

BOAT REVIEW



The Noelex 25 is fast but simple and responsive to sail.

Noelex 25

A NEW Australian builder began production of Noelex 25s last year. Originally produced in New Zealand by Steve Marten of Marten Marine, the Noelex 25 moulds have now gone to South Australia, where the trailable yacht is being built by Noelex Yachts (Aust) P/L. Company director Maurice Perry, whose factory at Goolwa on the mouth of the Murray River is now producing one new boat a week, says it is the same as the one that was being made in New Zealand. However, production director John Duthie has been experimenting with possible trim options in the cabin, and one of the display boats which was in Sydney for the Boat Show had American ash timber trim, with a wool blend material covering the cushions. Standard trim is done in teak with Drayton cushion covers.

There are 15 people employed at the factory, and several of them are employed in the joinery section, hand-fitting the interiors. The hulls are produced in hand-laid fibreglass, using varying strengths in the laminates. The interior layout makes efficient use of space, enabling six berth

accommodation, with a forward vee berth, two quarters, and a clever settee which opens out to a double berth after the cabin table folds away. The keel slot for the wind up keel has a sight glass located under the mast step indicating how far the keel is up, and there is a sliding storage box kept under the cockpit. There is also a moulded sink and a 45 litre water tank underneath it.

The boat has 21.4 sq m of working sail area, with 16.7 sq m of mainsail and a small 4.6 sq m jib. It also carries a spinnaker. Mast and boom are New Zealand Baverstock sections which are fitted out by Noelex (Aust) P/L. Gear controls include a centre cockpit traveller, a 4:1 vang purchase, and a self tacking headsail. There is also an outboard well designed into the back of the cockpit.

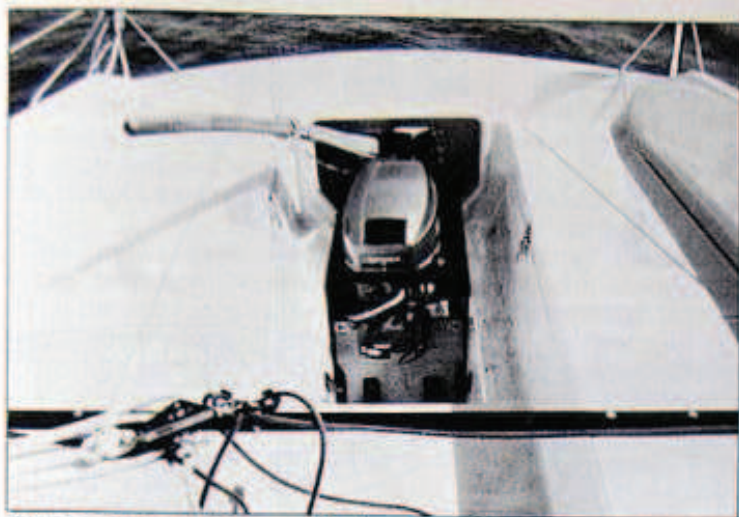
The class is strict One Design with fleet racing in Victoria and SA. Perry estimates there have been 35 sold in NSW, and 10 in Qld.

I sailed the Noelex 25 on two occasions, once in a solid 25kt breeze and once in moderate, gusty, 12kt wind. In the heavier breeze, the boat flew

