

Tackle Live Test | **Maver Elite Plus 57 16m pole**

Tackle

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LIVE TEST

Tackle supremo **Mark Sawyer** takes a look at some of the latest gear to hit the market

THIS POLE WILL BECOME A LEGEND

The new Maver Elite Plus 57 16m pole is an awesome piece of kit that looks certain to set a new benchmark of excellence in matchfishing. But is it really worth its hefty £2,999 price tag?

AS promised a couple of weeks ago, here is the exclusive Angling Times lowdown on the top-of-the-range Maver Elite Plus 57 16m pole.

This brand new top-end piece of kit is undoubtedly the cherry on the cake of what is clearly an enviable range of Maver poles.

But, at a quid short of £3,000 (a sum that would equal a very good year's worth of match winnings), is it really worth the price? Just what could you expect if you were to invest your prize money in such an extravagant item of tackle? Well, I can't guarantee that it will win you more matches, but it certainly will help you on your way to extracting a few more of those all too elusive brown envelopes. It really is that good.

Let's start, though, at the beginning. There are subtle technical improvements over last year's flagship Elite 57. Maver, in conjunction with its Italian manufacturer Reglass, has shaved every last possible gram off the blank, producing a pole with a superior lightness and balanced handling.

At 13m, with the first decorated butt section in place, the Elite Plus 57 is awesomely light, weighing only 851g. And, as you would expect of any top-class pole being used at 13m, it is totally balanced and handles with that certain supremacy of ease that only top-end pieces of kit can achieve.

Although unquestionably superior when fished at 13m, it shouldn't necessarily be at this length that the pole wins your heart over. For me, it's when those two butt sections are fitted that really counts – and sorts out the wheat from the chaff.

Taking a pole from 14.5m to its full 16m without losing either the forward balance or

the overall rigidity, while retaining good tip speed and post-strike recovery rate, is the real clincher. This is where all premier poles should come into their own.

In my studied opinion, based on a lifetime's worth of handling poles, there are only half-a-dozen current models that really can cut the mustard at 16m – especially when you consider that flagship models should have a wide range of uses for their owners. In short, one good pole should do most things, while one great pole should do all things – whether it be commercial carping, fishing in deep lakes for skimmers, long lining on a river, or rat-holing on the canal.

I won't bore you with all the technological blurb that surrounds Nanolith construction, Sun Core finishes, Magic Step tips and the like, or the use of Super Lithium in the pole's production. Most, if not all, the models in the Maver Competition range boast these elements and have been written about by myself many times.

I would suspect that not everyone would agree about the effectiveness of these state-of-the-art advancements, but they all make a small percentage difference in the pole's overall ease of use.

Truth is, if you're looking to invest that amount of money in a pole, you more than likely already have a very sound working knowledge of the pole's tech-spec.

So let's have a much closer inspection of the joints on this nine-sectioned mandrel Elite Plus 57 to see just what it is that makes it so damn good.

We'll start at the tip-ends, where you have a choice of match top-3 kits or Power top-2 kits. The match tops are rated to No10 elastic and the power tops are rated to a 12/20



hollow elastic. Both styles of top measure just under 3m in length and there is no need to worry about cutting them back, as it will have little effect on the pole's overall length. The Elite Plus 57 actually measures slightly longer than stated.

The fourth joint is more than strong enough to cope with a hectic commercial bagging session, but if you have any worries you can replace it with the extra-strong short fourth that is supplied.

From the fifth joint down to the butt sections, overall wall strength is awesome thanks to the highest quality 60 tonne MSSJ aerospace carbon cloth that Reglass uses throughout the Elite Plus 57's construction.

This provides the pole with a supreme overall crispness and balance which blends perfectly with the strong butt sections.

The 14.5m and 16m sections are parallel, and will therefore accommodate extra sections if you feel the need to fish beyond 16m. The pole will certainly be up to the task!

And so to the live test...having removed the tip from the match kit, I fitted a Maver No5 Match This internal PTFE bush directly into the end of the second joint, followed swiftly by a couple of metres of solid No10 elastic.

Then it was off to the prolific Horseshoe Lake on the Decoy Fishery, near Peterborough, for a couple of hours of hopefully net-filling, elastic-stretching, tackle

testing with my new-found carbon friend.

Plumbing up at 16m, I found around 7ft of water and a nice even-bottomed lakebed. It was a little bit deeper than I had anticipated, so off came the 4x12 KC Carpa Chimp float, and on went a 4x16 model, fished straight through on 0.16mm line to a size 16 hook.

The rig was straightforward enough – a main bulk of No9 shot placed at three-quarters of the rig's depth and a single No9 dropper shot 15ins from the hook. Bait was a single grain of corn, with the hook buried inside it.

When I attached a Mega-Tip Toss-Pot for feeding purposes it did not affect the pole's overall balance in any way. The rig, and the pot containing the loosefeed, were shipped out to the 16m mark without a single grain of spillage – and without any mid-section wobble or gravity-affected tip problems.

