

LOA 23' / DWL 20' / BEAM 8' / DRAFT 4' / DISPLACEMENT  
3,000 LBS. / SAIL AREA 210 SQ. FT.

## Pearson 23: Cat rigged overnighter

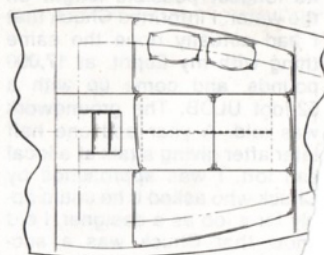
Gary Hoyt started a revival of the catboat rig. The advantages to the unstayed cat rig are obvious and right at home on the small boat. Pearson has joined this quest for simplicity with its new catboat the Pearson 23. I would hesitate to call this rig a Freedom type because it is more of an extension to the traditional catboat rig with mast and boom having sliders for the sail. The 23 provides accommodations for two.

When we call this design a catboat, it must be remembered that we are talking about the rig only. The hull form of this Pearson factory design in no way resembles the traditional Cape Cod catboats. This hull shape would look at home with any rig over it and appears to be a moderately proportioned, typical Pearson hull. The displacement to length ratio is 167. The rudder is outboard to assist in trailering, I would imagine, and the beam has been consciously kept to 8 feet.

Headroom is impossible in a boat of this size. The best any designer can do is to give the crew adequate sitting headroom under the side deck where the settee berths are. This can also be a struggle. The settee should

be at least 12 inches off the sole and there will be at least three inches of cushion on that, and so you need 36 inches minimum for comfortable sitting headroom. For safety's sake I use 39 inches.

One way of getting this sitting headroom is to remove any spring from the sheer that might lower the side deck in way of the settees. This works and you can see that Pearson has done this on the 23. The problem is that now you have a flat sheer. Another way to handle this problem is to retain the spring in the sheer and to give the yacht exaggerated camber in the deck where you need it. This also may



DOUBLE BERTH CONVERSION

not be ideal but I think it res in less of an aesthetic price