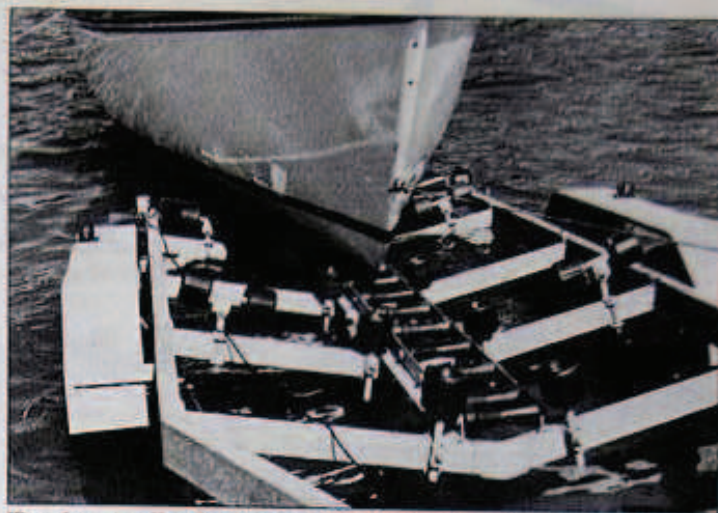
downhill and was always predictable and controllable. Upwind, it was overcanvassed with full sail and tended to lay over easily. We reefed the main and the boat became much more

Low-aspect sail plan is easy to handle.





Outboard located in a well gives positive manoeuvrability.



Tandem trailer had power winch and good roller system.

sailable, riding out the gusts without rounding up excessively.

In the lighter breeze it was responsive, upwind and down. However, it still tended to lay over when we were hit by slightly harder gusts. It required careful trimming of the mainsheet to keep it under control upwind and, although it steered well, a little more lead in the keel would be beneficial.

The Noelex 25 can be fitted with a spinnaker but we did not get the opportunity to try it.

The simple traveller (across the cockpit) and mainsheet system worked well, as did the self-tacking headsail with sheets led to either side of the cockpit on the cabin top. It did stick once during tacking but an occasional spray with lubricant would easily overcome that.

The interior finish is of an extremely high standard and so is the optional equipment, much of which is seen on the boat illustrated.

The price ranges from a basic sailaway figure of \$38,000 to about \$42,000 for the boat illustrated which includes spinnaker gear, outboard motor and trailer.

More information from Maurice Perry, Marketing Director, Noelex Yachts, 7

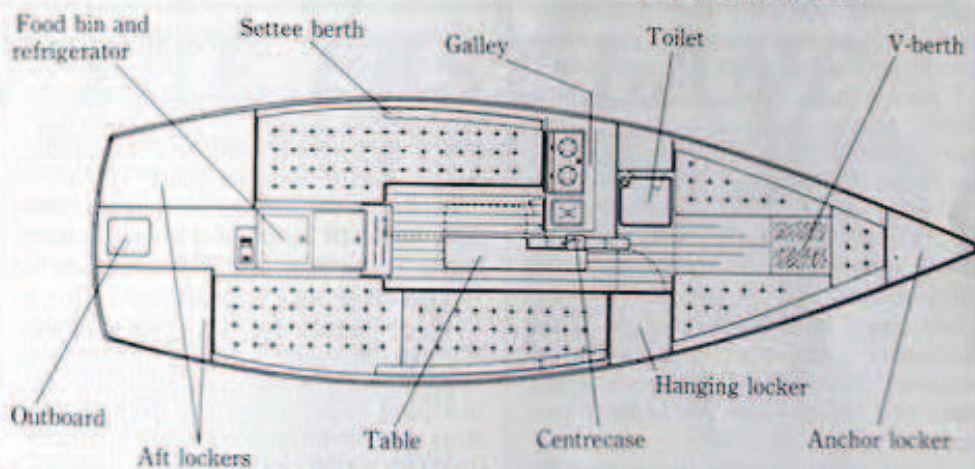
Dowdodd Cres, Goolwa, SA, or through Sydney agent Sydney Sailboat Centre, by the Spit Bridge, Mosman, NSW.

— Robert Keeley

Length	7.77m
Beam	2.50m
Draft, board up	0.30m
board down	1.40m
Displacement	1079kg
Sail area (working)	21.37sq m
spinnaker	32.03sq m
flanker	21.08sq m
Towing weight	1600kg
Construction: GRP/polyester sandwich.	



Jib is on a self-tacking track.



Looking aft: locker.

The galley is compact and well-equipped.

