The Downwind Company

Downwind Sailing Equipment

Dealer address:

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Graphics / Layout: Alexander Knuth, Tony W. Richter
Designs spécifiques disponibles sur demande moyennant supplément.
Discover the world of relaxing downwind sailing

Our inspirational downwind sail is thanks to the imagination of a yachtsman and pilot. And here at ISTEC it is both our vision and our belief that in the future half of all downwind sails will be supported with a wing. Especially when your yacht is on a reach, the Parasailor and the Parasail give it a sense of safety, supremacy and performance never before experienced, opening up new opportunities and horizons for many yachtsmen. Equipped with products specifically designed for it, now is the time to enjoy the pleasure of going on a downwind run together with ISTEC. Immerse yourself in the ISTEC World and let yourself be amazed, enthused and swept along by our team.

Your ISTEC Team
You'll see: Your favourite course is now safe – even downwind.
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Your favourite course is now safe – even downwind
Relaxed sailing on a run – we call that downwind pleasure! Feel like a blue water sail, or perhaps even an ARC cruise, or just simply a relaxed trip out with a small crew? With our Parasailor and its unique design these are all achieved to the full.

With the simplest of operations set your windward leech into the wind. Then relax and watch how the Parasailor in a pleasantly upright position automatically adjusts itself to the wind in all its facets. Functioning like a "soft batten", the pressure filled wing contributes to actively reopening the collapsed leech. Doing so the wing generates lift that not only raises the bow of your yacht, it also ensures that there is no loss of propulsion.

With or without a pole, as you prefer, the Parasailor contributes to a very relaxed mood onboard. Its high quality material as well as its triple ply leech construction with red and green markings ensure that the Parasailor is always a reliable companion on all your downwind trips.

“I'd recommend the Parasailor to anyone thinking about buying a new Spinnaker.”

Jimmy Cornell, sailing pioneer and author, Great Britain
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Your dream couple onboard – Parasailor on autopilot

Fitting a “kite” into a Spinnaker: This proved to be the creative solution in the search for a way to lift the bow. Thanks to this any yawing by the yacht is prevented especially on a downwind course and the autopilot can reliably perform its work and that under tougher conditions as well. This makes the Parasailor the ultimate tool – for local and blue water sailing.

“You don’t even need to be at the rudder. The Parasailor smoothes out any course fluctuations by your control system – perfect.”

Bobby Schenk, sailing legend, circumnavigator and author, Germany
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Experience the perfect mix of dynamism and convenience
The Parasail is positioned between the usual downwind sail and the Parasailor, making it your very personal guarantee of a sailing trip that is sporting but relaxed. Be that with your guests on a club regatta or on a family cruise: The striking appearance of the Parasail as well as your own cool and calm performance will make heads turn – and that in front of a home crowd too.

The gentle way in which the Parasail vents any gusts of wind protects your rig and spars. ISTEC manufactures the Parasail to aviation engineering standards from extremely tough but light Spinnaker cloth. This ensures that wear and tear is minimal even with frequent use.

The Parasail willingly responds to the smallest of gusts and quickly picks up speed. You do not have to be out racing in order to enjoy the Parasail.

"The ISTEC wing sail replaces the Genaker and Spinnaker and the way it can be used is amazing, making it ideal for a small crew."

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Sporting but relaxed even on a run

The Parasail is manufactured for yachts of all sizes. Due to its “single-skin-wing” it is highly recommended for very large rigs. However this type of wing design also has clear advantages for yachts with shorter forebodies and when sailing on lakes.
The pack size and cloth weight of the Parasail have been kept to a minimum, making its use so easy and light.
Like the Parasailor, the wing prevents the centre of gravity in your yacht from drifting forwards. Through this it improves control over the yacht.
And what if the wind shifts: No problem because on a Gennaker course any gusts will be smoothed out and the keel drawn smoothly through the water.
Whether you are out with a large or small crew, the Parasail is the perfect choice for everyone who loves a sporting cruise yet wants the convenience of a sail with a wing.

“Once you’d set the ISTEC sail, you really noticed how much the ship liked it, the bow didn’t have to dip down so deep in the water. The wind filled the wing in the sail and really lifted up the ship at the front.”
Winfield Burmeister, water sports journalist, Germany
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IS Cruisingline
TEC
Made to measure for your yacht
Made to measure for your yacht
With its Cruising Line, ISTEC is offering traditional Gennakers, Spinnakers, Blisters, Runners, Cruising Chutes and even Code Zeros in the best of quality.

Together with the well-known sail designer and regatta yachtsman Markus Roesch, we are now fulfilling your demands for your very own downwind sail individually designed and produced by us. We take into account your type of yacht, where you intend to sail primarily and your requirements in terms of measurements and size. The ISTEC Cruising Line will become the new distinctive custom-made apparel for your yacht with the unique imprint of an international designer.

"The extraordinary cut of the sail combined with the high-quality Spinnaker cloth are your guarantee of success with the Cruisingline sail."

Markus Roesch, regatta sailor and sail designer, Germany
Custom-made in ISTEC quality

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When hoisting and lowering your sail becomes a pleasure
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Precisely conceived functionality to inspire you

With the Easysnuffer you now have every kind of downwind sail under control, be it a Parasailor, Parasail, Blister, Spinnaker, Cruising Chute or Gennaker. The well thought out details of this self-explanatory system permit even the smallest crews to handle large light-weight sails. When hosting the sail, the red-green markings clearly simplify any question about the right direction. And in order to be sure that what is in it stays in place, the clew rings attached to the side of the snuffer mouth prevent the colourful sheeting from getting twisted up inside. The sock is well aired, permitting the sail to dry out even when it is snuffed. The materials and workmanship fulfil ISTEC’s well known quality standards and guarantee that raising and lowering your sail is always a smooth and easy operation.

“The Easysnuffer made it easy for me as a single hander to open or close the spinnaker with no “pop” or dramatic openings. It was always smooth and easy even in strong wind conditions.”

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Our love for detail makes hoisting and lowering so easy

Without a moment’s hesitation the snuffer mouth swallows up your downwind sail, even in stronger winds. And thanks to its oval shape it can easily be stowed away through all standard deck hatches. Its “two-stage-reefing” system is unique. When you pull on the line to hoist the sail, at first the Easysnuffer slides together to half of its height and the lower half of the sock slips in smoothly, ensuring that your sail cannot get caught or snagged. And of course after this first stage, the system still remains a joy of simplicity as the rest of the sail automatically furls up to the top – with supreme ease and by pulling on just one line. It almost seems like magic!

“Even with a proper wind I was able to lower the Parasailor easily by myself thanks to the Easysnuffer.”

Sonja Puchner, Catamaran Felix, blue water sailor, Austria
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Racelinebag

Not only what's inside counts
Not only what’s inside counts
The convenience of compression

The Cruisingbag is rightly called an intelligent bag, because not only does it allow Parasailors and Parasails to be compressed into the smallest possible pack sizes, but also every other kind of downwind sail as well. The fasteners, which are also used in mountaineering, can be opened and closed effortlessly with just one hand. The detailed workmanship of the deck ties with which the bag can be securely attached to the deck is just as remarkable as the aluminium coated bottom that prevents any dampness seeping into the sail – or conversely dripping into your cabin. And still your sail is able to dry out easily thanks to the airing strips fitted all around the Cruisingbag.

Of course the Cruisingbag also has an oval shape just like the funnel of the Easysnuffer, so that both of them fit perfectly together. And with its four handles making it so easy to move, this little pack feels at home no matter where you put it onboard.
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Ready to go – from the railing to the topmast

When hoisting your sail, if you have a well designed bag, one developed together with regatta professionals, then you are already at an advantage, not just mentally. Because in the wind-protected interior of the Racelinebag the sheets and halyards are already attached to the sail. And at the same time the Racelinebag itself is secured to the guard rail with small carabiners.

The clew rings attached to the bag are colour-coded, thus ensuring that the sail is always in the correct starboard and port position. The battens fitted into the sides of the bag strengthen and brace it, while Velcro fasteners ensure that the bag remains securely fastened until you are ready to hoist. In this way the sail can be easily hoisted directly from the cockpit.

Just like with the Cruisingbag, the airing strips fitted all around the bag ensure that its snug contents can dry out well even during longer periods of storage.

In this way the Racelinebag represents the perfect home for all downwind sails and in between regattas.
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Safety

Nice when you can depend on your very own safety reserve. The world's largest circulation boating magazines and other experienced crews have tested the wing Spinnaker from ISTEC to the utmost. And their unanimous result: The Parasailor and Parasail deliver what they promise. The wing's effectiveness clearly shifts the limits of what you achieve. And even if what you achieve does not depend on your sail alone, for you this means: A major plus in terms of safety.
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The principle of sailing with a wing

A tailwind fills the sail and propels the yacht forwards (propulsion). Part of the pressure escapes through the opening in the sail behind which the wing has been fitted in such a way that the air flows past above and below it. Thanks to the shape of the wing and the angle at which the air flows towards it (with the angle optimised for efficiency), the air on the surface of the wing accelerates faster than the air beneath it. Low pressure then forms on the surface which literally sucks the wing upwards and stabilises it (lift).

The wing lift achieves two essential effects: Firstly the pressure on the bow is minimised. And secondly the propulsion is increased because the wing’s optimised angle of efficiency is designed so that the loss of propulsion caused by the opening is completely compensated for.
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### Lift Parasailor vs Parasail

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wind speed on the wing* in kts</th>
<th>Parasailor wing uplift</th>
<th>Parasail wing uplift</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3500</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3250</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3000</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2500</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2250</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1750</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1250</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>750</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Parasailor (105m²) Parasail (104m²)
Comparison

The right wing for your requirements

- Gennaker
- Spinnaker
- Parasail
- Parasailor
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Features</th>
<th>Parasailor</th>
<th>Parasail</th>
<th>Spinnaker</th>
<th>Gennaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gust venting</td>
<td>maximal</td>
<td>strong</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heeling</td>
<td>clearly reduced</td>
<td>lower</td>
<td>high close to the wind</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light wind performance</td>
<td>from 5 knots</td>
<td>from 4 knots</td>
<td>from 3 - 4 knots</td>
<td>from 2 knots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong wind performance</td>
<td>clearly better than spi level</td>
<td>above spi level</td>
<td>high, but very ambitious</td>
<td>not suitable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bow lift / lift</td>
<td>maximal</td>
<td>clear</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yawing</td>
<td>clearly reduced</td>
<td>reduced</td>
<td>tends to yaw</td>
<td>Increased leeway tendency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autopilot suitability/rudder pressure</td>
<td>optimal / none</td>
<td>almost always / minimal</td>
<td>only with a light wind / increased</td>
<td>only with a light wind / increased</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinnaker boom</td>
<td>with or without boom</td>
<td>with or without boom</td>
<td>with boom</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leech opening / course correction</td>
<td>automatic, active / no reaction necessary</td>
<td>automatic / light course correction</td>
<td>not automatic / ease the sheets and bear off</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leech stability</td>
<td>very high</td>
<td>increased</td>
<td>low / sensitive</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceleration</td>
<td>gently controllable</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>very high</td>
<td>high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind angle average approx.</td>
<td>65° - 180°</td>
<td>65° - 180°</td>
<td>90° - 180°</td>
<td>80° - 140°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoisting and lowering behaviour</td>
<td>easy</td>
<td>very easy</td>
<td>complex due to Spi boom</td>
<td>very easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inherent stability</td>
<td>very high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suitability</th>
<th>Parasailor</th>
<th>Parasail</th>
<th>Spinnaker</th>
<th>Gennaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yacht size</td>
<td>30 - 70 feet, all boat types</td>
<td>all boat types, mega yachts / racer, cruiser</td>
<td>racer, cruiser</td>
<td>racer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regattas</td>
<td>long distance</td>
<td>long distance</td>
<td>up and down, triangles</td>
<td>only with planing boat, triangles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue water</td>
<td>optimally suited, ARC tested</td>
<td>well suited</td>
<td>limited suitability</td>
<td>not defined</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ISTEC is a corporate member of the ARC

More than 100 yachts were drawn across the Atlantic with ISTEC sails at the last “Atlantic Rally for Cruisers” and the number is growing every year. Some of the participants tell you here what it was like:

“If it was not for the Parasailor Spinnaker we would not be here yet. 185nm instead of 160nm per day makes all the difference.”  
Chris, Sweden Yacht 50

“The Parasailor kept the boat more stable – less rolling. We were able to dine at the cockpit table!”  
John, Benéteau 57

“It’s very kind to the rig. When it collapses, it reopens softly. We flew ours for 240 consecutive hours, locked off on both sides all the time. You wouldn’t fly a Spinnaker for that long without a full race crew.”  
George, J42

“It’s definitely top marks for the Parasailor for its ability to reduce rolling. It’s the only sail I’ve seen that actively reduces roll.”  
Graham, Discovery 55

“We had some decent performance out of the Parasailor given extremely light wind conditions during the night. The wind ranged from 4-10 knots and we managed between 4-8 knots in speed. Pretty impressive really.”  
California, Beneteau 57

“It launched very easily and is a very forgiving sail. We tried lowering and again it was so easy.”  
Torvin, Lagoon 500
I’d recommend the Parasailor to everyone

“Your not at the sheet and Spi guy the whole time, something that really suits a lazy crew. I often set the Parasailor without the Spi boom and just use it like a normal asymmetric Spinnaker.”
“I’d recommend the Parasailor to anyone thinking about buying a new Spinnaker.”

Jimmy Cornell, sailing pioneer and author, Great Britain

The Parasailor – a turbo for sailing yachts

“Finally an intelligent downwind sail for port to port sails with the Parasailor – a turbo for sailing yachts.”
“You almost don’t even notice the Parasailor smoothing out any course fluctuations by your control system – perfect.”

Bobby Schenk, sailing legend, circumnavigator and author, Germany

I love my Parasailor

“While crossing the Indian Ocean, I had my Parasailor up for more than a week without taking it down. I love my Parasailor and I think it’s worth it.”

Mike Harker, hang gliding pioneer and single handed circumnavigator, USA
The most important innovation in the sport of sailing

“The Parasailor is counted among the most important innovations in the sport of sailing over the last 100 years.”

Yacht, Europe’s largest sailing magazine, Germany

No inclination to roll

“Our most significant observations were that the boat showed no inclination to roll; the Spinnaker flew steadily without oscillating from side to side as often happens dead downwind; the bow was higher than usual; and if the kite collapsed it didn’t flog violently and threaten to blow itself out or shake the rig out of the boat.”

Practical Boat Owner, best selling yachting magazine, England

Ideal for using with an autopilot

“Top marks for the Parasailor. The Parasailor seems genuinely to make the cruiser’s life easier, requiring little trimming and dealing flexibly with variations in wind and sea state. Ideal for using with an autopilot.”

Yachting World, yachting magazine, Great Britain
A stable course guaranteed

“Any prejudices we had are definitely shattered. And we’re amazed at the course stability that this sail guaranteed our boat.”

Mondo Barca, yachting magazine, Italy

Balanced steering

“Due to the inner pressure, the Parasailor wing acts like cross-bracing and stabilises the side ply leeches. And in spite of sailing at a faster speed, this permits far more balanced steering and a comfortable sail. Regardless of the size, the cut of the sail and the aerodynamics are adjusted to the ship’s specifications.”

Segler Zeitung, sailing magazine, Germany

No flapping or snapping

“I couldn’t believe how effortless it was. No flapping or snapping from the Spinnaker.”

SA Sailing, sailing magazine, South Africa
Yes, I would like to learn more about the ISTEC downwind products.

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