

CARDINAL® SPINNING REEL INSTRUCTION MANUAL

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A. CONGRATULATIONS:

Thank you for purchasing one of the world's most advanced spinning reels. The combination of low profile design, ultra-lightweight materials and precision engineering makes Abu Garcia® THE choice for serious anglers around the globe. These reels are widely used by pros on the tournament circuit, guides, record seeking experts and anglers who demand the very best from their equipment. Rely on Abu Garcia® quality and dependability to keep the fun in fishing.

The following guide will explain how to get the most out of your new Cardinal® spinning reel. Each element is described by its name and function. Some features are not found on every reel model. Read these instructions carefully before using your reel to ensure a proper understanding of its operation.

B. COMPONENTS:

Include:

Bail wire	Handle Screw Cover	Handle Knob	Spool	Anti-Reverse Switch
Handle Assembly	Drag Knob	Line Clip	Stem	Handle Knob Cover



C. **THE CARDINAL® FAMILY OF REELS:**

The Cardinal® family of spinning reels offers smooth, hassle-free performance with a focus on dependability and value. The Cardinal® series includes the STX, SX and S.

D. **HOW TO FILL THE SPOOL WITH LINE**

All Cardinal® spinning reels are designed for monofilament, braid and fluorocarbon lines. Personal preference and fishing conditions will determine line selection.

Mono and Fluorocarbon lines

- 1) Attach reel to rod and pass the line through the rod guides. Lift up on the bail wire to open the bail. Secure the line to the reel using the spool axle knot. Pull line tight around reel spool.
- 2) Control the filler spool by inserting a pencil into the spool hub. While maintaining tension on the line, wind the reel handle and continue to fill with line to approximately 1/16" (1.5 mm) inside the upper lip of the reel spool. Do not overfill.

Braided Line

To prevent line slippage that may occur with braided line, it may be necessary to “back” the spool with a short length of monofilament line. Use the spool axle knot to attach monofilament to the spool. Fill the spool with approximately 5-10 yards of monofilament. Next, attach the braided line using a uni-to-uni or similar knot. Continue to fill the spool with braid as instructed above.

(Click the links to learn how to tie the [Arbor Knot](#) and the [Uni to Uni Knot](#).)

E. **HANDLE ASSEMBLY**

Your Cardinal® spinning reel can be configured for right or left handed operation. To convert, unscrew the handle by rotating the handle nut (opposite side of the handle) counterclockwise (left). Remove the handle nut and gently pull the handle out. Reinsert the handle into the opposite side of the reel. Screw the handle nut on the opposite side of the reel to complete the assembly.

F. **ANTI-REVERSE**

The anti-reverse feature prevents the rotor from turning backwards. To engage the anti-reverse feature, slide the switch to the “On” position. To turn off this feature, slide the lever in the

opposite direction. In the “Off” position, the rotor will turn both forward and backwards depending on what direction the handle is turned.

G. **DRAG ADJUSTMENT**

Control the amount of drag by turning the adjustment dial on the top of the spool. Rotate the dial clockwise (right) to increase drag or counterclockwise (left) to decrease drag.

For best results the drag should be adjusted to approximately one-third of the breaking test of the line being used with the exception of braided lines. This can be accomplished by tying the line to a spring scale for precise adjustment. Make sure the reel is first mounted on a rod and the line has been run through the rod guides before tying to the scale. The drag should always release before the line reaches its breaking point. Factors such as line type, technique and fishing conditions may require different settings. Any drag setting above half of the line strength risks line breakage.

If a spring scale is unavailable, tie the line to a secure point and engage the anti-reverse. With the rod tip up (about a 45 degree vertical angle), apply pressure by turning the handle. Gradually tighten the drag adjustment knob on the top of the spool. When the line approaches its breaking point, loosen the adjustment dial ¼ turn.

H. **REEL FUNCTION**

Basic Casting Technique – Capture the line between your forefinger and the rod. Open the bail arm on the reel. Bring the rod backward so the tip reaches a point above and behind the shoulder. Without stopping bring the rod back in front of the body in a single motion. Release the line as the rod is brought forward so that the lure is launched slightly upward and outward toward your target.

I. **MAINTENANCE**

As with any precision product, your Cardinal® reel will require regular maintenance. Gently rinse the reel with fresh water and wipe it dry with a soft cloth.

To keep your reel working at peak efficiency, clean and lubricate it often. At least once a season your reel should be disassembled for a thorough cleaning and re-lubrication. Refer to the exploded parts view supplied with your reel. Reel maintenance kits can be purchased at your local tackle store and include everything you need to properly service your reel. If you do not

wish to perform this work yourself any nearby [Abu Garcia Service Center](#) is fully qualified to do this for you.

J. **LIMITED WARRANTY**

ONE YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY (FOR USA AND CANADA ONLY)

This "limited warranty" has been drafted to comply with the Magnuson-Moss Warranty Federal Trade Commission Improvement Act which is effective for goods manufactured on or after December 31, 1976. For the period indicated, Abu Garcia will, at its option, repair or replace and return the covered items found to be defective in material or workmanship at no charge except for shipping cost. Abu Garcia will have no other obligation and will not be liable for incidental or consequential damages. Abu Garcia makes no implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for any period beyond the stated duration of each Limited Warranty. This Warranty does not cover damage by addition or alteration of the product, accidental damage or loss, abuse, failure to provide reasonable and necessary maintenance or normal expected wear. Damage that is determined to be of this nature will be repaired at consumer's expense. This Warranty does not extend to products which are put to commercial or rental use.

This Warranty extends only to the original purchaser of the reel, and does not give any rights to any other person. Some states do not allow exclusions of incidental or consequential damages or limitations of the duration implied warranties, so the above exclusion and limitation may not apply to you. This Warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may have other rights which vary from state to state. Do not send cash or checks to cover the cost of repair for products on which the Limited Warranty period has expired. Abu Garcia's Authorized Repair Centers will notify you of the amount due, including handling and shipping charges. Wholesalers and dealers (unless an Abu Garcia Authorized Center) are not authorized to make in-warranty repairs or adjustments on behalf of Abu Garcia. The terms of the Warranty cannot be changed except in writing by an officer of Abu Garcia. **Abu Garcia rods or reels requiring warranty repair should NOT be returned to the store of purchase.**

For information on where to send your products for service, [Click Here](#).