

n AT THE COAST WITH

THE GODFATHER OF THE BOMBARDA

Since the 90s, Martin Buch – the man behind the Inno Bombarda – has developed casting floats for coast flies. In actual fact, he was the first to manufacture and fish streamlined casting floats of varying density along the Danish coastline – long before the Southern European bombardra floats even made it to Denmark. We had a chat with him about the “snarl-proof” floats which have become increasingly popular.

By Lars Østergaard Jensen

Martin Buch with the most recent version of the Inno Bombarda - Inno Click.



This handsome 85cm and 6.65kg sea trout was caught by Thorbjörn Forsberg using the small Inno fly "Magnus Redtag" caught using an L-rig and a small Owner hook, No 14. – It is super-efficient. I don't believe I have lost a single fish in the two years I have been fishing tube fly, L-rig and a small treble hook, he says.

COASTAL FISHING with casting floats or bombardas and fly may result in nice takings. However, many anglers give up after a few attempts due to snarled lines. For this reason, I have made an appointment with Martin Buch at the shore of the Little Belt to learn more about his new bombardas float which is well-known for causing very little snarling when casting.

In several areas, there are steep underwater slopes with very deep waters near the coastline and the stretch is therefore suited for Martin demonstrating his new intermediate and sinking bombardas models, as I am a complete novice in fishing casting floats. Many years ago, a couple of times, I did try to lure sea trout with the bubble floats of the time and later with ordinary bombardas floats – however, I quickly lost patience when, using the slow retrieve prescribed at the time, every third or fourth cast ended with me retrieving fly, casting float, leader and fishing line – all in a snarled mess.

Martin promises that when using his types of bombardas you will almost never experience that issue and that, depending on the density of the float, you can fish deep or shallow, slowly or quickly and, thus, fish as much water as when using a spinning rod.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

Accompanied by the frisky mewling of seagulls across the water, Martin attaches an intermediate – or slowly sinking – float from his new series, Inno Click Bombarda, onto my line. To me, it looks like any other bombardas float and I sceptically ask the difference.

- While the line traverses other bombardas floats – here, the leader is attached at the base of the float stick while the fishing line is attached at the top by a lure lock, he explains. – This fixed attachment ensures that you will never experience snarling of the line when casting or retrieving – and if you want to cast a lure or a wobbler, you can quickly switch, thanks to the lock!

After having cast and fished for nearly two hours without experiencing any snarling, I have to surrender. Now, it has suddenly become funnier and much easier – and also much more efficient – to fish the bombardas way.

JAN GRÜNWARDLIT THE SPARK

- A new and positive experience added, I meet Martin on the beach. He has brought a bag with an array of his earlier prototypes and casting floats. I ask him to tell me about the long development process from the start around 1996 and to this day when he has established his own firm selling these products via www.Bombardashop.com as well as through a number of shops in Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Germany.

MARTIN BUCH grew up in the small town Grejs near Vejle. Not unexpected, during the initial years, he fished the streams of Grejså and Vejle Å. However, before long, coast fishing drew him. – At that time, I fished both spinning gear and fly rod in

Vejle Fjord. However, on having read the paragraph on bubble floats and flies in the book of Jan Grünwald, "Sea trout – spin and fly in saltwater", I felt like trying this method, says Martin. However, I soon tired of the then recommended slow and boring fishing and the floating bubble float which caused a wake on the surface. Add to this the issues of landing the fish because the float, on its long lead, caused an obstruction!

For these reasons, it was not long before Martin started to experiment with his own casting floats. The first prototype had an inner release system to allow for the release of the float during the fight with the fish, making it easier to handle a longer lead during the actual fishing.

Based on his good experiences from fly fishing with intermediate shooting heads, he had the idea of constructing floats from plastics of varying density, as he worked in the plastics industry with Uni-Chains and Lego. ➔



The best exposure of the hook – and thus the high landing rate – is achieved by tying the small treble hook to an L rig, so that the hook is positioned as show here with one prong pointing in intake direction. See how to tie the rig in the book "Havørred – Refleksjoner på kysten" ("Sea trout – Reflections at the coast").

→ – I will never forget the first time I cast a sinking prototype at the Little Belt and saw how I could easily fish deep and quickly at the same time, he says. – I then really felt that I was heading in the right direction as floats of varying density provided me with the choice of deep or shallow, slow or quick fishing, and thus efficiently imitating many different baits.

THE FIGHT BUBBLE

- After this eyeopener, I continued to develop the so-called Fight Bubble which consisted of

a plastic-covered traversing line and a loose release-thingy at the base of the casting float, explains Martin. – Now, I could fish using a 5-meter-long lead but when the fish had tired, and the Fight Bubble hit the top eyelet of the rod, you simply retrieved the line by hand until the float slid off the line and down to the fish!

The Fight Bubble was a stroke of genius and Martin sold 25,000 to Svendsen Sport. – Unfortunately, it never quite caught on as many anglers did not understand the idea which may also have been

too complicated, he smiles. When the Italian bombardas floats came on the market and quickly became very popular, despite their built-in line-snarling issue, Martin put on his thinking cap for a couple of years.

