

Sail in triangles to test your boat and crew

There's much benefit to be gained from spending an hour sailing around a small triangular course (100-200m legs) as you would when learning in a dinghy. A few tacks and gybes will highlight what on the boat is or isn't working and running free. It's also a good opportunity to explain to a new crew how you want things done or to remind the family; and by swapping positions regularly you can assess everyone's skills and maintain interest. As we get older, it can reveal what we may struggle with and how to develop techniques to cope. Force 3 to Force 4 winds are ideal; roll your foresail up so it doesn't drag past the shrouds too much and make sure you always keep control of the mainsail.

Justin Morton



LEFT: Sailing a few small triangles will get you tacking and gybing and can identify problems with the boat or your sail handling

THE BIG QUESTION

Confused about Dyneema rope types

Q In a recent issue Henry Wootton extolled the virtues of Dyneema rope and he stated that 'Sailing long distance again, a 100m roll of 6mm Dyneema would be the first item in my spares box.'

I have been looking to source some Dyneema (maybe not 100m at this stage) but am confused about the different types, such as Dynamic plus, racing and SK78.

Can you provide some insight into Dyneema and what we should be looking for in the specifications?

Alan Price

Jonathan Wall, marketing and e-commerce manager at Jimmy Green replies:

A Dyneema is a trade name encompassing various grades of ultra-high-molecular-weight polyethylene (UHMWPE). It is denoted and rated by an SK number, from SK38 to SK99. The higher the number, the greater the strength. SK78 is overwhelmingly the most popular grade.

Dyneema's initial strength-to-weight ratio is second to none. If replacing polyester control lines with Dyneema you can typically reduce by a size (eg 10mm to

8mm) without any loss of strength.

Dyneema has several more X-factors too: very low stretch (unlike nylon, polypropylene and spun polyester, which are naturally stretchy); exceptional fatigue resistance (meaning you can continually bend it without deterioration); and excellent wear-and-tear endurance.

It also offers reasonable protection from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. LIROS, the German-based, globally renowned rope manufacturer, enhances this property with a polyurethane impregnation and

Dyneema sheets and soft shackles minimise stretch compared to polyester braid

coating system during manufacture.

A yacht skipper looking for a 100% Dyneema to have on board for running repairs might choose LIROS D Pro or Marlow D12 (both SK78, with a break load of around 4,300kg for 6mm line).

These have a 12-strand plait construction and no core, which makes them very flexible and straightforward to splice.

To improve UV protection and reduce cost, Dyneema cores are often wrapped in polyester covers.

These covered lines can be broadly divided into 'Racing' (performance) and 'Cruising'.

LIROS Dynamic Plus is a cruising line, consisting of a polyester double cover and an SK78 Dyneema core. Performance is upgraded from polyester, but the strength, stretch resistance (and cost) are less than those of racing grades, which have a higher proportion of Dyneema.

Marlow D2 Grand Prix 78 is designed for racing sheets and halyards, with a cover of blended Technora and polyester, and a core of pre-stretched Dyneema SK78.



QUESTION OF THE MONTH WINS A BOTTLE OF CHILGROVE GIN

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