

TOP RATED CATEGORIES: EASE OF USE, DESIGN, EFFECTIVENESS PRICE: \$49.99 OVERALL RATING: 8.3



## Shakespeare E-Z Cast Combo

The E-Z Cast reel's Anti-Backlash System (ABS) automatically throttles down the spool during a cast, preventing an overrun. This gives novice anglers confidence using a baitcasting reel; later, the ABS can be turned off for standard casting. This combo joins the E-Z Cast to a 6-foot medium-power rod. Contact Shakespeare at (800) 466-5643; shakespeare-fishing.com.

**Brad Kolling, Provo, UT:** "I like the reel design because it helps teach inexperienced anglers to use a baitcaster correctly. My 4-year-old now has a rod-and-reel she can cast."  
**Tyler Smith, Chesapeake, VA:** "This combo is easy to cast and well-balanced."

TOP RATED CATEGORIES: EASE OF USE, QUALITY, ACTION PRICE: \$9.99 OVERALL RATING: 8.0

## Strike Pro Hunchback

The Strike Pro Hunchback wakebait runs about a half-inch below the surface and creates a walk-the-dog action on a straight retrieve. The bait features loud rattles and Owner wide-gap hooks, and it is available in 19 colors. Contact Strike Pro America at (409) 938-7400; strikeprolures.com.



**Ed DeMichele, Gordon, TX:** "I was amazed at the lifelike action! It's the best-designed lure I've used."  
**Todd Ernst, Okeechobee, FL:** "On my first cast, I caught a fish while this lure just sat on the surface. The bass went crazy for it on the retrieve. The Hunchback is also simple to use—just cast, then crank it in."

TOP RATED CATEGORIES: EASE OF USE, QUALITY, APPEARANCE PRICE: \$29.99 OVERALL RATING: 8.4



## ThermaCell Outdoor Lantern

This lantern provides up to 98 percent protection from mosquitoes, black flies and no-see-ums within a 15x15-foot area while casting light to perform fishing tasks. A butane cartridge heats a replaceable repellent mat, which emits a synthetic copy of a natural insecticide. The lightweight lantern, powered by four AA batteries, features two illumination settings and eight long-lasting LED lights. Contact ThermoCell at (866) 753-3837; thermacell.com.

**Tracy Como, Stow, MA:** "I recommend this product to everyone! I came home from a fishing trip without a single insect bite!"  
**Harold Clarkson, Huntington, VT:** "I used the lantern out on my deck where there were a lot of black flies—within five minutes, they were all gone. I have never found an insect repellent product that worked as good and as fast as this. I highly recommend it."

TOP RATED CATEGORIES: APPEARANCE, QUALITY, ACTION PRICE: \$4.49 OVERALL RATING: 9.0

## Berkley Flicker Shad

The Berkley Flicker Shad features an internal weight-transfer system that allows the lure to be cast long distances and gives it a unique swimming action that mimics a fleeing baitfish. The Flicker Shad features Mustad Ultra Point treble hooks and is available in two sizes and 12 colors. Contact Berkley at (800) 237-5539; berkley-fishing.com.



**Darryl Collins, Muncie, IN:** "The Flicker Shad is an excellent trolling bait. It tracks true and dives deep."  
**Robert Sherrie, Littleton, CO:** "I cast and trolled this lure and found it has a very good action. Even though I fished it in tough, late-season conditions, the bait caught several different species of fish. Slow-trolling seems especially effective."