

SWALLOW CLASS RULES

TACKTICK COMPASSES

At the end of 2006 TackTick withdrew from sale their Sail Master and Speed Master ranges of compasses, with optional depth and speed transducers. The Sail Master compasses with depth transducers have been fitted to Spectre, Cockersootie and perhaps to other boats. In January 2007 TackTick introduced a new **Race Master System** which has important differences with implications for the Swallow Class.

The TackTick Micro Compass System appears to be unchanged although the model number has been incremented.

Full details of the Race Master System can be found at

<http://www.tacktick.com/catalog/6>



What are the similarities and differences?

1. The display unit is functionally very similar and remains solar powered. It no longer has any cable connection.
2. Where possible TackTick use their Micronet wireless communication system rather than cables.
3. The display unit communicates wirelessly with a "hull transmitter" into which the transducers and other devices are wired.
4. The hull transmitter and transducers require an external power supply which can be a TackTick solar panel mounted on the boat or any 9 volt to 24 volt battery. For example bigger boats can wire it into their central electrical system.
5. TackTick have introduced a combined depth and speed transducer. This combined unit is standard supply in the Race Master System. Individual transducers remain available.



What are the implications for the Swallow Class?

1. Wireless communication between permitted devices was approved at the January 2007 AGM and is incorporated into new class rule C.5.1.
2. Solar powered devices have been permitted for several years. Personally I think solar panels may be susceptible to damage and I prefer to use a battery; I am told a standard PP9 battery is sufficient although it may not last many weeks.
3. The combined speed and depth transducer supplied as standard with the Race Master System is prohibited. The only permitted transducer is the one that measures only depth.

Note that both the 2005 class rules and the revised 2008 class rules state that "anything not specifically permitted by these rules is prohibited".

What is now permitted?

As at January 2008 the following TackTick equipment is allowed. All other TackTick items are prohibited.

A. Micro Compass System

T060 Micro Compass System
and any appropriate bracket to secure the compass.

B. Race Master System

comprising any or all the following

T070 Race Master display, solar powered, mount on deck or mast

T121 Hull transmitter, mount in dry place probably under the foredeck, although could be inside the bow tank depending on transducer location.

T912 Depth transducer, mount on or through bottom of hull

T138 Solar panel, mount perhaps on foredeck?

- PP9 or other 9v to 24v battery

and in every case appropriate brackets to secure the various items.

C. Legacy Systems

All Micro Compass and Sail Master devices that were permitted when first fitted remain permitted.

I hope this short paper will help clarify the position on TackTick equipment. Needless to say the new system is more expensive than the old one. Whether it will be better for Swallows, who are not allowed most of the gizmos that can now be linked in to the system, is speculation.

The National Swallow Class Association Committee have approved publication of this document as guidance for Swallow sailors. However, please note that authoritative interpretations of the class rules can only be made by the RYA.

Richard Thompson
updated 5 January 2008

Migrant's Experience

Migrant fitted a Race Master system for the 2007 season. Our experience with the Race Master is that the setup is quite complex, supposedly to make it more accurate, and therefore it requires very careful calibration. We found this out early on with depth settings and later (to our cost) with the compass on the very long legs at Cowes. We will try and recalibrate from scratch this spring. On the positive side, the display is great and all our semi-blind crew can read it easily without glasses. It is expensive but I think we will make better use of it when we set it up correctly.