

THE WEEK'S BEST TACKLE

24
NEW
ITEMS
TESTED

BROWNING | IS BRITAIN
FLAGSHIP Z12 EVOLUTION
16M/17.5M?

READY FOR THE

PROTECTORS
Fitted with skid bungs, just slip your half sections into the pole and protect the Evolution Z12 from damage. This is yet another innovation that helps make this pole a stand-out product.

POLE SPECS



Top kits are supplied to your own choice.
BROWNING Z12 EVOLUTION.
SLK (Single Length Kits): Two-piece, all 2.6m long but with different tip diameters.
3mm - **Ultramatch**, for solid elastics up to No6;
3.9mm - **Match**, for solid elastics up to No12 and light hollows; 4.5mm - **Carp**, for solid elastics up to No16 and medium hollows; 5.5mm - **Carp XL**, for heavy, large-diameter hollows
Standard package: 16m Z12 pole; Section 5/6 Pole Protector; Section 7/8 Pole Protector; Section 9/10 Pole Protector (extends pole to 16.8m); 1x Power 3rd section; 1x Short D section; 8 SLKs in your choice of tip diameters; Tension or Standard Puller; SLK Cupping Kit and set of three cups; full-sized, top quality hard case holdall
Standard package price: RRP £2,499

Pole Protectors extend the length to 16.8m.
Z12 Professional package: Comprises 17.5m Z12 pole and 10x SLK top kits
Z12 Professional package price: £2,999



Browning's new elite pole – full of extras and a fantastic performer...

AN EVOLUTION IN POLE DESIGN

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To be fair, I had already seen the Z12 Evolution pole at Browning's German headquarters, and although at the time there was no doubt that it was a little bit special, I only gave it a quick once over. To evaluate it properly I needed to take it into the great outdoors.

My first impression was that it might be a little too radical for most match anglers. That said, the pole did have quite a few elements that I thought were pretty clever. Something that really sets it apart is the mixture of section lengths. The mid-sections of the pole are straightforward enough, although they have been made a bit shorter for added strength and stiffness. It is the 1.95m butt sections that really make you shake your head in disbelief. My

thought on first seeing them was: "How awkward will the pole be to get into the back of the motor?" But as soon as you start putting the pole together, believe me, you will forget all about the length of those sections. The Z12 has arrow-straight stiffness, which is matched with a total lack of strike recoil and shipping-out movement. This goes to make the Evolution arguably the most rigid pole on the market. If the amount of stiffness alone

does not impress you, then I guarantee what comes next will. The standard 16m pole package is supplied with no fewer than eight SLKs (single length kits) that are supplied pre-bushed, with a choice of four internal tip diameters ranging from 3mm up to 5.5mm. This allows you to choose your kits to suit your requirements - in other words there's no 'cutting back' of top kits and they're all exactly the same length. Brilliant!

EIGHT SLKs
The eight SLKs (Single Length Kits) come pre-bushed, with a choice of four internal tip diameters. This increases your elastic options with no need to cut back the kits, ensuring they're all the same length.

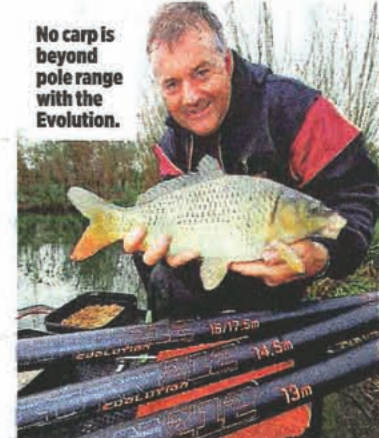
Another asset is the unique Browning Pole Protection System that protects section ends from damage. The three half-length sections fit into the 5th/6th, 7th/8th and 9th/10th section ends and are pre-fitted with fixed integral skid-bungs that give you the complete answer to protecting your pole, no matter at what length you are fishing it. This isn't all the feature-rich Evolution pole has going for it, however. There are carbon over-

wraps on both the male and female joints to resist premature wear and chipping; increased hoop strength at the joints that make it easy to unship while under pressure; a diamond surface finish with minimal graphic paints for easy 'non-stick' shipping; and section alignment arrows and numbers on all sections. Browning, it seems, has thought about everything. **To sum up...** Having spent a couple of hours using

the pole at its full length, I can report that in my opinion the Z12 Evolution may well be the best flagship pole currently available. It has the stiffness, tip speed, section wall strength, balance and speed of shipping that puts it up there with any flagship pole on the market. When you consider that it comes with eight top kits of your choice, plus the pole protection system that protects section ends from damage, Browning may after all have just launched the best pole in the world.



For such a long pole the rigidity is quite extraordinary.



No carp is beyond pole range with the Evolution.