

Centre-less reel

If you believe reels are simply line holders look away now! The Blackwater2 4/6 reel is simply lovely; it feels, looks and sounds great!

Markus Rohrbach, the engineer behind this reel, wanted a centre-less reel – no central axle or big wheels in the middle. I guess the desire to get rid of the centre is driven both by engineering curiosity and a desire for a lighter, large arbor reel.

The Blackwater is made of a frame and spool. Duh! Markus has machined a channel into the both ends of the spool – six small stainless steel roller bearing fitted to the frame hold the spool in place and allow it to turn and a roller/cam rolls and clicks against the notched outer rim of the channel to provide both an audible click and tension. Tension applies in both directions and spools are not interchangeable (without a screwdriver and lots of confidence or stupidity!)

This is a small, light (98g or 3oz) reel intended for light rods and lines, typically a floating line. Set up like that I doubt there is any need at all for more spools. The spool has a broad, flat, fully exposed lip – ideal for finger or palm control. The Blackwater has no drag, so the check has been set to stop over-run and provides some tension when a fish is running - again that suits the type of river and stream trout-fishing I would expect to use this for.

Looking at craft and finish, the Blackwater is built to the very highest standard. The finished reel is simple and functional and all the components – stainless steel and anodised alloy – are built to last – which will probably worry collectors not one bit!



- **Price** 358 Euros (approx. £240)
- **Contact** Markus Rohrbach
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