

USED & ABUSED**DELKIM****Txi-D & Rx-D****£134.99 & £149.99**

Delkims have long had a stronghold in the world of bite indication and the angling population has always been split between those who prefer the roller wheel system and those who rely on the vibration sensing of a Delkim. I personally have long been an advocate of the Delkim, having first used the affordable EVs before moving up to the long reigning Txi-Plus. It's safe to say that when the latest addition to the Delkim family was announced, I was more than keen to see what the fuss was all about.

Soon after their release we were lucky enough to get our hands on a set here at the Total Carp office and I've been using and abusing them ever since. In short, I've been nothing but impressed. We've already featured a review a few months back looking at these in general, and if you want a point by point list of the incredible array of features, I would point you in the direction of their excellent website, so for this review I will simply go over the key changes I've noticed and the features that I personally find so useful.

For starters the alarm head has changed visually, most notably in size – they really are a much smaller and sleeker looking alarm. I think the new look is a massive improvement, while still retaining that recognisable Delkim look. The heads now feature two wheels (response and volume) and two buttons which principally control Beep Speed and LED Brightness. The buttons are then used to configure the rest of the alarm settings through a combination of pressing/holding. Now this is initially a bit of a task to get your head around, but all of these background settings are generally set when you first buy the alarm, then rarely if ever changed again! If you don't want to make those changes, just switch them on and you're good to go.

For me, one of the biggest game changers was Beep Speed, which can be controlled completely independently to Response Level. This allows you to slow down the number of beeps, while still retaining a high sensitivity to the tiniest of knocks and liners. In real terms this means that when Beep Speed is toned down, a liner will be heard as a short series of bleeps (ie. what a liner should sound like) compared to what used to be a full-on warble and previously indiscernible from a screaming take! In essence this provides much more useful information for the angler as to what exactly is going on.

The next big game changer is the Do Not Disturb function. What this does is that the receiver ignores single independent beeps, until a string of beeps develop for four seconds or more. This can be used to negate the effect of small intermittent beeps such as raindrops hitting the alarm in a downpour. By combining this with adjustments to Response and Beep Speed you can also cleverly negate the effect of wind and waves too. This allows you to ride out the storm, knowing that you will still be informed of a take.

It's worth mentioning the improved range and reception between the alarms and receiver, and even better battery life, which any Delkim users will know was already incredible in the Txi-Plus! Finally, a huge amount of effort was put into improving the weatherproofing of these alarms. The battery housing is now fully moulded and screwed in place, and all of the circuitry is robotically coated here in the UK. If that wasn't enough, Delkim's well renowned after-sales servicing gives you the owner complete peace of mind.

WWW.DELKIM.CO.UK**MATT TOWNEND'S VERDICT**

"IT'S A BETTER DELKIM IN EVERY WAY – IF YOU LIKE YOUR CURRENT TXI ALARMS, YOU WILL LOVE THE NEW TXI-D!"