

G.Loomis Shakyhead 822S GLX 6' 10"

Review by ABQ Sportfishing

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According to *Bassmaster* (November 2008) the preferred technique of touring pros for putting fish in the boat during 2008 was overwhelmingly the shakyhead. As some of you know locally, our own Bryan Talmadge had his share of this technique the past two years as a coangler (soon to be boater) on tour. This is his go-to technique also when the bites are few and far between. Ahead of the curve, always on the leading edge, G.Loomis was one of the first to introduce a technique specific Shakyhead stick at ICAST 2006. We've been fishing one of the original SHR822S which was a blend of IMX and GL3 over the last year. G.Loomis just recently introduced two new rods to its lineup at ICAST 2008, a GLX spinning and a casting version of the existing two power rod. When the GLX version of this rod was available, we ordered it...Recoil guides, lighter blank and all the power of the standard SHR822S, how could we go wrong. They now offer a total of four Shakyhead rods.

Looking for an incredibly light, powerful and insanely sensitive rod...this is it! The difference in weight between the already light 822 and the GLX 822 is not that significant at the scales but if you have used a GLX rod and compared it to a Mossy or GL3 in the same configuration, the reduced weight is appreciated. The RECOIL guides (included on most GLX rods) are nothing short of spectacular...they are virtually indestructible and incredibly lightweight. RECOIL guides are made from an extremely hard but flexible "Shape Memory" alloy, which does not require plating, cannot corrode in any environment, and returns or "RECOILs" to its original shape after repeated deformations. No more bent eyelets coming in or out of the rod locker.

We paired our rod with a Shimano Stradic 2500MgF spooled with the new [Fireline Tracer Braid](#) (the jury is still out on this line so the reel may see [Power Pro](#) or [Spiderwire Stealth](#) again soon). There is a great [review](#) on the Stradic at Tackletour.com if anyone is interested in learning more about the reel. We use an 8'-10' [Berkley Trilene 100% Pure Fluorocarbon](#) leader attached to our superline in 6# or 8# depending on water clarity and structure. IF we are fishing in or around really thick cover we will even go up to 10# or 12# leader. There are several reasons we have gone back to braid for our mainline on dropshot or shakyhead presentations. Handling, increased sensitivity at longer distances, the ability to use lighter jigs or weights and overall performance compared to a full fluorocarbon setup.

Back to the important stuff...how does the rod perform?! Nothing short of everything you could ask for out of a rod. You want to fish 1/16th ounce Shakyhead jigs at depths up to 30 feet for angry bass...big and not so big...this is the rod. The tip sensitivity is unmatched...period. The rod loads up nicely in the top third or so and has a ton of backbone to horse larger fish out of deep

haunts or heavy cover. We have tried several different shakthead models and brands...several others will perform well initially...but they lack the backbone and load at the right places for playing larger fish. If they do have more "backbone" they sacrifice weight or sensitivity in achieving that strength. Also, once you get a fish close to the boat, other rods lack the power to control the fish into the net...that is not the case with the SHR822S from G.Loomis. Once the fish is close, you have all the "rod" you need to lead them into the net...never sacrificing sensitivity.

The action of the blank as it loads for a cast is perfect, even for baits at either end of the rods stated lure weight range (or a little outside of it). Our preferred bait is an Owner Ultrahead shakthead jig with a Roboworm 6" FAT Straight Tail or Zoom Trickworm. The reason we prefer the Owner is the Twistlock CPS or Centering-Pin-System. We've tried a lot of shakthead jigs out there and none are as easy to rig and Owner's hook quality is excellent.

You can find all of these items in Albuquerque, NM at Charlie's Sporting Goods or follow the hyperlinks above to find a dealer near you.

Last, G.Loomis's no fault no hassle replacement program is almost too good to be true. It should be pointed out, however, that this is different than an actual warranty where a rod is replaced due to manufacturer defect or poor workmanship. G.Loomis's replacement program saves you the hassle of going through the claim and inspection process by providing you with a quick way to get back out on the water all for a nominal fee.

