

# FIN-NOR®

LEGENDARY TACKLE SINCE 1933

## User Guide for Conventional Reels



# Congratulations!

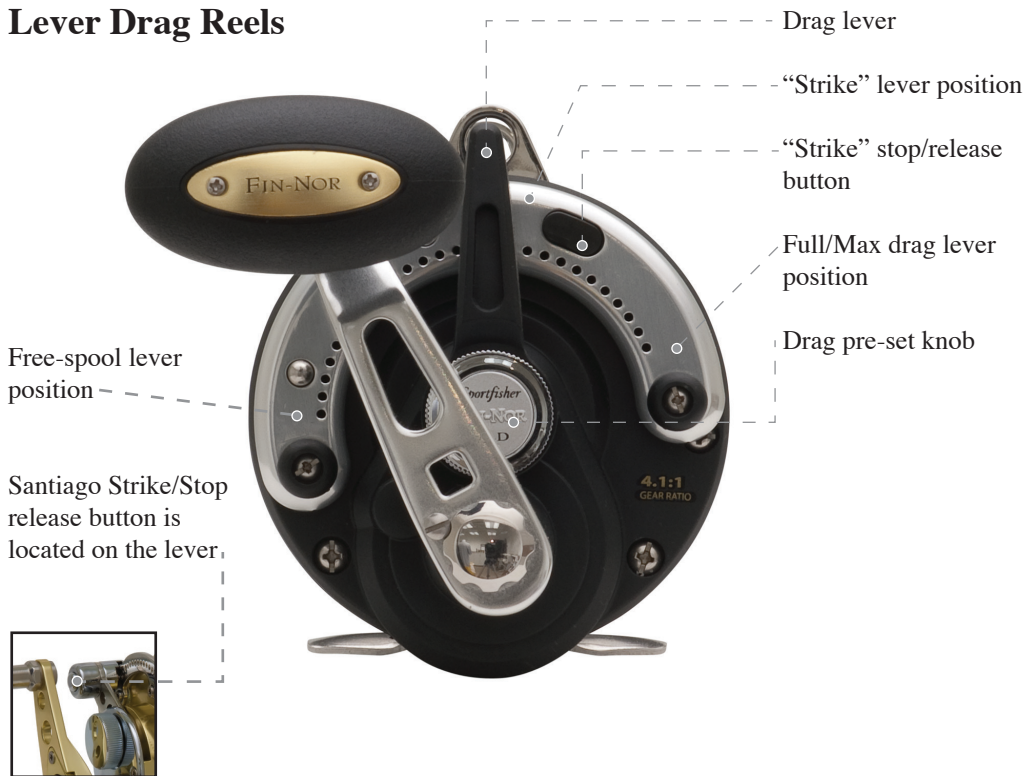
You have purchased the finest fishing tackle made. Since 1933, Fin-Nor has built world-class tackle to meet the demands of the most experienced anglers. Innovations in the use of new materials and new designs, created specifically for the latest fishing techniques, have given anglers more opportunities to boat the fish of a lifetime.

**More than 900 I.G.F.A. records. . .so far!**

Today Fin-Nor continues on a course set by a legacy of the greatest fishing tackle ever built, and with a partnership commitment to the men and women in search of the next world record catch.

*NOTE: Product images in this manual are for reference and may differ from your actual model. Your specific product may not have some of the features described in this manual. For more details about specifications, features, and parts lists related to your specific model, please visit [www.finnorfishing.com](http://www.finnorfishing.com).*

# Lever Drag Reels



# Star Drag Reels

Spool release lever

*(flip down to release spool, flip up to engage spool)*

Spool tension knob

Drag adjustment star

*(turn clockwise to tighten drag, turn counter-clockwise to loosen drag)*

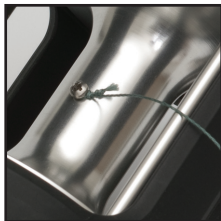


## Filling the spool with line

Your reel is designed to be used with any type of monofilament, Dacron, fused or braided super lines. After selecting the correct type and weight of line for your application, tie the line to the arbor pin on the spool so the line does not slip under pressure.

