ABU 999 service



There are numerous two speed multipliers and lever drag reels around, but this is the first three speed spinning reel that I am aware of. It is a very solid old reel and even now it is quite unique in that it is a three speed-the ABU 999 must have been cutting edge technology when it first came out.



Remove the handle by winding backwards. Then remove the right side plate-it is held in place with one screw. Remove the screws that hold the oscillating arm to the main shaft and the main gear.



Remove the oscillating arm and the main shaft. The drag washer on the main shaft (above the click wheel) will need to be cleaned.



To remove the main gear you will need to remove the screw on the left side plate. The main gear can then be removed from the body. This is the heart of the reel-behind the brass main gear are three stainless steel gears. One of these gears meshes with a gear at the end of the handle shaft (pictured in the side plate). The position of the handle shaft (i.e. distance from the side plate) determines which of the three gears is engaged. This design works because the handle shaft is slightly off centre-such a simple and ingenious design.



Before reassembly give everything a thorough clean. Apply a light coat of oil to the main shaft and replace in the reel body. Add oil to the friction surfaces on the pinion gear where it contacts the bushings. Add a drop of oil to the friction surfaces on the anti reverse switch. Apply a light coat of grease to the teeth of the pinion gear and the ratio selector gear.



Apply grease to the teeth of the main gear and the three stainless gears behind it. Oil the shaft of the main gear and replace in the body. Fix in place with the washer and screw. Replace the oscillating arm and fix in place with the two screws (one on the main shaft and one on the main gear). Apply a light coat of grease where the oscillating arm contacts the main gear.



To change the gear ratio, simply pull out the green collar and turn. Each gear ratio will click and lock in place. There are three different speeds available as shown in the above photos. To oil the shaft for the selector gear put in position three-note there is a slight gap under the green collar where you can place a drop or two of oil.



Replace the left hand side plate and tighten the side plate screw. Add a drop of oil to the bail spring screw and you're done.

©Tim Parratt 2010