





by WARREN GUINEA

Nacra is a name which is virtually synonymous with off the beach catamarans.

ITS SUCCESS WORLDWIDE WITH new designs is such that any new Nacra product coming onto the market is bound to create more than the usual interest in new sailing craft.

Such is the case with the new release of the Nacra 430.

With only one new 14ft catamaran being introduced in Australia over the last 20 years, the need was there for a new design with all the modern features that people required in today's market.

Many 14ft sailors over the years have upgraded to bigger and faster boats, looking for something more than the basic surfcat design of the 1970s.

Nacra set out to design a new 14ft Catamaran that had all of the features:

- Simple to sail;
- Easy to rig;
- 21st Century looks;
- Latest technology in designs;
- Large storage areas in each hull;
- Fits into modern day garage;
- Great turn of speed.

Nacra 430



Nacra 430 Rocket – showing the large volume hulls which were made to take extra loads of using a spinnaker.

We wanted a boat that would introduce people back to catamaran sailing where it all started many years ago-the 14ft market.

A boat that can be raced one day then socially sailed with three or more friends the next day.

One of the first buyers of the new boat took delivery of his boat on Thursday, raced over the Easter weekend for three days and did really well straight out of the box.

Then the next day our destination was across the lake to have a picnic lunch with four other people using the storage in the hull to stow everything. That is what sailing is meant to be.

Since its release just over two months ago the Nacra 430 has been winning many events and races that it enters. It is arguably the fastest 14ft production catamaran available already. It is also competing with many top 16ft boats. It recently won the Catamaran division at Lake Tinaroo over the May Day weekend.

Even managing to place a second and third on yardstick against the highly competitive F-18 class. See full results.

Design

The boat is made in two vertical seams which allows it to have more volume down low where it is required.

Nacra widened this boat more than normal and placed the main beam in the highest volume area of the hull.



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This allowed the front beam to move forward more than normal which then meant the trampoline area could be much larger.

This was exactly what we were after; the boat can carry four people very easily. The sidestay positioning was moved slightly as well, creating more space for the crew to sit on the deck.

With a larger deck area than normal we required more bulkheads between the beams which then allowed us to utilise this space for a large storage area in each hull. Access is gained through large port lids in each hull. The hulls are made out of sandwich construction and were made to take the loads of the spinnaker with further bulkheads being placed in the front section. This is standard on all models of the 430, which will make the boat very stiff and able to handle the high loads of spinnaker sailing if people choose to add the optional kit. Non-skid tread was placed in the mould along the edges to help with grip while trapezing. The decks between beams feature non-skid patterns which help to keep the crew very stable.

The hull design is very unique. We have been able to incorporate the reverse bow wave piercing formula into a skeg type non-daggerboard hull. The result is a non-daggerboard fine entry maximum volume hull.

The skeg design blends with the cutaway bow which maximises the pointing, tracking and tacking capability of the boat.

The trampoline is a large, one piece diagonal cut, which can be fitted easily by one person. There is a large pocket at the front for storing the righting line and other equipment.

The rudders are high aspect carbon reinforced and feature a built-in adjuster which determines the rake of the rudder. The rudder system also features Ackerman steering which makes turning more efficient. A pivmatic system is standard as well which makes for safe beaching and will kick up on impact with under water objects.



Rudder system features Ackerman steering, kick up rudders and large efficient rudders which make the helm very responsive. (above)

Large port lids in each hull give access to the storage areas built in the hulls. (centre)

Nacra 430 Rocket really gets up and goes. This adds a whole new dimension to a boat of this size. (right)



The rear beam is the same as the highly successful Nacra 'Infusion' and features a built in traveller track, with RCB traveller car fitted as standard. The front beam has had the well deepened to add more stiffness in the boat.

The sails are Flex Mylar and feature a large square top mainsail with a boomless sailplan making for safer sailing and easier rigging.