Fill the spool 90-95% of full capacity, leaving a gap of 1/8" to 1/4" until full spool. Be sure to leave extra room if you intend to add a top shot.

It is very important to pack braided Spectra lines very tightly with good cross wrap to prevent line from burying into itself and breaking off.



*Tie your line to the arbor pin on the spool to prevent slippage.*



*Fill spool to 90-95% capacity, or slightly less if you use a top shot.*

## Setting the drag on a lever drag reel

Before using any lever drag reel, the drag must be adjusted to the desired range. You will use the *pre-set knob* to do this. Here are the steps involved:

1. Always move the lever to the “Free” position before making any adjustments to the pre-set. After setting the drag you will only use the lever to apply more, or less, pressure on the fish.
2. With the lever at the “Free” position, begin turning the pre-set knob clockwise to increase the drag range. Turn it counter-clockwise to decrease the drag range.
3. Move the lever forward until it stops in the “Strike” position.
4. Test the drag at “Strike” with a scale. Be sure the reel is full of line and is mounted on a rod, with the line going through the guides. Attach a scale to the line and pull with some speed, loading the rod as if you were fishing. Record the reading on the scale while pulling the line. The rate of acceleration will affect the reading.
5. Repeat as necessary to set your drag at “Strike” at 25% to 35% of the line’s rated breaking strength – as a rule of thumb. For example, if you are using 30-pound test, set the “Strike” at 7.5 lbs. - 10.5 lbs. If you are trying to set “Strike” at 10 lbs., make necessary adjustments until the drag just slips at 10 lbs. For braided line or heavy-weight mono (80+ lbs.), you may want to set “Strike” at less than 25% of the line’s breaking strength depending on your application. The “Strike” position is generally where you want the lever while fighting a fish.

## Using the lever drag

Now that your drag is set, here are a few things you need to know before using your reel:

1. Once the “Strike” drag position is set, you should not adjust the pre-set knob again until making significant drag range adjustments. Keep in mind that the drag at strike can vary depending on the difference between the temperature when set, and the operating temperature during usage. To be sure, it is a good idea to re-check the setting after the reel is used and warmed up.
2. To let out line, move the lever all the way back until it hits the “Free” spool stop position. From there the drag will gradually increase as you move the lever forward.
3. Once you have moved the lever forward until it stops in the “Strike” position, you must press the strike release button to move past “Strike”. You do not have to press the button to return below strike.
4. The maximum drag with the lever in the “Full” position will depend on where the “Strike” drag is set. The higher the “Strike” drag setting, the higher the drag will be with the lever in the “Full” position. Be aware that as you continue to increase the pre-set knob, at some point you will not be able to get free spool anymore when the lever is moved to “Free”.

## Setting the drag on a star drag reel

Here are the steps for setting the drag correctly on a star drag conventional reel:

1. Before checking your drag, make sure the Release Lever is in the up, or engaged, position so the spool is engaged and not in the free-spool casting position.
2. Turn the star clockwise to increase the drag, and counter-clockwise to decrease the drag.
3. Test the drag with a scale. Be sure the reel is full of line and is mounted on a rod, with the line going through the guides. Attach a scale to the line and pull with some speed, loading the rod as if you were fishing. Record the reading on the scale while pulling the line. The rate of acceleration will affect the reading.
4. Repeat as necessary to set your drag at 25% to 35% of the line's rated breaking strength – as a rule of thumb. For example, if you are using 20-pound test, set the drag at 5 lbs. - 7 lbs. If you are trying to set the drag at 5 lbs., make necessary adjustments until the drag just slips at 5 lbs. For braided line or heavy-weight mono (80+ lbs.), you may want to set the drag at less than 25% of the line's breaking strength depending on your application. The “Strike” position is generally where you want the lever while fighting a fish.

