

How to Carry Rods in the Wagon Without Repacking

Bill

One of the guides I've used in New Zealand had an interesting setup in his 4WD that meant rods didn't have to be broken down and packed. The butt end sat in a wooden rack that formed part of his drawer set at the rear while the tips were inserted in a small tube on the dash. The rods then ran the length of the car between the rear passengers – quick and easy.

I got inspired and did something similar in my Subaru Forester. The butt ends just lay down on the pull out security screen behind the back seats. I made an elasticised/Velcro strap across the screen roll which is mounted immediately behind the rear seats (to stop them moving from side to side). The Subaru conveniently had a little door covered bin in the centre of the dash where I put another elasticised/Velcro strap to stop the tips wandering. 9 foot fly rods were no problem.

All was good till I bought the Mitsubishi Challenger as I was too tight to buy the upmarket model with a security screen. I started web searching for a product that would suspend the rods inside the vehicle against the roof. I did find some that seemed to fit the bill, but very expensive and no longer manufactured. Undeterred I set about making something for myself – this 'review' is more accurately a description of that project. I was encouraged to write this up by the indefatigable Jason M and prompted by my discussions with Stefan on how we could use the security screen on his Subaru Outback during our Monaro Streams event of 2017.

So here we go:



The rods are suspended against the cabin ceiling. The first problem was how to actually mount the structure. In the end I used existing hardpoints in the ceiling. There are three lines of 'straps'. The rearmost line is attached to the rear child seat brackets. The loops in the bungie cord hold the butts of the rods – the second bungie line stretches over reels when they are closer to butt.



The second elastic straps was introduced to suspend the reel on my beach rod as it is a long way from the butt. The Challenger is setup for an optional third row of seats and the hard points for the grab handles became a convenient fixture for the strap.



The forward most strap was originally just the black elastic mounted onto the rear passenger grab handles. With the original configuration my wife complained that the rods banged against the

ceiling on rough roads. The additional (slightly elastic webbing) strap was subsequently added and it is much stiffer. It has been doubled over with rods lying in the gap to support the rods but also deter them from hitting the ceiling – “a happy wife leads to a happy life”.



Apologies for the poor focus. You can see here the rod going between the two strands of the broader webbing. The old elastic has been retained only because it had a length of Velcro to position the rod tips. Product improvement might modify the broader strap.

So my judgement – works really well. Means I can have my beach rod, estuary spinning rod and grandkid’s bait tackle rod all setup and ready to go. It is out of the way and only excessively tall folk sitting in the middle of the rear seat need fear possible obstruction.