glass lined butt and tip rings should be checked for cracks or chips to the liner. Check all intermediate rings for signs of rust or damage. Rings can be cleaned with fine wire wool but severely pitted or rusted rings will affect casting distance dramatically, and will quickly damage even modern plastic-coated lines.



Many split-cane rods are bought at auction today, not to put away in a cupboard or on a wall, but to fish with. There is a huge pleasure in using cane that you will not get from carbon or graphite. But you can pay heavily for the privilege, and it's easy to buy a rod that looks nice, but has serious faults. First, establish that the rod you are considering conforms to your needs. Trade catalogues will give an indication of action and line weight. Otherwise, set up the rod and give it a cast or two, but remember, flicking a rod in an auction house gives a different indication of action to loading a rod with a line and casting from the river bank. The most expensive rods at the moment are the lighter trout rods by names like Hardy, Thomas or Pezon et Michel (pictured). But you can still buy some excellent cane rods which lack a famous name, and save a lot of money!



Carefully check reel fittings and butt cap for signs of wear or damage, and in the case of alloy fittings, for hairline splits and corrosion. Screw grip fittings should be checked for free movement.

Cork handles can easily be cleaned with fine wire wool, so do not be put off by a discoloured handle. But look for signs of filler on the cork, as this usually indicates excessive use, and the filler has a tendency to work loose after a time.

Ferrules should be joined and the rod checked to see there is no "slapping" of the joint while casting. This is an indication of extensive use and such rods are best avoided.

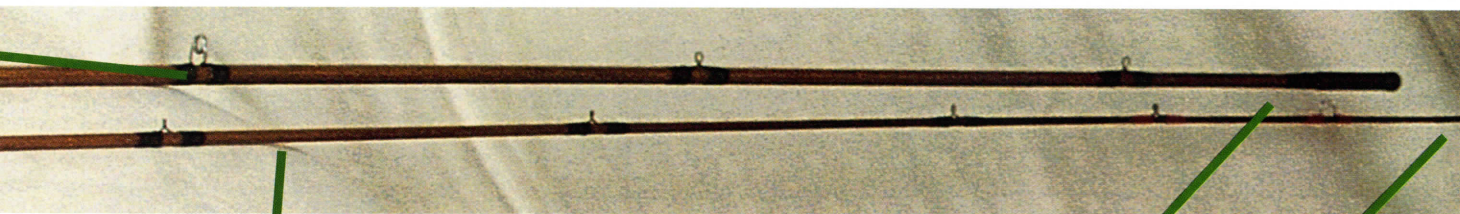




# FOR IN A CANE ROD



Ideally, you are looking to buy a rod in original factory condition. Look closely at the make and model details, which are usually located just above the handle. If there is a difference in colour between the varnish over the details and the rest of the rod, then it is likely that the rod has been revarnished at some point. This does not affect its action but will detract from its value slightly.



Before proceeding with any other checks, make sure the rod is straight and true. A "set" will indicate that it has been used extensively or badly stored, and a bend in cane cannot easily be removed. Perhaps the most important check is the condition of the cane itself. Check the full length for vertical splitting. This will be seen along the edges of the hexagonal joins and will show as a thin black line. Put a slight bend in the rod to see if the split expands. If it does, leave the rod alone. The cost of rebuilding will exceed the value. Measure sections. When a tip is broken in the last few inches, it can often be shortened successfully. This will not unduly affect the rod's action but will have a detrimental effect on its investment value.



Look for signs of silk re-whipping or splicing, as here, where whipping colours are different. Usually such repairs are found in the tip section and can considerably affect the action. The varnished finish and silk whippings are the most likely areas to require attention. An extensively crazed or tacky finish to the varnish will indicate poor storage, which may have affected the cane. Whippings can be easily repaired/replaced, but if they are extensively worn and damaged, then it is again likely that the rod has been heavily used.

