

Hi Wayne,

Very nice story on the pimpel rods! Unfortunately the winters here in Holland are no longer what they used to be, and ice fishing was never a big thing over here anyway - being limited to a few diehards with axes occasionally cutting holes in the ice to fish for roach. So pimpel rods were rarely sold over here. I do remember a few blokes using ABU Pimpel 2 rods in the 1970's for boat fishing for (smallish) cod with little pilkers. Just for the fun of it. This sometimes resulted in a sore or bleeding thumb, caused by braking the small red spool. They would boast just as much about their heroically injured thumbs as about the cod they caught!

Pimpel rods have a charming simplicity and effectiveness, I think. The first ones were made of wood, with a bend in the top to prevent the line from freezing to the rod, and a big hole in the top to let the line pass through, for the same icy reason. The thick square handles sometimes had a small compartment chiseled out, closed by a small wooden lid, to contain the small pirks or pimpel lures. I'll add some pictures of Swedish pimpel rods that preceded the fine ABU pimpels.



Pimpel rod from the 1930's or 1940's.



Three old hand carved pimpel rods and a modern one.



Two classic and attractive factory made wooden pimpel rods, the right one having a very graceful, simple and pleasant design.





Three pictures of a wooden Holma pimpel rod, with two pegs for winding the line on, one peg with a clip to secure the line and keep it from coiling off.

All the best!

-Hans van der Pauw- 2016-07