

PRODUCTS IN ACTION

'Despedida' 54' - Aft cockpit sloop from Alden Yachts



For decades Portsmouth, Rhode Island-based Alden Yachts has represented the highest order of innovation, quality, performance and value in custom yachts. Alden Yachts blue water sailboats and custom performance power boats are hand-built from the highest quality materials with 'old-world' skill and craftsmanship.

Pictured above is 'Despedida' an Alden Yachts' 54' Aft Cockpit Sloop. This is the first time the yard has used epoxy/ProBalsa sandwich construction out of a female mold. She was quick to show her racing potential when in the 2001 Marion to Bermuda Race she was first overall out of 86 boats.

The hull is epoxy with transverse directional, biaxial and quadraxial E-Glass laminates. Kevlar is used in the forward area for added impact resistance. The epoxy resin is pre-impregnated into the reinforcement before being placed in the mold. In this way Alden Yachts can control the glass to resin ratio and ensure there are no dry areas. To obtain a strong laminate and eliminate air entrapment, Alden Yachts uses a three stage vacuum bag process for the hull and deck; after the outer skins are laminated; when the ProBalsa core is installed and following the lamination of the inner skin.

The deck is constructed in the same manner as the hull with the addition of carbon fiber in the mast, genoa track, traveler and winch island areas. When the hull, deck, collision forward bulkhead and main bulkhead are laminated, the parts are post cured in a 60' long oven specifically constructed for the purpose. During the 24 hour plus cure, the hull and deck are monitored with imbedded thermal probes to ensure a constant temperature is maintained. By using this process, Alden Yachts reduced the completed vessel's target weight by 18% while achieving higher strengths and low VOC emissions.

