

ABU Diplomat 156 and Zebco Cardinal 156



The Zebco Cardinal 156 is Wayne's and the Diplomat 156 is mine. Mechanically these two reels are identical-apart from slightly different stickers and a different spool colour these reels are the same product. Also note that the Zebco has a name plate fixed to the reel whereas the Diplomat has a foil sticker.



The spool is removed by simply pressing the push button in the middle and lifting it off. Internally there are no differences apart from the fact that the Zebco does not have the holes in the drag plate. In addition in the Zebco you can see the studs used to fix on the name plate. Servicing is the same for both reels. Undo the screw for the drag knob and remove it.



Note the copper washer under the drag knob. The outer cork drag plate will fall out from the other side-note the spring. Remove the c-clip on the spool shaft and remove the components. They are laid out left to right=top to bottom; drag disc, plastic cam, spring, copper washer and c-clip. The other cork drag plate at the top of the photo sits under the metal drag disc-it is the last part to be removed from the reel body.



Give everything a thorough clean before reassembly. The cork drag plates can be lightly greased with drag grease. Use light oil on the other friction surfaces including the spool clicker. The spool clicker will need to be pushed out of the way before the metal drag disc can be replaced.

Replace the top cork drag plate and then replace the drag knob to hold it in place. Give the handle a drop of oil. Very simple and quick to service!

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