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# TOPPER DINGHY

# THE INTERNATIONAL TOPPER

## AN INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

### INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

It has been said that quality never goes out of fashion. And after over 40 years in continuous production, it is the outstanding build quality and unique design features that keep Topper one of the most popular boats in the world.

With Full International Recognition from WORLD SAILING the Topper phenomenon continues to spread throughout the world at a quickening pace.

The Topper is already part of sailing history. More newcomers to the addictive sport of sailing have learned their skills in a Topper than any other sailboat. Thousands have also discovered that once their skills have improved, Topper goes on providing the excitement, performance and competitive opportunities you would expect from a pedigree racing sailboat.

### RUGGED BEYOND COMPARE

One of the key factors in the success and longevity of the Topper lies in the remarkable sophistication and ruggedness of the manufacturing process.

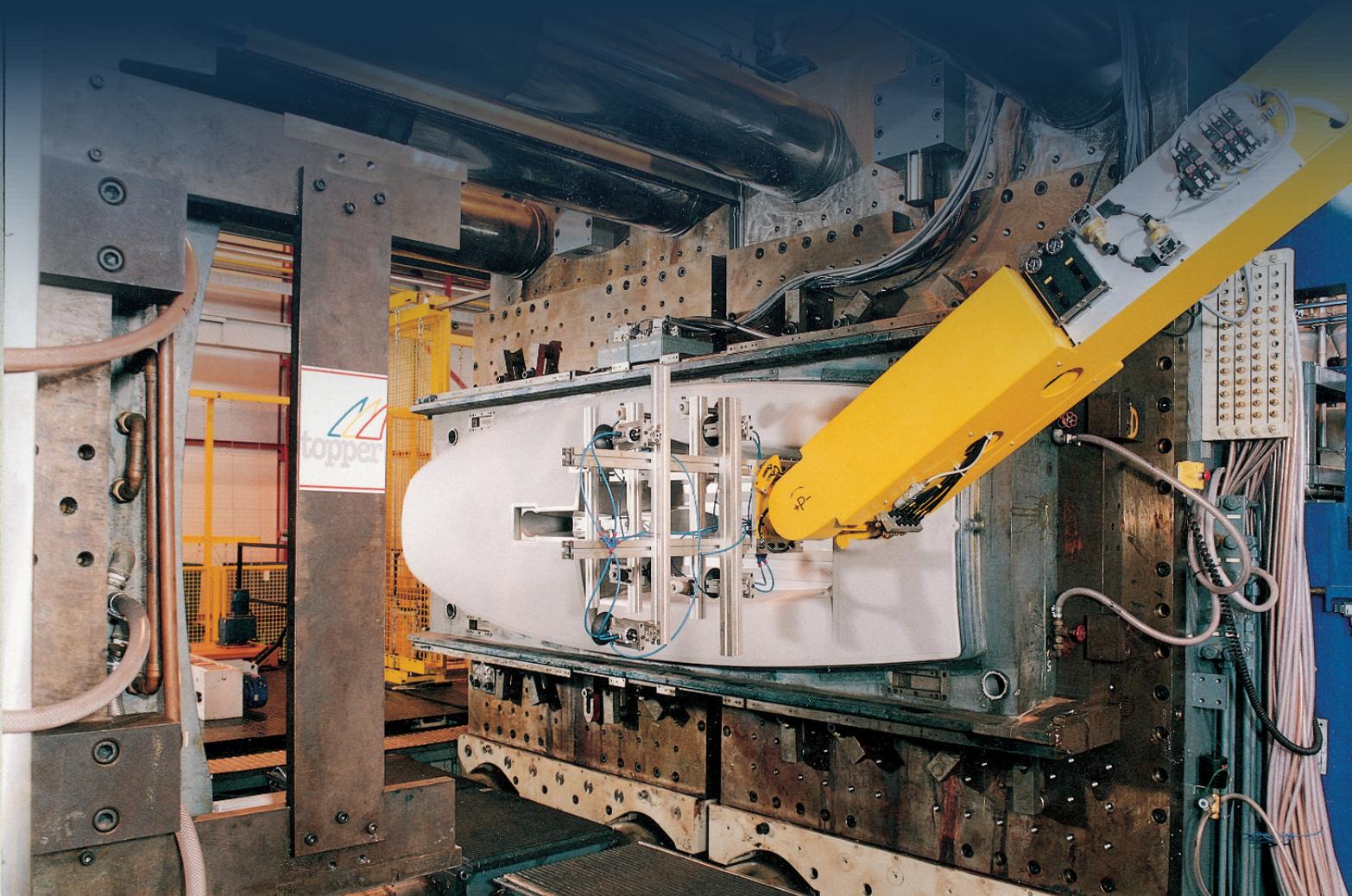
The Topper hull is injection moulded. Hulls vary in weight by a maximum of 28g - a tolerance of only 0.065% and a level of uniformity quite outside the scope of any other production system - whether hand built or mass produced.

