

Making Waves far from Home –

The European designed TES 678BT proves that good things still come in small packages!



Relatively new to Canada - and by way of Poland – The TES 678BT is an incredibly comfortable, friendly and stylish pocket cruiser, with an inviting layout for a couple or a small family.

Packed with features and details usually found on boats much larger, the TES (24' LOA) looks clean and inviting. It has a well designed deck plan, and can sleep four people comfortably, in two permanent double berths. The overall design and functionality – provides a level of enjoyment for beginners and for advanced sailors that is unmatched by most boats in its size range.

The TES sailboat features a retractable swing centreboard, a very functional cockpit and an array of amenities typically reserved for boats much larger. The TES sells for approximately \$35,000.00 (contact TES Yacht Canada www.tes-yacht.ca, North Lakes Yachting www.northlakesyachting.com or Bridge Yachts at www.bridgeyachts.com) ...and it's easily trailerable.

Beautiful glass work and excellent quality hardware all contribute to the quality feel of this boat. The boat features attractive trim-work and has an offset step in the companionway - a decidedly European touch.

The galley is beautiful, and so much friendlier than on any boat in this size range. And while the head is simple and functional, just the fact that there is an enclosed head with a sink (and not a porta-potty under the step) tells you something about what to expect with this boat. Expect the unexpected! For starters, how about 5'9" headroom!

When it comes to storage, there's an incredible amount of room in the cockpit lockers. The designers of the boat have crafted space where typically there is none. Using a raised cockpit locker configuration, means there is more than enough storage space for everyday items like fenders and lifejackets – yes – *MORE* than enough...and that's not something you hear everyday from boat owners of any size!

The boat we tested featured Harken winches (three in total) and EasyLock clutches with all lines led aft. Good quality hardware is standard on the TES – and high-quality hardware is often the first sacrifice in a long list of compromises where value is the goal – but not here.

The centreboard in this boat is hinged, with no pin – which means better safety should “the shallows” appear suddenly. The rudder is also free to swing up in an emergency which is a great feature. With the centerboard and rudder raised - 12" of water is all you need to get close to the beach. The transom also features swing open benches allowing for easy access to the water or beach.

At the bow there's a huge anchor well, a big forward hatch, and a very friendly stainless pulpit with an integrated step which is perfect for “nose-in” docking, or for as a seat for the adventure seeker aboard. The large anchor well is also the perfect place to store propane cylinders since it is cross ventilated.

The mast is easily adjusted and features a simple system for lowering it should it be required. It's an easy to use system that works well.

There is no traditional bilge in this boat due to the hull construction method; instead - in the area typically occupied by the bilge - you will find positive flotation. The boat is virtually unsinkable by design.

In the main cabin we counted no less than fourteen storage spaces. We admired the really good interior lighting system that features four interior lights. The cockpit table disassembles and stores right alongside the interior table in the main cabin. The system is really well thought out – especially since it's so easy to reach out and securely set up the cockpit table in about three seconds from within the cabin.

This centerboard trunk inside the cabin is relatively unobtrusive, and the dining/chart table below deck is integrated with the centerboard trunk.

Sailing the boat with one other person, or single-handed is a pleasure. The asymmetrical spinnaker is easy to launch, easy to handle and provided us with a good bit of speed, we reached 6.1 knots in just over 10 knots of wind.

The TES 678BT features a mainsail, and 100% jib. In my opinion, the boat could handle a little more headsail on a light wind day without any difficulty. The sheeting angle for the headsail might also be looked at in future model years, while not a significant problem - it could be improved with better positioning of the deck hardware.

For “ease of use”, the mainsail features a lazy-jack mainsail stacker system which affords the skipper lots of on-deck freedom and room to maneuver, when taking the sails down. Lazy Jacks are the sort of feature that makes taking less experienced, or novice sailors out for a sail a real pleasure.

Sailing upwind in approximately ten knots of wind we saw speeds that ranged from five to 5.8 knots on flat water.

All in all the TES is a very well constructed and uniquely designed boat that can't be beat in it's size range for attractiveness, ease of handling, safety, and comfort. The boat is now available with an optional fixed keel, which would be our choice for upwind performance and efficiency – and for the added interior space.

It's easy to picture sunny days, and having lots of fun on the TES – either by yourself or with friends – all at an affordable price where there are very, very few other boats that even come close.

TES 678BT Specs:

LOA: 22'4

LWL: 19'7"

Beam: 8'4"

Head Room: 5'9"

Draft-Board Up: 12"

Draft-Board Down: 4'8"

Weight / Displacement: 3,300 lbs

Internal ballast: 770 lbs

Sail area: 249 sq. ft.

Auxiliary Horsepower: 4 to 8 HP

For inquiries in Canada contact:

TES Yacht Canada

Mark Janczarski

Tel: (613) 523-7857

Fax: (613) 799-4982

email: info@tes-yacht.ca

On the Web: www.tes-yacht.ca

Suggested Pictures: *(Photo's by Tom Kjaersgaard)*



Off the wind in flat water, with about 10 knots of breeze, the TES 678 performed admirably – reaching 6 knots.



The TES packs up quickly, and mooring close to shore is a breeze since the boat can draw as little as 12" of water.



Clean, uncomplicated lines on deck make sailing the TES a welcome pleasure.