First, I dropped the Fight Bubble which only a few understood how to use, he says. – Then, I threw out the idea of the line traversing the float like in the ordinary bombardas floats. Instead, I chose to use a fixed attachment of the lead and fishing line – which almost eliminates snarling

of the line. For normal coastal fishing, the lead is tied with a knot at the base of the INNO float, while the fishing line is tied to a lure lock at the top – so you can quickly switch from your bombardas tackle to a lure – and back again.

INNO BOMBARDA was then introduced by Martin five years ago after long consideration. Thanks to its aquadynamic shape, this float retains retrieval depth even at quick retrieval – and only extremely rarely is the lead caught by the →



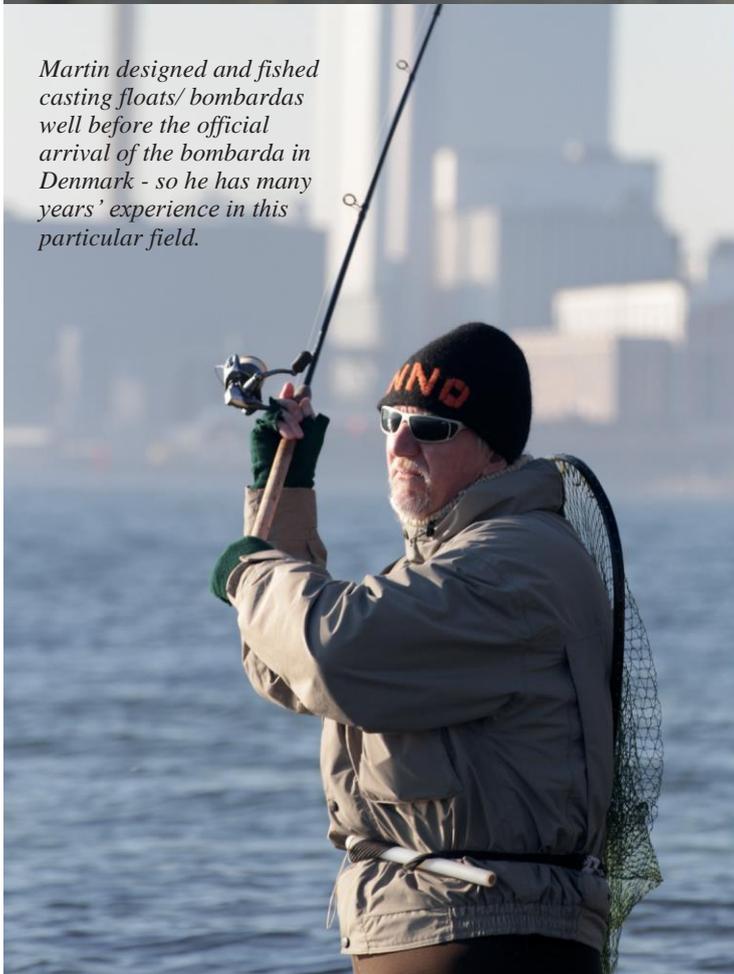
One characteristic of the Inno bombardas is that they cause very little snarling which makes them the perfect choice for the inexperienced coastal anglers.



Here, the history of Martin's development of bombardas is illustrated – starting at the top-left and culminating with the 2019 Inno Click at the bottom-right.



Here are the most recent bombardas from www.bombarda-shop.com - Inno (top) and Inno Click (bottom).



Martin designed and fished casting floats/ bombardas well before the official arrival of the bombarda in Denmark - so he has many years' experience in this particular field.



Another trout fooled by a tube fly with L-rig.

→ float, causing snarling. The most recent addition is the new Inno Click Bombarda which was launched this year. The advantage of this over the old version is that, due to its oblong shape, it is possible to cast longer. Both types are available as floating, slow intermediate, intermediate and sinking – and loose INNO sticks are also available. The floats are available in weights of 15 – 35 grams.

GREAT FLEXIBILITY:

- The Multirig System, which is part of the Inno concept, means that the floats may also have other uses, he reveals. – In addition to traditionally attaching the fly or maybe a mini lure behind an Inno bombardarda float, other set-ups may be tried thanks to the lock system. You may, for example, use a floating float with a red sticker as an ordinary angling float or fish spinner fly in currents with a heavy intermediate/sinking Inno Click float. An entirely different use is bottom angling with a sinking

float along the coast or in the lakes – without the float sinking too far into the soft bottom. Read much more about all this at www.bombardashop.com, where you will also find advice on the best knots, models and accessories. At the website, you can also study various float test results.

LOTS OF NEW DRIVE – After the long talk on the beach, it is nice to once again stretch out one's winter-sore limbs, wade into the sea and cast at the horizon in the secret hope of outwitting the first sea trout of the year. Unfortunately, this afternoon, the coastal waters are a tad too cold. However, while on the way to the car sans fish, I manage to sneak a couple of last-minute tips from Martin. – I prefer fishing with small-hook tackle such as L-rig or the hook in a small Rapala knot on my own Inno Tube Fly System. My clear favourite is one of the small tube flies attached to a small Owner treble hook which means that considerably fewer fish are lost, he ends.



These are some of Martin's first prototypes from the mid-90s of casting floats of various densities.



Here, you see how Martin coils his bombardarda tackle around a small piece of foam plastic when they are not in use.

Martin in action along the East Jutland coastline..