The material is polypropylene, an advanced polymer which combines strength and resistance to cracking with lightness and a virtually everlasting life.

The Topper has been awarded the Design Council Award and the Horner Award for outstanding achievements in thermoplastics.

The Topper is used by the Open University to illustrate the principles of craft, design and technology, the development of injection moulding techniques and the handling and use of plastics in industry.

The colossal presses that produce Topper's hull and deck mouldings are roughly the size of a diesel locomotive. Polypropylene granules are injected into the precision steel mould tools at a pressure of 1600 tonnes to create the beautifully matched components.





# EVERY DETAIL, EVERY FITTING ONLY ONE STANDARD

## THE PRICE OF EXCELLENCE

Over a million pounds was invested in the original tooling for the Topper sailboat and it is this investment in quality that has underwritten the ongoing success.

The two main mouldings of the Topper are fuse welded together to produce a robust single unit. Specially shaped poron blocks are fitted at this stage to provide extra stiffness and provide enormous reserves of positive buoyancy in the unlikely event of Topper's tough skin being holed. The hull has integral buoyancy ensuring positive buoyancy even when flooded. When the Topper is inverted it has an air-pocket ensuring that it is an incredibly safe boat.

## DESIGNED WITHOUT COMPROMISE

The fittings and equipment have all been designed to match the high moulding standards. Innovative solutions were developed to achieve a boat that was exceptionally easy to rig and sail.

Clever design features include a swivelling mastgate that enables you to erect the mast single-handed.

The daggerboard and rudder blade are moulded in polypropylene which is extremely tough and hard wearing. The brilliant rudder system allows the blade to be set and locked in any position at the flick of a wrist. The vertical nature of the rudder ensures a positive but light control. And the hull plate can survive the boat coming ashore at high speed with the daggerboard still down!

The rig is an un-stayed Bermudan rig. The aluminium mast is in two sections allowing the spars to be stored within the length of the boat. The sail has a luff tube which makes rigging really easy.

The sail can be reefed around the mast when the wind increases - or to reduce the sail area for teaching young children to sail in confidence.

The 4.2m<sup>2</sup> sail option allows eight and nine year old Topper sailors and the smaller older ones to compete alongside the bigger sailors. The small sail is really inexpensive and it's pretty quick in the hands of a 30-40kg sailor. It also doesn't require a new mast or a change of controls.

A single sail manufacturer makes sail measurement unnecessary.

Sail controls are through a single mainsheet ending in the centre of the cockpit. The Race Topper rig comprises a 6:1 downhaul, 4:1 outhaul and 3:1 kicker or vang. These controls are similar to that found in a Laser.



# THE **MAGIC** OF TOPPER SAILING

THE TOPPER IS LIGHTER AND STRONGER THAN ANY OTHER COMPARABLE SAILBOAT BECAUSE OF IT'S UNIQUE CONSTRUCTION. IT IS ALSO FAMOUS FOR IT'S SENSATIONAL DESIGN AND FEATURES ABOARD.