## **Information about drag performance**

### **Heat Build-Up**

When a fish goes on a screaming run, friction from the drag causes heat to build up in the reel. All Fin-Nor reels have drags that are designed for extreme conditions to minimize and dissipate heat rapidly. If a fish is allowed to run excessively, the heat could build up faster than it is possible to dissipate, and you could potentially see a small affect on the drag setting. If this happens, it will return to normal once the parts cool back down as they are designed to do.

### **Cranking Against the Drag**

If you hold the spool and turn the handle until the drag slips, you may feel a slight bumpiness. This may also be felt if you are cranking against the drag but not turning the spool while fishing. This is normal on all lever drag reels and is no indication of the drag smoothness. The drag smoothness can only be judged by pulling line off of the spool, turning the drag only.

## **Casting and releasing line: Star Drag Reels**

*NOTE: To set up your reel for casting, we recommend adjusting your tension knob until most of the side-to-side movement of the spool is removed but the spool is still free.*

When making a cast with a star drag reel, place your thumb on the spool to prevent line from coming off while flipping the Release Lever down to the release position. Bring the rod back and then forward in one swift motion, releasing the spool during the forward motion, allowing the bait to be cast. Preventing backlash takes practice! You can use the tension knob for cast control, by slightly tightening the knob to apply resistance to the spool.

Stop the spool with your thumb as the bait enters the water. Now flip the Release Lever up to the engaged position and slightly turn the handle to put some pressure on the spool to insure it is fully engaged.

If you are letting out a bait, such as deep dropping, keep slight pressure on the spool until the desired position is reached to prevent backlash.

Some models contain centrifugal brake weights on the spool to help prevent backlash. These are designed to optimize casting distance, but can be removed if desired.

## **Casting and releasing line: Lever Drag Reels**

While most anglers use lever drag reels for trolling, many Fin-Nor lever drag reels, like Marquesa, were also designed for casting bait. With a super-free spool, these reels can easily cast a bait or can effortlessly drop the bait back on a fish.

When making a cast with a lever drag reel, place your thumb on the spool to prevent line from coming off while moving the lever all the way back to the “Free” position. Bring the rod back and then forward in one swift motion, releasing the spool during the forward motion, allowing the bait to be cast. Preventing backlash takes practice!

Stop the spool with your thumb as the bait enters the water, then move the lever to the correct position for your application.

When deep-dropping lead or dropping back a bait, keep slight pressure on the spool with your thumb until the bait reaches the desired position to prevent backlash. When feeding out line, you may need to pull line from the spool. When doing this, keep slight pressure on the spool with your thumb, or you can use slight drag pressure or the clicker to prevent backlash.

## Using 2-Speed Reels

Certain lever drag models may have a 2-speed mechanism. All 2-speed Fin-Nor reels feature an Easy Shift™ 2-speed control that allows you to shift on the fly. Without taking your hand off the handle, you can quickly extend your index finger, push in the button, and shift down to low, powerful gearing. With a quick twist of the dial, you're back to high-speed. The hardened stainless steel spline provides smooth, positive gear changing without fail. Using a 2-speed reel with Easy Shift™ has never been so logical, and fighting a big fish never so simple.



Fin-Nor Easy Shift™

*Push button in for low-speed, - - -  
twist dial to return to high-speed. - - -*

## **Basic Reel Maintenance**

All Fin-Nor reels are designed to handle the harsh saltwater environment for many years when properly maintained and lubricated. After each use, mist your reel thoroughly with warm fresh water to remove salt and grime. Wipe it dry and lightly mist it with water displacement lubricant or protectant. Be careful not to wash reel under high pressure that could force contaminants into the reel.

You should periodically clean and re-lubricate your reel to maintain proper function. Continued use and rinsing can cause grease and/or oil to dissipate away from critical parts or migrate into areas that may hinder performance. Fin-Nor recommends that your reel be completely disassembled and thoroughly cleaned and lubricated a minimum of once per year, or more with heavy use. We recommend all repair or service be done through a Fin-Nor Authorized Service Center (for a list of service providers, visit [www.finnorfishing.com](http://www.finnorfishing.com)) or send directly to Fin-Nor Customer Service.

