

GOTTA
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GEAR

SUPERFLYCOMPOSITES Gen-3 Fly Line Mat

REVIEW
by Brian and
Taison Clark

It never ceases to amaze me how many fine people are part of the fly fishing community. We aren't exceptional; there are plenty of kind, generous, and altogether decent folks in the other hobbyist and enthusiast niches that I frequent, and surely many more in others beyond my circle. For me it's less a point of pride and more a regular reminder to be grateful for getting to hang regularly with good people.

It's also a very small world. When it became clear that I wouldn't be able to dodge a boring technology convention in Florida earlier this year, I immediately began canvassing skiff owners for somebody who needed a midweek excuse and fishing partner to chase tarpon. It only took one post to a popular social network to find someone willing, and we immediately discovered that we had numerous friends in common. I began to quietly shuffle the logistics of my business trip to accommodate two days of fishing.

After motoring out and anchoring up on our first morning, my new fishing partner pulled out a line mat that I hadn't seen before. It was made by a Naples-based start-up called SuperFlyComposites, a father-and-son operation that began retail sales only in September, 2023. He raved about the product, and especially about their customer service. This piqued my curiosity, and a little research made it clear that SFC has been quickly gaining fans and traction among guides and fly anglers in Florida. I reached out to learn more about the product and the company's backstory.

Like so many superior products, SFC started because of dissatisfaction with the available solutions to a common problem. Mark Tochtenhagen and his son Mason were frustrated enough with the fly line management options available for skiff-based saltwater fly fishing that they decided to make their own. Fortunately, they brought both technical and industrial savvy to the task, so they were able to refine their prototypes rapidly and run the design through multiple iterations. February 2025 saw the release of their Gen-3 mats, and it's hard to imagine what further improvements are possible.

We've been using the 30-inch mat on the OFTM skiff for the past few months, and it's become indispensable. First off, the shape: the crescent contour wraps perfectly around the legs of the casting platform (note that in the photo on the facing page we've pulled it back to wrap neatly around the OFTM logo for aesthetic reasons; when fishing, we usually position it closer to the platform) and

covers exactly the areas where we need it to grab line. Next, the texture: the silicone rubber is soft, almost luxuriously so; unlike some other mats on the market, the spikes don't hurt if you stomp on them with bare feet. Also, the material retains no memory whatsoever. We've had other mats which curled up at the edges, allowing both line and wind to creep under the mat; not so with the SFC Gen-3. Lay it down flat and it stays flat, no matter the temperature or how long it's been folded up in the hatch. Last but not least, both the edges and the spikes are gently rounded and sculpted. This again keeps line from creeping under the mat or getting trapped in the holes holding the spikes.

The spikes come in different lengths; they're interchangeable and also replaceable, but thanks to some clever engineering, they don't fall out. We've folded, rolled, and stuffed the mat into hatches, buckets, bags, and trunks, and we haven't lost a single spike; no tears or cracks, either. It's gotten muddy, salty, covered with seagrass (which is notorious for staining anything it contacts), and we've spilled coffee and beer on it, but so far the mat hasn't discolored or picked up any kind of odor.

I try not to be matchy-matchy about much, but I'll admit to this one: the mat is almost a perfect match for the color of our skiff, and I like that. The absolute worst thing we can say about the mat is that it doesn't float. Once we did forget to pull it down when we jumped up, and it stayed put. We'll avoid tempting fate by not repeating that experiment, but saying that you shouldn't leave a line mat on deck at high speeds hardly seems like a criticism of the product.

Finally, speaking as a father whose favorite fishing partner is also my son, it's a pleasure and privilege to support another father-son fishing duo. Mark and Mason are doing fine work here, and we're fortunate to have them in our broader fly fishing community.

MSRP US\$180 for the 20-inch Gen-3 Fly Line Mat

MSRP US\$235 for the 30-inch Gen-3 Fly Line Mat

The 20-inch mats work best on SUPs and Gheenoes or other smaller craft; mounting grommets are available.

Spikes come in 1.5" and 3" heights.

Both sizes of the mats and spikes are available in a variety of colors, including Aqua, Seafoam, Slate, and White; it's possible to mix and match the colors of the mats and spikes.

www.superflycomposites.com



Photo by Brian Clark