

Grant Albutt in action
with the new Flat Butt.

FLAT OUT

When Garbolino-sponsored **Grant Albutt** contacted APF to give us a peek at a new product he's had a hand in designing, we couldn't help but let you know too.



Garbolino is right at the forefront of carbon-pole technology – it utilises ideas that anglers come up with, or takes problems that anglers have and develops products that solves them. Take the varying lengths of cupping kits required, for example. This was a conundrum that had been around for years until Garbolino went and solved it, and nowadays a great many anglers are using the Extendable Potting Kit.

The latest advancement to come from the French company is a product called the Mini Flat Butt. Grant Albutt, a very accomplished angler who's been winning matches for over 20 years, suggested this to Garbolino. He'd come across a similar concept while viewing a prototype pole from another manufacturer, but nothing came of that so he passed the idea on to Garbolino. It's taken nearly 12 months to perfect, but now the Mini Flat Butts are on the market. They have the attributes of a standard mini extension, but the last 40 centimetres are flattened so that it rests better on your thigh and forearm.

APF joined Grant on the bank to see what this new product is all about.

APF: Firstly, how does this design make much difference to long-pole fishing?

GA: The main profile of the section is still round but there are two flattened areas on each side that you hold on to. This gives the section that rests under your arm more surface area.

Therefore the overall pressure is reduced on certain areas and that makes it more comfortable to fish longer lengths. Your elbow won't feel so sore after a full session of fishing at long lengths. I fish shallow a lot in the summer, and tend to fish

at 14.5 or 16 metres, so the Flat Butts make it feel much more comfortable when I'm lifting and dropping all day long.

Also, because the section has more surface area for your forearm to rest on, it won't move if the conditions are windy. Sometimes the wind can force a round section to move under your arm. These flat sections will help you keep your pole perfectly still, making your presentation better. I've not had the sections for long, but several anglers have already expressed interest in them.

Having more surface area will help you control your pole better and keep it in better condition.

APF: I notice Garbolino produces the Flat Butts in four sizes. Are they all necessary?

GA: This idea doesn't just apply to long-pole fishing. I've fished at shorter lengths where repeated striking causes the section to crack where your elbow applies most pressure onto the carbon. The fact of having more surface area will help you control your pole better and keep it in better condition. These sections are really tough and can be shoved through hedges or over gravel and they'll stay in one piece. The smallest Flat Butt, that fits the 9.5m section of the G-Series range, is possibly the best one because it protects a very fragile section. I fished at Porth in the autumn of 2007

with a prototype of the smallest Flat Butt. This is a venue where you have to catch about 20lb of small fish at nine and a half metres. I was initially concerned about whether the Flat Butt was needed, but after bagging 23lb of fish and winning my section I knew it had worked. I now fish with these sections attached to my pole at all times.

APF: Does the foam strip that runs along the length of the flattened area help in any way?

GA: It forms an area that you can grip on to. The Flat Butt has a very smooth carbon finish, so this area of foam makes the flattened area more grippable. Secondly, in the summer when the sun is beating down, carbon heats up and it can be very uncomfortable to hold. The small foam strip will be cooler and protect your skin from burning.

APF: Will this be the end of the conventional Mini Extensions?

GA: In short, yes! You won't need to carry any mini extensions because the Flat Butts will do their jobs but much better. Although these are made specifically to fit the G-Series range of Garbolino poles, I'm sure they'll fit other poles on the market.



Garbolino Mini Flat Butts Info

Compatible poles: Super G10, G995, Super G8, G796, G Force Power, Carp Match, G60 Competition, G50 Competition, Squad 596 and Fighter

Length: 60cm

RRP: £54.99