Remember, improper or no maintenance on your reel will void your warranty.

## Fin-Nor Limited Warranty

This Fin-Nor fishing reel is warranted for a period of one (1) year from date of the first retail purchase against defects in workmanship and/or materials. This warranty is offered only to the original owner of the reel. Fin-Nor reserves the right to make all decisions, at our sole discretion, regarding whether a claim qualifies as eligible warranty work. During the warranty period, Fin-Nor will repair or replace the product, at our option, at no charge to the original purchaser. **A dated sales receipt must accompany all warranty claims.** The product should be shipped directly to Product Services at 6105 E. Apache, Tulsa, OK 74115, postage prepaid and insured.

This warranty does not cover Fin-Nor products damaged due to abuse, misuse, normal wear and tear, neglect, lack of proper maintenance, or products that have been altered or modified in design or construction.

ALL INCIDENTAL AND/OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES ARE EXCLUDED FROM THIS WARRANTY INSERT. IMPLIED WARRANTIES ARE LIMITED TO THE LIFE OF THIS WARRANTY. SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW LIMITATIONS ON HOW LONG AN IMPLIED WARRANTY LASTS OR THE EXCLUSION OR LIMITATION OF INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, SO THE ABOVE LIMITATIONS OR EXCLUSIONS MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU.

The warranties described herein shall be the sole and exclusive warranties granted by Fin-Nor and shall be the sole and exclusive remedy available to the purchaser. Correction of defects, in the manner and time period described herein, shall constitute complete fulfillment of all liabilities and responsibilities of Fin-Nor to the purchaser with regard to this product, and shall constitute full satisfaction of all claims, whether based on contract, negligence, strict liability or otherwise. Fin-Nor shall not be liable or in any way responsible for any damages or defects caused by repairs or attempted repairs performed by anyone other than an authorized servicer. Nor shall Fin-Nor be liable, or in any way responsible, for any incidental or consequential property damage. Fin-Nor reserves the right to amend or change this warranty at any time.

THIS WARRANTY GIVES YOU SPECIFIC LEGAL RIGHTS, AND YOU MAY ALSO HAVE OTHER LEGAL RIGHTS WHICH MAY VARY FROM STATE TO STATE.

The provisions of this Warranty are in addition to, and not a modification of, or a subtraction from, the statutory warranties and other rights and remedies contained in any applicable legislation. To the extent that any provision of this Warranty is inconsistent with any applicable law, such provision shall be deemed voided or amended as necessary, to comply with such law.

## **Fin-Nor Parts & Service**

It is the goal of Fin-Nor to provide you with the very best customer service possible. For service, you can select an Authorized Repair Center near you or return directly to Fin-Nor.

When returning your Fin-Nor product, the following information is require to process the service:

1. Provide your Name and Address, Telephone Number and E-Mail Address.
2. Properly package the product so there is no further damage during shipping.
3. Insure the package and send it pre-paid to the Fin-Nor Repair Department (no C.O.D. shipments will be accepted.).
4. To expedite repair, download the Fin-Nor Product Return Form from our website, complete it and send it in with your reel. (you may also contact our Customer Service Department at 800-588-9030 to have the form mailed to you)
5. Any charges incurred will include freight charges.

All packages should be shipped to our facility:

### **Fin-Nor Consumer Product Services**

**6105 E. Apache  
Tulsa, OK 74115**

#### ***NOTE:***

- *Repairs will be returned via Ground unless other arrangements are made prior to shipment.*
- *Any repairs not paid for will be disposed of after 30 days from the date listed on the notification letter.*
- *Detailed parts lists and exploded views are available at [www.finnorffishing.com](http://www.finnorffishing.com).*

For more information about this or other great Fin-Nor products, or for specification, warranty info or parts and service, you may contact us in several ways:

E-Mail: [email.finnor@zebco.com](mailto:email.finnor@zebco.com)

Phone: (toll-free) 800-588-9030

Web: [www.finnorfishing.com](http://www.finnorfishing.com)

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**FIN-NOR®**

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