



## Rocket 22

### Sport boat

The new Rocket 22 started life on July 17, 1980, on the drawing board of Peter Dunsford in the Gary Mull design office in Oakland. The little Pocket Rocket was one of a series of boats that Gary did that used the same general approach and that had proven to be very effective on the race course. Peter is still around. I just talked to him on the phone. He designs boats for the rides at Disneyland. Gary has gone on to that big design office in the sky but the little 22 Pocket Rocket has resurfaced as the Rocket 22 after being modified by Don Martin of Vancouver, British Columbia. This is

one of four “sport boat” types we will be looking at this month.

I’m not sure where that label, sport boat, came from. Maybe it was introduced with the first Melges 24s to describe a boat that was designed to be a ballasted-keel race boat without any attention, or at least minimal attention, being paid to accommodations. There is no hard and fast definition and this month we will see boats that span the entire range of the sport boat class.

The hull shape of the Rocket has a very firm turn to the bilge for good initial stability. The boat is wide with max beam at 9 feet, 6 inches for an L/B of 2.31. There is a lot of flare to the topsides and the sectional shape at the

vertical transom is not quite dead flat at centerline. The D/L is 71.87. The deep, retractable fin is cast aluminum and the bulb is 600 pounds of lead. With the keel lifted the draft is about 18 inches.

The deck of the Rocket is entirely new. The cockpit is much bigger than the original with a center console so you can adjust lines from either side of the cockpit. Lines leading aft from the foredeck and mast are led under the deck. Pipe racks and molded-in toe benches are used in the cockpit to help keep the crew up to weather.

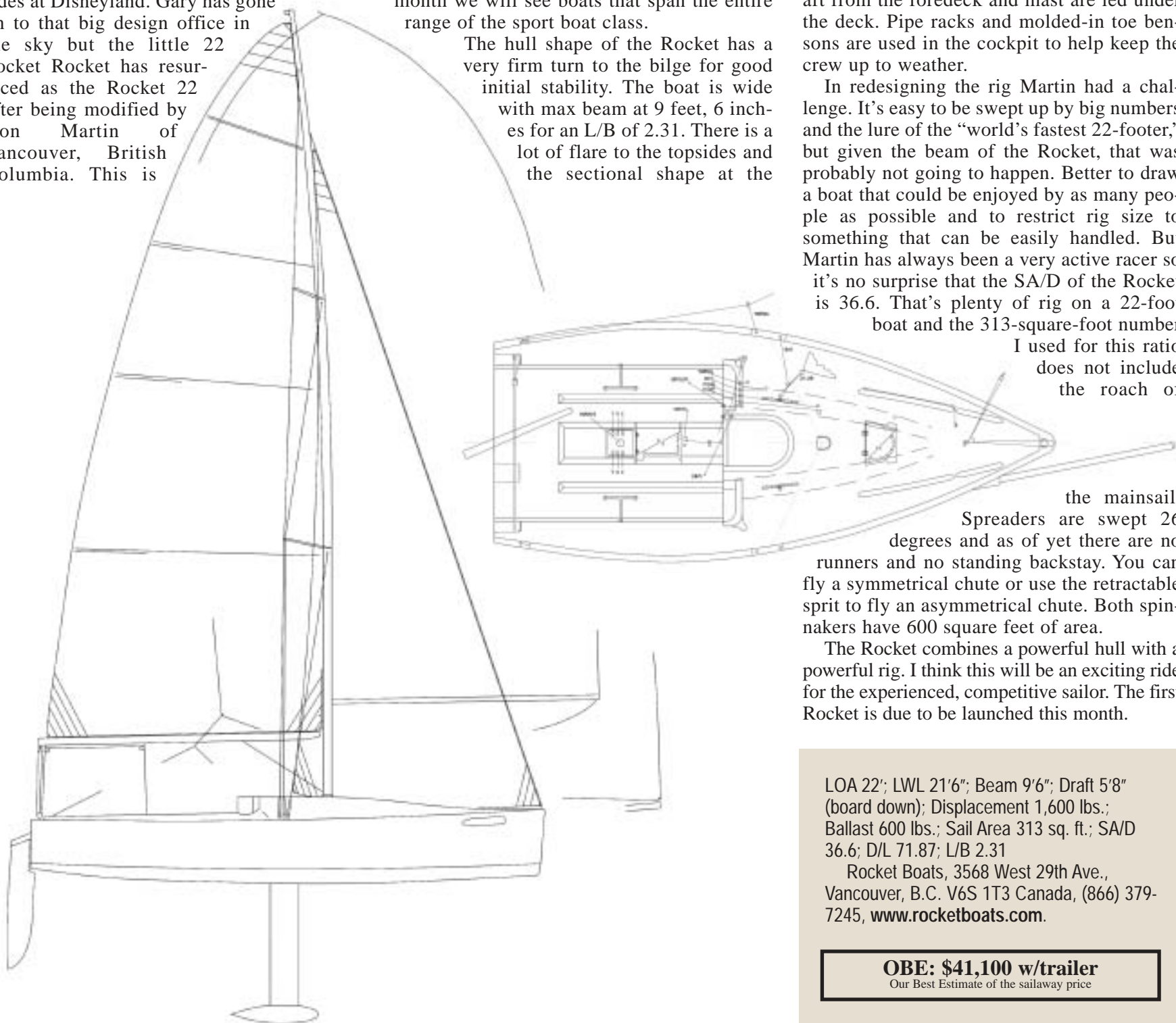
In redesigning the rig Martin had a challenge. It’s easy to be swept up by big numbers and the lure of the “world’s fastest 22-footer,” but given the beam of the Rocket, that was probably not going to happen. Better to draw a boat that could be enjoyed by as many people as possible and to restrict rig size to something that can be easily handled. But Martin has always been a very active racer so it’s no surprise that the SA/D of the Rocket is 36.6. That’s plenty of rig on a 22-foot boat and the 313-square-foot number

I used for this ratio does not include the roach of

the mainsail.

Spreaders are swept 26 degrees and as of yet there are no runners and no standing backstay. You can fly a symmetrical chute or use the retractable sprit to fly an asymmetrical chute. Both spinnakers have 600 square feet of area.

The Rocket combines a powerful hull with a powerful rig. I think this will be an exciting ride for the experienced, competitive sailor. The first Rocket is due to be launched this month.



LOA 22'; LWL 21'6"; Beam 9'6"; Draft 5'8" (board down); Displacement 1,600 lbs.; Ballast 600 lbs.; Sail Area 313 sq. ft.; SA/D 36.6; D/L 71.87; L/B 2.31

Rocket Boats, 3568 West 29th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6S 1T3 Canada, (866) 379-7245, [www.rocketboats.com](http://www.rocketboats.com).

**OBE: \$41,100 w/trailer**  
Our Best Estimate of the sailaway price