

# HOW TO SELECT YOUR COMPASS?

*For almost 40 years, we have owed our position as market leader not only to our extensive range of over 400 models, but also to our continuous effort to offer you such a top quality product that you never have chance to mention it, except than recommend it to a friend getting ready to equip his boat.*

*Selecting the best compass for your boat is extremely important, as the compass will be the helmsman's or pilot's navigation mate for many years. To help you choose, we suggest that you ask yourself the following simple but essential questions:*

## **What type of boat do you own?**

Dinghy, cruising boat, racing boat, powerboat, kayak or yawl... You should know that the main differences between a sailboat and a powerboat (in terms of compass construction) are the heeling angle and the resistance to vibration and shocks. These technical elements are of course integrated in the engineering of our compasses.

## **What is your navigation programme?**

Day sailing, cruising, passage making, racing... you will select a compass with or without lighting, with or without compensation, with the right card balanced for the geographical card where you are going to sail, with a plain or tactical card.

## **Which size of compass?**

If the compass is designed to be read from a distance, you will need a larger compass. Generally speaking and as a benchmark indication, you should select a card apparent diameter between 70 and 90 mm, for a 5 to 9 m boat (17-30 ft).

## **Which type of mounting?**

Flushmounted on a horizontal, vertical or inclined bulkhead, on a binnacle or mini-binnacle, on a bracket, in a take-away or mast-mounted version... you must choose a compass which remains easily readable (shape of card) at all times. The Plastimo range of compasses covers all mounting options and all our models are designed for minimum drilling and screwing. Last but not least, be stylish: often located at the heart of your boat, your compass should ideally match and enhance the character of your boat; you will therefore pay particular attention to its design and colour.

# What are the different types of cards?



## **Flat card**

A flat card is read on the back edge, where the lubberline is located. The fluid magnifies the numerals which become easier to read. In addition, the flat card provides a global view of the card and its North point in relation to the boat's direction.



## **Conical or cylindrical card**

Reading from the front and the top of the card. In addition to front reading, this type of card usually features numerals and cardinal points on the top part of the card, thus providing two reading possibilities. This card is particularly suitable when steering or piloting is done sitting or standing.

# COMPASS INSTALLATION ON BOARD



## **Flushmount on horizontal surface**

This extra-flat version provides an excellent viewing angle and also reduces vibrations by absorbing them. On a powerboat, a flushmount compass is ideal for the fly bridge, the upper deck or the central steering pod; on a sailboat, a flushmount compass will be ideally located on either side of the deck or mounted on a binnacle.



## **Flushmount on vertical or inclined surface, often known as bulkhead compass or dashboard compass**

A bulkhead compass is generally mounted on the cockpit side of the cabin bulkhead, allowing easy viewing from the cockpit (and also from the cabin, with the famous Contest 101). On a powerboat, this is ideally suitable for a vertical dashboard or a central steering pod.



## **Bracket**

Very popular on powerboats, a bracket allows for swift and easy mounting whatever the location. It is particularly suitable on surfaces with awkward angles. A bracket-mount compass can generally be taken away for safe storage, which is a real plus on a powerboat with no cabin.



## **Binnacle for steering wheel**

For sailboats with a steering wheel.



## **Mini-binnacle**

Ultra-slim and compact version; does not require any cut-out hole. The compass can be taken away for safe storage.



## **Removable**

Mounted on a fixing plate or a specific bracket, a removable compass can be taken away when not in use, safe from UV-rays and possible theft.



## **Mast-mounting**

If you have only little space available, mast installation can be the answer. It is very easy to carry out thanks to a specific mast mounting kit.



## **On fixing bracket**

Often a multi-function compass (combines course + handbearing functions), this type of compass is usually removable for storage.

## **Some helpful hints**

### **Does my compass need to be compensated?**

If you use your compass as a real navigation instrument, it is indeed preferable to have it compensated. All Plastimo compasses either have an integrated factory compensation or can be further compensated.

Magnetic fields generating interference on the compass performance exist on all boats. They can originate from many different sources: loudspeakers, engine, electronic instruments... Do remember that the distance from the interference source is more critical than the intensity of the interference.

