

Class of the Month



The Isotope

Designed in 1962 by North Carolinian, Frank Meldau, the 16-foot Isotope is a well balanced, high performance catamaran that tacks easily and is fast on all points of sail. The Isotope's speed has earned it a Portsmouth Rating of .745, the lowest of any 16-foot catamaran.

The Isotope is meticulously hand laminated with twelve layers of fiberglass. Its symmetrical hulls and cantilevered bows travel through the water with minimum drag and pivoting, kickup centerboards remove rudder pressure for superior windward performance. Increased buoyancy in the bows allows the hulls to drive in a gust, virtually eliminating pitchpoling. A righting bar, unique to the Isotope, enables one person to easily right an overturned boat.

With organized racing held at yacht and sailing clubs, the Isotope has won the North Carolina's Governor's Cup five times – the only catamaran to do so. This year's national championship was won by its designer, Frank Meldau.

The Isotope's mainsheet consists of a 5:1 purchase using a #078 Hexa-cat™ with #001 and #002, 2.25" blocks on the boom. The traveler is a #159 car riding on #154 track. The single line traveler control leads to a #150 Cam-Matic cleat. The main outhaul uses Bullet™ blocks. The jib sheets to #168 Big Bullet blocks and across to a #150 Cam-Matic® cleat on the windward side. The jib barberhaul uses Bullet blocks and is designed to open the slot between the main and jib when sailing off the wind.

Harken and the Isotope – serious about performance.

Hexa-Cats were designed to provide powerful mainsheet tackles for catamarans which, because of their trampoline decks, are limited to a single attachment point. A Hexa-Cat consists of a Hexaratchet® with a #150 Cam-Matic and 2.25" blocks mounted on top with a swivel.

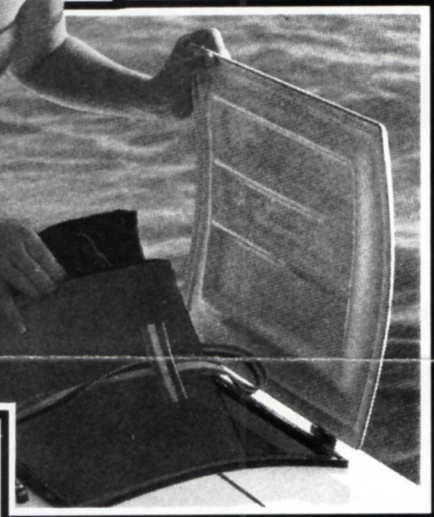
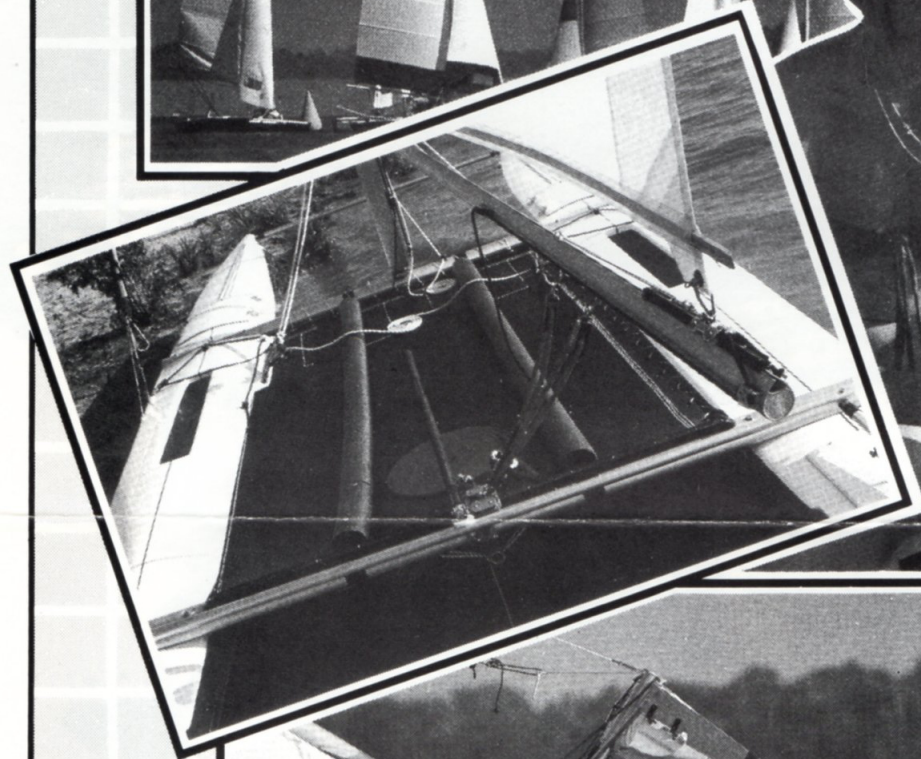
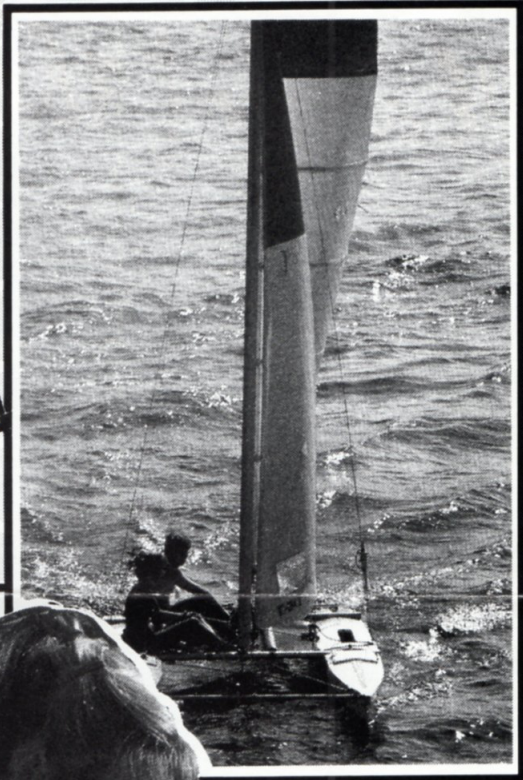


HARKEN

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ISOPE CATAMARAN SPECIFICATIONS

LOA	16'	Jib Sail	45 sq. ft.
Beam	7' 4"	Main Sail	140 sq. ft.
Draft	6" to 2'6"	Sail Area	185 sq. ft.
Mast	26'	Weight	275 lbs all up
Boom	8'6"	Crew	1 up to 4 adults



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