The mast is small enough to still be raised by one person and features a captive ball system, which stops the mast from jumping off while raising and lowering. Other controls are 8-1 downhaul which is lead out to the trapeze and a 6-1 ratchet mainsheet. The jib is non overlapping which makes tacking and giboing very easy.

The Rocket version features a spinnaker kit and Nacra's mid pole snuffer system. This adds a new

dimension to 14ft sailing never seen before in a boat this size. We wanted a boat that has all the features of an F-18 yet in a smaller more manageable size. This introduces people to the art of spinnaker sailing at a manageable level. It has been great to see people sailing across the water under spinnaker, knowing that they have never used one before.

Sailing the boat

The first thing you notice about sailing the boat is the wide trampoline area, it gives you the feeling of sailing a much larger boat.

The boat tacks and gybes very quickly with the help of the deep efficient rudders.

Sailing upwind you will notice that the boat points higher and higher as the wind increases, the boat seems to drift to windward as wind increases, due to the wave piercing design.

The fine entry of the bow slices through any waves or chop with ease, making for a very smooth ride.

Downwind with the spinnaker is when the boat really comes in to its own.

It just accelerates, the boat goes lower and lower as the wind increases and will easily pass much larger boats with ease on this point of sail.

I have been sailing an F-18 for about seven years before sailing the new Nacra 430 and thought that the boat would be dull compared to F-18s.

But to my surprise I love sailing the new boat, it is really something special to sail.

It feels like you are on a much bigger boat, yet you have all the simplicity of a small catamaran.



Boat on display at Lake Tinaroo Regatta, where it placed first overall in its catamaran division. (top)
Showing fine entry of the wave piercing hull. (above)

Versions

The boat is being sold in three versions:

1. **Clubman:** Designed to be used as a training boat at a club level. Features Dacron mainsail only, no traveller and shallow draft rudders.
2. **Sports version:** Features Flex Mylar square top mainsail and jib. RCB traveller and high aspect rudders.
3. **Rocket version:** Features as above, but with spinnaker and mid pole snuffer system.

This boat features:

- moulded white sandwich hulls;
- wave piercing design with large volume hulls;
- large storage compartment in each hull;
- racing boomless square top Mylar mainsail;
- pre shaped racing battens;
- diagonal cut mesh trampoline with pocket;
- adjustable carbon reinforced rudders;
- Ackerman steering system;

- kick up rudder system for safe beaching;
- anodised spars;
- plastic coated shrouds;
- adjustable trapeze system;
- RCB traveller;
- 6:1 Mainsheet system;
- 8:1 Downhaul;
- captive mast ball system;
- high aspect racing spinnaker;
- Nacra mid pole snuffer system;
- ratchmatic spinnaker blocks;
- colour scheme available;
- Plus Nacra's five year limited warranty;
- (Rocket features).

We have been more than happy with the interest in the new boat so far, since its launch we have sold nine boats which has been fantastic considering it is winter and have many more inquiries looking to move to the new boat in the upcoming sailing season. We are offering specials on the **first 20 boats** sold at a reduced price. The boat has been sold into three states across Australia and will hopefully

see a class at the upcoming Nacra Nationals.

The Nacra 430 is ideal for people buying their first boat because it is safe, strong, modern yet very highly competitive if you decide to race it seriously. The high buoyancy, stability and comfort in the Nacra 430 lends itself to easy sailing with a few friends for a social sail. Even a novice sailor will find the 430 forgiving on all points of sail. The kick up rudders, easy rigging, modern sailplan and light weight make the Nacra 430 one of the easiest catamarans to manage on the water, launching, retrieving and on the beach.

The 430 comes standard with a five year limited warranty, this offers customers piece of mind knowing that their investment is protected. Full details of the boat can be found at www.nacra.com.au

There is also a video of the boat sailing three up easily across a lake, with its new owner at the helm using spinnaker for one of his first sails.

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