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## PENN FTH15LD2

# PENN® Fathom® Lever Drag 2 Speed 15 Fishing Reel Instruction Manual

Model: FTH15LD2

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## 1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

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The PENN® Fathom® Lever Drag 2 Speed 15 Fishing Reel (Model FTH15LD2) is engineered for serious anglers targeting large game fish. This reel features a full metal body and sideplates for precise gear alignment under heavy loads, ensuring durability and smooth operation. The 2-speed system allows for quick line retrieval or increased cranking power, adapting to various fishing situations. Its robust construction and advanced drag system provide reliable performance for demanding offshore and inshore applications.



Figure 1.1: Front view of the PENN Fathom Lever Drag 2 Speed 15 Fishing Reel, showcasing its robust design and lever drag system.

## 2. SETUP AND INITIAL PREPARATION

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### 2.1 Unpacking and Inspection

Carefully remove the reel from its packaging. Inspect the reel for any signs of damage that may have occurred during shipping. Ensure all components, including the handle and drag lever, operate smoothly. Retain the original packaging for future storage or transport.

### 2.2 Spooling Fishing Line

Proper line spooling is crucial for optimal reel performance. Use high-quality monofilament or braided line appropriate for your target species and fishing technique. For best results, spool the line under moderate tension to prevent line digging and ensure smooth casting and drag performance.



Figure 2.1: Side view of the reel indicating line capacity for monofilament and braided lines. Refer to these markings when spooling your line.

- **Monofilament Line Capacity:** 12lb/355yds, 15lb/305yds, 20lb/200yds
- **Braided Line Capacity:** 20lb/550yds, 30lb/410yds, 50lb/290yds

## 2.3 Mounting the Reel to a Fishing Rod

Align the reel foot with the reel seat on your fishing rod. Secure the reel by tightening the reel seat nuts until the reel is firmly seated and does not wobble. Ensure the reel is oriented correctly for your dominant hand (ambidextrous design allows for left or right-hand retrieve depending on handle installation, though this model is typically right-hand retrieve with the handle on the right side).

## 3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

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### 3.1 Understanding the Lever Drag System

The Fathom Lever Drag reel features a precise lever drag system, allowing for fine adjustments to drag pressure. The lever typically has three main positions:

- **FREE:** Allows the spool to spin freely for casting or dropping bait.
- **STRIKE:** The recommended initial drag setting for fighting fish. This position provides optimal drag pressure without risking line breakage.
- **FULL:** Provides maximum drag pressure. Use this setting cautiously, as it can put extreme stress on your line and tackle.

To adjust the drag, move the lever forward (towards the spool) to increase drag, and backward (towards the handle) to decrease drag. Always set your drag before fishing, typically to 25-30% of your line's breaking strength at the "Strike" position.

### 3.2 Engaging the 2-Speed System

This reel is equipped with a 2-speed gearing system, providing versatility for different fishing scenarios:

- **High Gear (6.1:1):** Ideal for fast retrieves, quickly bringing in slack line, or retrieving lures. Engage by pressing the button on the side of the reel.
- **Low Gear (2.8:1):** Provides increased cranking power for fighting large, stubborn fish or retrieving heavy rigs from deep water. Engage by shifting the gear button/lever.

Shift between gears smoothly. Do not force the gear change under heavy load. Practice shifting gears to become familiar with the mechanism before fishing.



Figure 3.1: The PENN Fathom reel in action, demonstrating its capability in landing large game fish.

### 3.3 Casting and Retrieving

For casting, ensure the drag lever is in the "FREE" position. Depress the thumb bar or engage the freespool button (depending on reel design) to release the spool. After casting, engage the reel by turning the handle or flipping the freespool lever back to the "Strike" position. Retrieve line by turning the handle clockwise (for right-hand retrieve models).

## 4. MAINTENANCE AND CARE

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Regular maintenance extends the life and performance of your PENN Fathom reel. Always perform these steps after each use, especially in saltwater environments.

### 4.1 Rinsing

After each use, lightly rinse the exterior of the reel with fresh water. Do not submerge the reel. Use a soft cloth to wipe away any salt residue or dirt. Allow the reel to air dry completely before storage.