**HULL SPECIFICATION**  
Hull weight 43kg  
Length 3.40m  
Beam 1.20m



**CREW**  
One child  
Two children  
Child & adult



**INJECTION MOULDING**  
Precision Injection  
Moulded Polypropylene



**CAR TOPPABLE**  
Portable  
lightweight  
43kg hull



**TWO PIECE MAST**



**REEFING MAINSAIL**



**LIFTING RUDDER**  
Safe and simple  
System

“

“Complete beginners will quickly learn the simple pleasures of being at one with a sailboat, a stretch of water and a gentle breeze.”

“The Topper is a **WORLD SAILING Full International Racing Class** with approximately 50,000 boats sold and sailing in over 50 countries worldwide.”

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### **SIMPLE AND SENSATIONAL TOPPER**

The Topper is renowned for its incredible versatility. It is the perfect design for safe and simple sailing. And it is an amazing one design racing class.

The Topper is perhaps the original multi purpose sailing dinghy; a rugged, safe and simple training boat for beginners and an exciting racing sailboat as ability and confidence levels increase.

Complete beginners will quickly learn the simple pleasures of being at one with a sailboat, a stretch of water and a gentle breeze.

A child can learn to sail in a Topper safely. If the Topper capsizes, its beam is narrow enough for a child or small adult to climb onto the daggerboard - and the Topper is light enough to come up easily. It also comes up dry because of the clever cockpit design.

And as skills improve, the Topper will provide all the thrills of singlehanded race sailing.

The Topper is a WORLD SAILING Recognised Racing Class. The class is also acknowledged by many respected judges as the ideal pathway for elite youth sailors to follow.





# THE INTERNATIONAL TOPPER IS THE CIRCUIT RACER

## CIRCUIT RACER

Because of the exceptional quality of the moulding process and the builder's policy of total uniformity in the specification of fittings and equipment, Toppers are completely identical in every way. Small variations to improve the efficiency of the rig controls are permitted, but nothing whatsoever that could affect actual boatspeed is allowed.

## THE MOST ONE DESIGN CLASS IN THE WORLD

This makes Topper the most 'one design' class in the world and a pure test of sailing skill. No advantage can be achieved by buying 'go faster' extras. In a Topper, it's all down to you. Which is why Toppers have bred some of the most distinguished National and International Champions in world sailing.

The Topper 'circuit' is one of the toughest in the country. It's where the real action is with big fleets, cut and thrust sailing, red-hot action. To get to the top you've got to be a bit special - just like the boat. Identical hulls, moulded to an incredible tolerance of 28grams. Perfectly matched racing sails from the biggest one-design loft in the world and precision hydrodynamic section foils.

## NEVER FAR FROM THE ACTION

The competition is hot and there's plenty of it. Weekend after weekend throughout the season, up and down the country, you'll never be far from where it's at. And there's a great social scene to enjoy when the racing is over. The National and Inland regattas attract an entry of around 350 toppers and regional and area events are often over 100 strong.

If you're just beginning to race, the excellent Topper International Class Association holds regular training weekends. And with over 1200 RYA recognised sailing clubs with Toppers in the UK alone, there's never any shortage of other Topper sailors to learn from and sail against.

The Topper is a Fully Recognised International Racing class, so you can share the Topper sailing experience with 50 countries across the world and every year there is a spectacular World Championship to look forward to.

When you buy a new Topper, you will automatically enjoy a free one year membership of TICA who organise the full programme of national and international events.



**OVER 100 ANNUAL EVENTS...**

# **50+ OPENS, AREA, NATIONAL AND INLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS AND TRAVELLERS... PLUS A WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**

The name Topper is synonymous with design innovation, superior quality, durability and exceptional value for money. The 'fun boat' has sparked the imagination and turned more newcomers into lifelong sailors than any other sailboat in history.

