

PREMIO TITANIUM PLIERS

FROM DANCO | Review by Brian Clark

Danco Sports, an angler-run operation based in Stuart, Florida, has curated the world's broadest selection of pliers, fillet knives, and other fishing tools. Their extensive lineup of aluminum and steel pliers can be almost intimidating, but we'll focus here on their offerings in titanium. Their 2025 lineup features several new styles geared specifically for fly anglers.

Premio USA

Danco's series of USA-made titanium pliers has three lines: the 7in Offshore pliers sport blunt, powerful jaws, while the 6.5in Inshore pliers (pictured here) have longer jaws better suited to delicate hook retrievals. Both lines are offered in three very attractive colors: copper, olive, and blue. The colors are new this year, and they're the result of a durable ceramic finish called CERAKOTE® which provides additional abrasion and corrosion resistance over and above the benefits titanium already brings to the table. The result is a very classy matte finish that looks and feels great. The ergonomics are equally attractive; these pliers feel just as smooth and robust as the Van Staals, and they offer more features at a lower price. The fitted leather holster is included; it comes in four colors and has a spring metal belt clip and lanyard with carabiner. Retail prices range from US\$329 for the Premio USA Inshore series to US\$349 for the larger Offshore models.

Also new for this year in the USA series is the Premio AI model, an intriguing 6.5in pattern designed "100% by AI" to be the lightest ever titanium pliers in this class, tipping the scales at just half the weight of the Inshore pliers shown here, which have similar dimensions. They're unique, and you've never seen a similar pair of pliers!

Premio

These pliers are made outside the US and target price points between the Premio USA offerings and the various aluminum offerings. These models lack anodizing and fancy colors, going instead for a more traditional Ti look (made from ASTM Grade 5 Titanium, a common Ti alloy known across the aerospace and marine industries for its corrosion resistance) in a variety of sizes ranging from 5.5in up to 7.5in. Prices start at US\$149 and go up to US\$199, and the leather sheath is included.



Premio Lite

Last but not least, we were curious to see some completely new designs from Danco made especially for fly anglers. There are two models offered in the Premio Lite series, 5in and 6in. Also made overseas from another aerospace-grade Ti alloy, TC21, these are extremely light pliers with fantastic ergonomics, perfectly suited to any freshwater work or light inshore saltwater duties, thanks to the corrosion resistant properties of titanium. We've been working with the 6in model for weeks now, and we really like them; whereas in the past I've found it necessary to carry hemostats for delicate tasks in addition to pliers, these are small and light enough to replace your 'stats for small-fish hook extractions while also providing all the barb-crimping wire-cutting power and utility associated with much bigger pliers. They've really nailed the size, materials, features, and shape for inshore and freshwater fly anglers.

One quibble: the Premio Lite model we evaluated came with a minimalist Kydex belt holster that's exceptionally light and rotates on a belt clip. The design is clever, but it leaves the jaws exposed in a way which, knowing myself, would eventually result in some kind of incident requiring band-aids. Fortunately, those beautiful leather sheaths are sold separately: US\$29.99 for the smaller pairs and US\$34.99 for the bigger pliers. I'd recommend grabbing one of those or using some other sheath that covers the jaws.

Lifetime Warranty

All Danco pliers are covered by a lifetime manufacturer's warranty. Each of the Premio models mentioned here comes with Titanium-Cobalt side-cutters, and replacement cutters are available for just US\$12.99. They're easy to install with a simple hex wrench.

Top: Premio USA G2-185 6.5in pliers in blue CERAKOTE finish with black leather holster, MSRP US\$329.99

Left: Premio Lite PLT6-P-SB 6in pliers with Kydex holster, MSRP US\$149.99

Website: www.dancopliers.com/premio

