

Aleka A6 rod

£169.99-£189.99

THESE SALTWATER rods are 9 ft long, made in four pieces and in four sizes: 8, 9, 10 or 12-weight. They obviously have a use in the tropics, but the 8-weight may play a role closer to home with coastal bass sport and pike fishing on the chalkstreams and reservoirs – two branches of fly-fishing that have grown in popularity over the past five years. Perhaps this is the year that you try something different from trout and salmon?

We can't fault the rods' finish. Metallic-blue blanks and reliable anodized black reel seats. The full wells handles and fighting butts grow longer as line weight increases. The 12-weight A6 has a double-wells handle and long fighting butt, which enables you to cast single-handed and fight double-handed. The rods



**A faultless finish
and easy action.**

are very light in the hand and it is a pleasure to hold them. But how do they cast?

We tried the 8-weight. It has a middle-to-tip action, flexing more through the blank than the fastest rods. You can deliver a fly on the button without much effort. Tip recovery is not the fastest, but it is still a good rod. Get

the right line on it, with the taper to turn over bigger flies, and it will work very well.

T&S publishes only recommended retail prices, as a benchmark, but Aleka rods seem always to be discounted and their "true" price – however that is defined – is hard to nail down. The A6 range is currently £119.99-£139.99, which is very good value.

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