But Topper sailing is also about racing. A full World Sailing International Class with around 50,000 boats sold worldwide, the legendary Topper remains the UK's best selling dinghy. And Topper racing is getting bigger and better every year.

Over 350 boats attended the most recent Nationals and Inland Championships.

The RYA and the Class Association provide excellent training, from open training at local level, through zone and area to national squad level.

The success of the Topper as a high-performance race-training dinghy has been proven by the results achieved by the GB model.

The Topper is totally integrated into the RYA's race training pathway and is a prolific feeder class into the national youth squads.

The Topper Class consistently has the highest turnouts at the Zone Championships and the highest percentage of RYA Transitional Youth Squad members. Most Young Sailor of the Year nominations in recent years have come from within the Topper Class. And the RYA recognise the Topper Class as the most successful pathway class.

The Topper delivers a lot more than you might think!

# PERFECT FOR LEARNING TO SAIL AND FOR HONING TECHNIQUE

## TOPPER IS LIGHT AND RESPONSIVE. YOU ARE QUICKLY IN TOTAL CONTROL

Topper's 'fun factor' grabbed the imagination of the sail training world and revolutionised the way sailing is taught. Alone in their own Topper, students are captain of their own sailboat right from day one.

## LEARNING IS FAST AND FUN

Confidence comes quickly. Topper is light and responsive and beginners are quickly in total control by themselves.

This is why the Topper is a WORLD SAILING 'Learn to Sail' and 'Recognised Racing' Class.

Injection-moulded polypropylene really does have the edge for longevity and durability, qualities which sailing schools and families have been quick to appreciate and which allow the boat to hold its price so well on the secondhand market.

The hull of every Topper carries a three year warranty. If a builder guarantees their boat for three whole years of sailing school use, they must have confidence in it!

## ADOPTED BY THE RYA AND MUCH LOVED BY FLEET BUYERS AROUND THE WORLD

The Topper is a sensational racing sailboat. But Topper sailing is all about having fun. And also learning to sail. Which is why sailing schools and centres all over the world choose the Topper to inject the 'happy factor' into their courses.

Topper introduces the fun into learning to sail, and gives people the chance to be in charge from their first faltering steps, without the worry of breaking something when they get it wrong.

For longevity and robustness, Topper has all the advantages - whether it's for private or sailing school use. Polypropylene has proved to be the ultimate construction material; light, buoyant and resilient, it soaks up everyday bumps and scrapes that other boats could not handle.

Today's Topper is the result of a million pound investment. And for that sort of money, you get scrupulous attention to detail. It's no surprise, then, that the resale value is high. These boats just last and last.



*"It's hard to find a sailing school or holiday centre without a fleet of Toppers and here's why: Topper's cutting edge comes from her robustness, her simplicity, versatility and her ease of handling ashore and afloat. She'll take all the knocks of a sailing day and bounce back smiling. Just like the students. She's taken the fear factor out of capsizing drill. She's made it easy to learn and fun to be with."*



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“The Topper dinghy has a unique place in the world of sailing instruction. It has made a greater contribution to the development of teaching techniques than any other boat in the last ten years, and its role is never likely to be challenged by any other type of dinghy.”

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# SPECIFICATIONS



	TOPPER 4.2	TOPPER 5.3
Length	3.40m	3.40m
Beam	1.20m	1.20m
Crew	1-2	1-2
Racing crew	1	1
Hull weight	43kg	43kg
Construction	Polypropylene	Polypropylene
Sail Area	4.2	5.3
Mast and Boom	Coated Aluminium	Coated Aluminium
Blocks	Stainless Nylon	Stainless Nylon
PN	1400	1347
Skill Level	Beginner - Intermediate	Intermediate - Expert



The Topper is built to the One-Design of Ian Proctor under licence of the Copyright from Ian Proctor Designs Limited. Topper is a registered Trade Mark of Ian Proctor Designs Ltd.





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