

I've recently decided to try some new reels, which ironically, take me back to a company I relied on for years, around the turn of the century. When I fished Troutmasters tournaments and started out in the guide business, I used Lew's BB1NSW reels. I loved several aspects of their performance, including their impressive durability. Eventually, I realized they simply weighed too much to serve me admirably, and I moved on to lighter equipment.

In the fifteen years which have since elapsed, the Lew's brand has died and been resurrected. Now, they offer several models of baitcasting reels designed specifically for coastal inshore fishing with artificial lures. I received my first one of these in the mailbox today.

My Lew's Speed Spool LFS SSG1S has the low gear ratio I like and weighs in at a moderate 7.0 ounces. Significantly, the price tag for the piece of equipment reads just \$84, a drop in the bucket compared to what one can spend for a reel these days. And this isn't my "preferred" price, one I'd get because of my place in the industry, this is the price anyone could get online.

Of course, this model isn't designed specifically with coastal duty in mind, so it might not hold up well in the hypersaline environment in which I make my living. I also intend to try one of their Inshore Series reels, some of which weigh in under 6 ounces, and still fetch low prices, compared with similar products offered by other companies.

Stay tuned to the blogs page of this site for my comments and observations related to the new Lew's reels. I'm hoping I can form a new, lasting bond with a company which feels like an old friend to me.