As I suspected, the rigidity of the Elite Plus 57 makes for trouble-free shipping out, even when using single baits in an open pot.

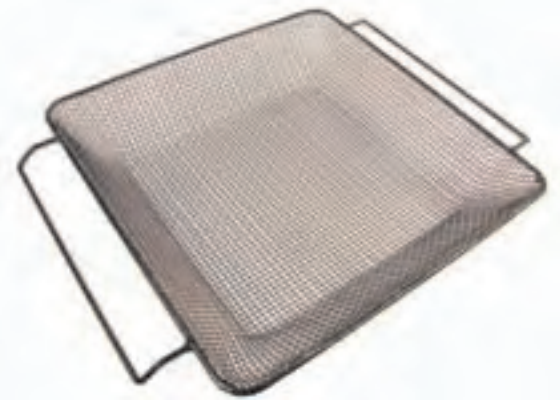
As soon as the 16m mark was reached I lifted the pole up slightly and sprinkled the contents of the pot around the main feeding area. This is something I always do, because I feel that emptying out the feed in too tight an area just leads to loads of liners and the inevitable foul-hooked fish.

Having total control over the pole at full length is essential when doing this task, otherwise you'll be spreading bait all over the



NO BEND
At full length the 16m Elite 57 remains stiff.

What I do now know, though, is that Maver has just produced what is clearly one of the premier poles of our time



WSB TACKLE MAGGOT RIDDLE

TOP-quality bait is a must-have, and something as simple as riddling your maggots to remove skins or dead grubs can make a massive difference. This riddle is ideal for the job because it is quite small and can easily be stored in your carryall until it is needed.

It also comes in really handy for turning your own casters, riddling small amounts of groundbait or dicing luncheon meat to create small cubes. The riddle measures 28cm by 28cm and has a black coating that will prevent it from rusting.

Price: £8.99

DYNAMITE BAIT'S SILVER X LIQUID ATTRACTANTS

THE Silver X Roach and Silver X Bream Liquid Attractants have been developed by Martin Bowler. They are made of Martin's tried and tested Liquid Attractants and Feeding Stimulants which have accounted for numerous big roach and bream hauls over the years.

They have been designed to attract fish into your swim and hold them there for longer, as well as triggering them into feeding.

The Bream flavouring has a very strong, sweet smell and taste which bream will find irresistible.

The Roach Liquid Attractant has a fruitier smell to it and a stronger flavour.

You get 250ml supplied inside a re-useable plastic bottle.

Price: £2.99 each



PRESTON INNOVATIONS INSULATED BAIT BAG

ONCE the weather starts to warm up you will really need one of these to keep your bait in tip-top condition. The Insulated Bait Bag has a large central capacity that will hold a large quantity of bait and bait tubs. This is sealed with a double zip.

There is also a pouch on the front of the bag which is ideal for keeping items that you want to keep free of the smell of the central compartment.

The Bait Bag has padded handles and a padded shoulder strap which makes it comfortable to carry on long walks.

Price: £16.99



place and more than likely aggravating the life out of your neighbours when grains of sweetcorn fall aimlessly from the sky and across their swims! As it was, there were no such worries with this pole. The forward balance and lightness make for short work and an effortless feeding technique.

First dip on the float and the pole reacted with a fluidity of movement that belied the fact it was being fished at its full 16m length.

Unfortunately the offending tip-dipper turned out to be a huge gonk, and I was left marvelling at how such a small fish can even attempt to stuff itself with a whole grain of corn that is clearly bigger than its own gob!

Still, it was a fish, and at 16m in some 7ft of water it was further testament to the pole's wonderful tip reaction speed. A fair few better sized fish did come my way before the biting cold eventually got the better of me.

What had I learned?

As I drove home I gave some thought to just how good this new Elite Plus 57 is.

It could well be the best pole ever produced, but that really is down to the buyer to ultimately decide. Would it suit all their needs? How much of an improvement would it be over their current existing pole?

Again these are questions only the buyer can answer. What I do now know, though, is that Maver has just produced what is clearly one of the premier poles of our time.

Verdict

Maver Elite Plus 57 16m

Owning this pole could well be likened to getting your first Scalextric track back when you were a kid. Basically you want to keep playing with it, refusing to put it away – even when it's well past your bedtime.

It's superbly balanced, incredibly stiff and has a whole host of great technical specifications.

Not only that, but the Elite Plus 57 is manufactured using the finest carbon cloth available to Reglass, and it will, I am sure, go on to become a legend of a pole.

Technical Information

Price: RRP £4,999.99 SSP £2,999.99
Package: 4 x power top-2 kits, 2 x Match top-4 kits, 2 x Match top-3 kits, Cupping Kit and cups, Deluxe pole bag, Clean Caps and Maver DVD
Spares: 16m extension £250, Power top-2 kit £69.99, Match top-3 kit £125, Half-metre extension £69.99

TOUGH TEST

The Elite 57 was more than a match for Decoy's small-carp stocks.

