

Freespool at its finest

You won't find a better freespool reel under £100 than the Daiwa Emcast



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DAIWA EMCAST BR REELS RRP £99.99

YOU'RE looking at one of the finest sub-£100 freespool specialist/big-fish reels on the market.

Daiwa's latest Emcast BR marries the company's legendary power and technical excellence with elegant good looks to deliver a stunning reel for the accessible asking price.

There are four sizes from the smallest BR3500A (capacity 200m of 12lb mono) to the largest BR5000A (310m of 14lb).

This spread of sizes covers a wide range of tasks from long-cast float and feeder work on big commercials, lakes, pits and reservoirs to big-river chub and barbel duties, as well as specimen carp/pike/zander sessions at all but extreme range.

All the smart and sophisticated reels boast eight ball bearings and two high-quality drilled metal spools, and a retrieve ratio of 4.6:1 that brings back big leads and feeders with a steady but powerful cranking rate.

The reels also come as standard with both a single and double reel handle to suit your style of fishing.

I chose to field test the BR4000A model with a capacity of 240m of 12lb line.

I think this mid-size model will be a big seller because of the wide scope of duties it can perform.

It's a bit bigger than the standard 4000-size reels I've got used to over the years, but it's not so big that you couldn't use it loaded with 10lb line for belting out Method feeders on the commercials, or 8lb mono and big maggot feeders to chuck clear across the Tent or Severn.

I loaded mine with 12lb mono and headed for a local 'runs' water where feisty,

hard-scraping common and mirror carp weighing between 8lb and 18lb readily pull your string.

Straight out of the box both my test reel spooled up perfectly without a single ripple or bump. That great line lay immediately translated into long, smooth distance casts and, even under high-pressure retrieves, the line didn't bed in at all.

I play a lot of big fish by backwinding, rather than trusting suspect clutch mechanisms, but the front drag on this Emcast is beyond fault and can be micro-adjusted to slip precisely when required.

Daiwa's Bite 'n' Run (BR) mechanism is positive on savage takes and clicks back into gear the moment you turn the handle.

Add Daiwa Twistbuster anti line twist technology and Castlock to prevent potentially lethal bail arm failure when you're going for the big cast, and you've got a top notch bit of kit for under £100. I love 'em!
www.daiwasports.co.uk

Dave's verdict

A very impressive smooth-running reel, which has to be destined to become a best-seller for a wide range of anglers.

Emcast BR features:



The front-drag system is a little gem that won't ever let you down and line-lay is outstanding



The line clip is well designed and the semi-soft material won't damage your monofilament



Unscrewing the knurled nut enables you to swap the handle from left to right operation



The Bait Runner mechanism is positive



You get both single and double handles

Freespool line tension can be adjusted



A total of two good quality metal spools are included