



JOHN CHAMPION

ABOVE: A Lightwave 38 under sail.

Making the switch

Jan Jeffree never thought she'd see the day when her one-eyed monohull-loving man would want a multihull, but she has, and she can't wait to set sail with him! Here she explains what prompted them to make the switch.

Can a leopard change its spots? It would appear that way because after 40 plus years as a dedicated, one-eyed monohull owner/sailor Terry has decided that it's time we bought a cat.

We looked at a lot of cats but eventually settled on the Australian-built Lightwave. We liked their style and thought they were good value. And when we discovered how well they tacked we were sold. Particularly when we discovered it was self-tacking at that! Gone will be the days of yelling, "Is it off completely?" "Let it go!" "Pull! Faster!" "Hold on, it's caught around the inner

forestay!" In comparison I expect to hear, "Fall away just a little more. Beautiful!" "That's it!" "Yahoo! We're away!" "Would you like more pancakes and ice-cream?"

Why

Why are we changing to a cat? Well, as avid, long-term cruisers we long to be able to:

- Sit in roadstead anchorages without rolling our guts out.
- Walk straight on and off the back of the boat.
- Navigate shallower waters, and

- Consistently and comfortably travel 200 plus miles per day without even trying!

Oh, and it will be oh so nice to:

- Sleep together in our own bunk at sea, without using a lee cloth.
- Open cupboards on the wrong tack without having their contents fly into our faces.
- Sit on the toilet without hanging on for dear life.
- Remove the Velcro from the seat of our pants, and
- Throw out the nonskid mats.

Plus, the flatter, more comfortable ride should mean that bracing my head against a bulkhead while pulling up my pants will be a thing of the past, as will sitting down to have a shower.

Need I say more?

Are we just dreaming?

Maybe, but even if only 50 percent of it is true we will be happy. Cats are bound to have their own little idiosyncrasies, as no doubt we will soon find out, and if we don't like them? