

BOATING GEAR



GEAR TEST: ROCNA ANCHOR

BY COLIN LOWE

Long distance cruiser and boat builder Peter Smith designed the Rocna anchor, then tested a 50Kg prototype on his yacht, *Kiwi Roa*, during a circumnavigation of New Zealand. I borrowed a 25Kg version for my 12 metre Ganley cutter over the summer.

My testing was subjective, in mostly mild conditions around Abel Tasman in good holding. After dropping and backing *Wild Bird* off with three times the depth in chain released, the anchor always set quickly. A dive revealed the drag pattern was always under a metre and the blade deeply embedded in sand with anchor orientated correctly. The breakout required some boat momentum to enable the windlass to operate. Sometimes, the anchor spooned up a fair quantity of the seabed, but it washed off as we dragged it through the water.

The Rocna wraps itself around the bronze roller sprit during retrieval and releases automatically. The Rocna didn't stow as compactly as my plough but the 1441cm² blade area of the Rocna is almost double that of the plough, shown on the left of the picture for comparison. The Rocna blade attacks the substrate at almost twice the angle of the plough, and has twice the weight on the tip, which helps quick setting.

The Rocna anchor has a large concave-shaped blade with a rollbar and shank. The hollow rollbar ensure the anchor sets tip down. The manufacturer claims the shank is quenched and tempered high tensile steel, making it resistant to deformation. There is a hole on the blade for fastening a trip line and another hole on the shank for shackling a tandem anchor, although I prefer to shackle the second anchor up the chain. The anchor appears to be finished in a good quality hot dip zinc coating.

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