### 4.2 Lubrication

Periodically apply a small amount of high-quality reel oil to moving parts such as the handle knob, bail arm pivot points, and any visible bearings. Use reel grease on gears and drag washers as recommended by PENN. Over-lubrication can attract dirt and hinder performance.

### 4.3 Storage

Store your reel in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. Consider using a reel cover or bag to protect it from dust and scratches. Ensure the drag is backed off (lever in "FREE" or minimum setting) during storage to prevent compression of the drag washers.

## 5. TROUBLESHOOTING COMMON ISSUES

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Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Stiff or Grinding Handle	Lack of lubrication, dirt/salt buildup, damaged gears/bearings.	Clean and lubricate the reel. If problem persists, professional service may be required.
Drag Slipping or Inconsistent	Contaminated drag washers, worn drag washers, improper drag setting.	Clean or replace drag washers. Ensure drag is set correctly.
Spool Not Free-Spooling Properly	Dirt/debris in bearings, overtightened spool tension cap, drag engaged.	Clean bearings, loosen spool tension, ensure drag lever is in "FREE" position.
Difficulty Shifting Gears	Dirt/debris in gear mechanism, attempting to shift under heavy load.	Clean gear mechanism. Shift gears when not under load.

For issues not listed here or if solutions do not resolve the problem, contact PENN customer support or an authorized service center.

## 6. PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

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Feature	Detail
Model Name	FTH15LD2
Brand	PENN
Style	15
Gear Ratio	6.1:1 / 2.8:1 (2 Speed)
Bearing Number	5

Feature	Detail
Hand Orientation	Ambidextrous
Material	Blend (Full Metal Body, Stainless Steel Bearings)
Color	Black
Item Weight	1.32 pounds (0.6 Kilograms)
Product Dimensions (LxWxH)	7.4" x 7.2" x 6.25"
Fishing Technique	Trolling
Special Feature	Full Metal Body, 2 Speed
UPC	031324196988

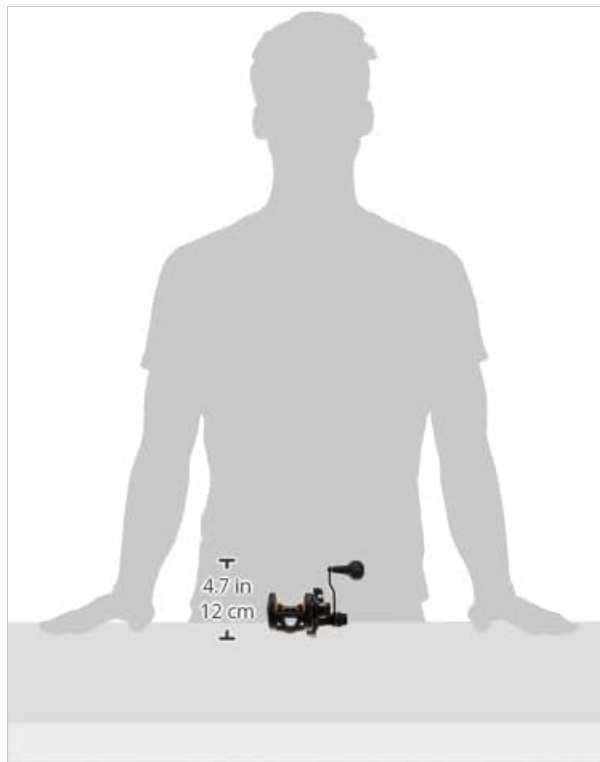


Figure 6.1: Dimensional diagram of the PENN Fathom Lever Drag 2 Speed 15 Fishing Reel.

## 7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

### 7.1 Warranty Information

PENN fishing reels are manufactured to high standards and are typically covered by a limited warranty against defects in materials and workmanship. For specific warranty terms, duration, and conditions, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official PENN website. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

### 7.2 Customer Support

If you encounter any issues with your PENN Fathom Lever Drag 2 Speed 15 Fishing Reel that cannot be resolved using the troubleshooting guide, or if you require parts or service, please contact PENN customer support. You can find contact information on the official PENN website or through the retailer where you purchased the product.

For additional resources, including detailed diagrams and service information, you may also refer to the official user manual PDF available online: [PENN Fathom User Manual \(PDF\)](#).

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This manual is for informational purposes only. Specifications are subject to change without notice.