

THE sailmaking service.

Modern racing sails are made in scrim, or white Dacron, also (clear) Mylar film, either "standard" suits, such as the One Metre (and see price list), or made to special order to your sizes. Go for white Dacron if you prefer a more traditional look, racing scrim is a 'see through' material with a weave sandwiched in the laminate and is half the weight of Dacron, that's why scrim is used for racing suits. It is an invaluable material for light weather suits coming in four weights. Having said that both are really nice materials and either will do the job, it depends upon what you intend using the yacht for, and the type and style of your yacht needs to be taken into consideration.

We make replacement kit sails, such as Victoria, Northwind, ETNZ, and Fairwind, just to name a few.

Information on "Classic sewn" Nylet sails.

"Classic sails" in white Dacron are generally suited to yachts built before 1980 and are exclusively made by Nylet. Classic Nylet sails are entirely sewn.

Sails are made with all patches and battens machine sewn in matching material, with corner eyelets etc. Luffs have sewn tapes and leach and foot edges will be heat sealed, all as they would have been done in my father's time 40 plus years ago. They can be made in one piece, that is to say, not made with panels, or alternatively with panels, as you wish. During the 1970's, as Terylene became more widely used, the advantages of panelling became recognised.

FINELY SEWN COTTON SAILS. If your order is for cotton sails, these will be made with all edges hemmed and with sewn corner patches, sewn battens (where necessary) and, in the case of "class" yacht sails an aluminium headboard can be fitted to the mainsail head if required. Corner eyelets will be inserted and the finish of the mainsail luff will be as chosen by you. Gaff rigged sails and mainsails will be made in a similar manner but bolt ropes may be applied to the hems (tablings) if specified by you. Cotton cloth can be dyed by us, and 'seams' can be replicated in a range of coloured sewing thread.

Upon receipt of your instructions we shall be most pleased to quote for your requirements.

nylet

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ny3

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**the longest established professional
model sailmakers in the world**

1842 - 170 years of service



Nylet sails manufactured in cotton sailcloth.

Sails for fishing vessels, working yachts, cutters, luggers and barges, class yachts, pond yachts etc.

The notes below are to assist you in deciding what you require and how you intend the sails to look when finished.

"Vintage" cotton sails have been made by us for many years, indeed, in the late 30's my father started making model sails in cotton long before synthetic materials were even thought of! We still use techniques and sewing methods that we used 70 years ago to give our sails a "period" feel and hopefully a finish that will compliment your model.

Sails can be made in natural finish cotton, or dyed cotton, with or without bolt ropes applied to the edges as requested by the customer, and more detailed work where the "seams" are picked out to indicate where the pieces of canvas were stitched together along the selvedge edge. Bolts of canvas for full size sails, whether cotton or jute, were marked with a thick blue line at an inch from both edges the entire length of the piece. The "edge" of an piece of loomed cloth is termed the selvedge incidentally. On model sails we run one line of straight stitching down to indicate each join. Cloth was, and still is, in the main, loomed a yard wide, but sailcloths were also loomed 24 inches and 30 inches widths. If you require seaming stitched to simulate this then you will need to work out the appropriate widths to the right scale on the model sails. If you are working with a commercial kit then the sail plan should be ready marked out. All "vintage" stitching is straight, only on modern synthetic racing sails do we employ a zig-zag stitch (except for where we stitch on the bolt ropes).

We also make "vintage" class sails in cotton for class yachts such as Marbleheads, Ten Raters etc and these sails are made in one piece, with hemmed tablings, sewn corners and battens and reinforced head tablings (or patches). Luffs may be fitted with hooks to attach to a wire, in the case of the mains'l to a jackline on the after face of the mast, and the jib to a wire running from the tack to the attachment point on the mast. We can also make in varnished Terylene if you wish, and will be pleased to quote for this material made up.

Fittings and fixings. Please specify, on the templates of the sails, where any eyelets or hooks are to be applied.

Templates. When we make sails for working vessels we prefer to work to full size templates provided by you, measurements can sometimes conflict, one finds that out when you lay them out on the table.

A note on 'weft' and 'warp' of cloth.

The threads used to make any cloth are termed the weft and the warp. If you look up "warp" in the dictionary it gives – "threads stretched lengthwise in loom to be crossed by weft".

Finished sails. Cotton cloth is not 'stable' as a synthetic material is, nor does it lay flat when sewn, and in making it gets to be ironed by us at least three times! During making the shape and size will change, we understand this and can make allowances but finished sails cannot be made to exact size and may vary by small amounts.

Rigging your sails. Cotton sails require a different approach to Dacron (synthetic) sails. Cotton has a little 'stretch' in the cloth, and you should take care not stretch them when rigging to the spars. Once made up, cotton does not lay as 'flat' as synthetic cloths. All sails are ironed prior to sending, but if any folds have been introduced during transit, these may be carefully removed by ironing the cloth with an electric iron set to "cotton" - **WARNING**, a hotter setting will permanently damage the cloth.

About cotton cloth. Pima cotton (Gossypium barbadense), also known as Extra Long Staple, South American, Creole, Sea Island cotton, Egyptian, Algodon pais, and West Indische katoen, is a species of cotton plant which is widely cultivated though it originated in Peru.

As an aside, a suit of 3 or 4 sails for an average sized model gaff rigged fishing vessel, fully "seamed" and with bolt ropes applied will consume a yard and a quarter of sailcloth, 20 feet of bolt rope and more than 400 feet (120 metres) of sewing thread!

Hopefully the foregoing will give you an insight into the care and attention we give our work, and the service and finishes we offer. Should you require advice or further assistance or information then please ask.

Frank Parsons.

2011

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1932 - 80 years





Clockwise from top left: sewing sails in natural cotton.
Cotton sails dyed and sewn with bolt ropes.
A traditional yacht with Nylet sails made in panelled white Dacron.



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nylet sails

Clockwise from top left.
Restored Ten Rater "Pacemaker" with Dacron sails.
Yacht "Munin" with Nylet varnished Terylene sails. 3rd picture, IOM jib in racing scrim with blue finger corner patches.
Bottom picture, detail of A-class sails in heavier weight scrim material.

