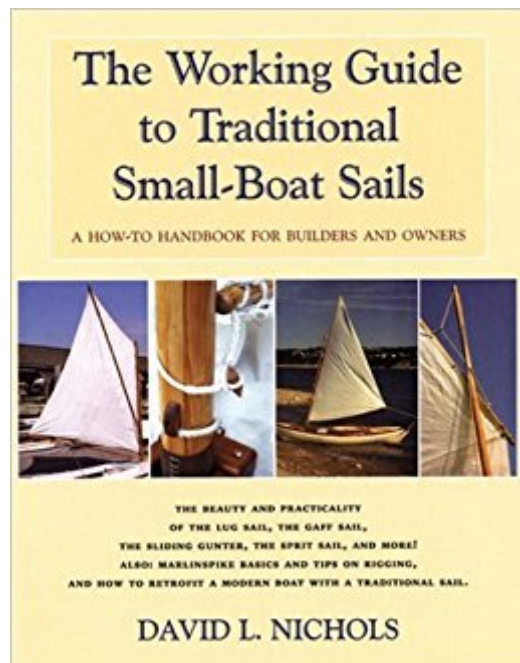




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# The Working Guide To Traditional Small-Boat Sails: A How-to Handbook For Builders And Owners



## Synopsis

Make your modern sailboat look (and work) like a salty classic. The Golden Age of Sail is long past, sadly, and much of its lore is nearly extinct. Sailboats now almost uniformly use the Bermudan sloop rig—a triangular jib and a triangular mainsail. But that rig evolved mainly to meet esoteric yacht-racing measurement rules. It is not necessarily the most efficient or effective rig. This book lets sailors rediscover the practical advantages—and the aesthetic delights—of such configurations as the sprit sail, the gaff sail, the lug sail, and the gunter rig. It also includes valuable information on marlinspike work like rope-whipping and eye-splicing; and tips on converting your modern sailboat to a traditional rig.

SOME REVIEWS: "This will become the classic book on traditional rigs for small boats. . . . A concise and thorough compendium on using low-cost and efficient traditional rigs, the kind that not only look better but work better on small boats than their modern counterparts." —Gary Blankenship, Duckworks Magazine "The traditional rigs here are the kind you'll find on the clinker plywood designs of Iain Oughtred and the like; rigs with polyester sails and running rigging. Tufnol blocks and stainless steel shackles. Modern traditional boats, if you'll forgive the phrase. Similarly, there's a nice mix of old and new the manner the material is presented: old in the cleanliness of the page design; new in the extensive use of colour close-up photographs to illustrate details of the rigs. Highly recommended." —Water Craft Magazine "Mr. Nichols does an excellent job of explaining the fundamentals in terms that are useful to old salts looking to tweak their rigs, builders trying to figure out what's next, and admirers of traditional design." —Good Old Boat

David L. Nichols has been building boats and making sails for approximately fifteen years. When he isn't designing sails or building boats you'll find him in the boats he's designed and built. He feels that the only way to truly understand boats and sails is to use them. A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, he has written for boating magazines like *WoodenBoat* and *Boatbuilder*, as well as writing and producing boat building videos. His designs may be viewed at [arrowheadboats.com](http://arrowheadboats.com).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

David Nichols has been designing and building boats for the last 15 years. A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, he has written for boating magazines, including *WoodenBoat* and *Boatbuilder*, as well as writing and producing boatbuilding videos. He is the author of *The Working Guide to Traditional Small-Boat Sails*.

I like this book for its enjoyable writing style and practical information on the rigging of traditional small wooden boats. The various sails documented are the lovely and functional products of centuries of European and American boating tradition, and what is good in life should stay that way, and the author assists this process with his contribution to the subject. Indeed, what better way to insure the continued tradition of lug sails and etc, than to discuss them in an inexpensive and focused book such as this? If you were to own just one book on small traditional sails, and were not interested a lot of ancillary and craftmanslike detail, this might be the book, although a variety of other books are also available and go into greater depth on this or that issue. Of course, you can't have too many books about traditional boats, so you ought to own and read them all! Start with this one, and if you enjoy it, start buying the others, is what I'd advise. The photographs are clear and useful, but if I have one complaint, it is the basic visual format of the book: the type size and page layout could be slightly more compressed and compactly designed, providing the same information in a more handy (less amateurish looking) package. A small complaint, but there you have it. If I didn't complain about something, you might not believe the good things I had to say. --wt

I once thought that there was only one of these books on small craft sails, but --surprise--there are two, including this one. Which is pretty good, especially if you want to experiment with sail types. This actually will save you from going out and buying three or four sails for your boat if that is something you had planned to do. Much cheaper to buy the book

Sorry to say this book was not a good purchase. The author is not an expert in my opinion but someone who apparently reads other books, builds a set of sails for his own boat and therefore considers himself an expert. He claims when he is not boat building and sailmaking that he is out sailing, not true. There are far better books on the subject such as The Sailmakers Apprentice available through . Luckily I purchased just the Kindle version so no great loss.

This book gives the reader valuable information for designing several different traditional sails. It also provides the reader with an understanding of center of effect and describes how to calculate where it is located on your proposed sail. Along with numerous pictures subscribing various rigging options you will refer to this book many times.

The Working Guide to Traditional Small-Boat Sails: A How-to Handbook for Builders and OwnersExcellent book, clear and concise with good pictures and diagrams. Very good intro and subject background with logical progression through various types of sails and their rigging.I enjoyed reading and have come back to reread various chapters as I study different boat designs prior to selection and building a traditional small sailboat.

Been on the water with canoes, kayaks and a Gearing class destroyer. But I never had to deal with sailboat rigging. Illustrations and explanations in this book were first rate for unraveling (no pun intended) the meaning of all the rigging details connected with these old-fashioned sails. I believe the author made the assumption that I knew nothing about the subject. Good call on the author's part.

Very helpful, well written to be understood by someone who is learning, sure it is helpful to those of some experience as well.

The Working Guide to Traditional Small-Boat Sails: A How-to Handbook for Builders and Owners by David Nichols is among the most useful books in my sailing library. It is short. It is a handbook. It will help you see the possibilities. It will not work out the details of a particular design for you. Gary Blankenship's review of the book in Duckworks magazine is fair and accurate. Have a look:[....]

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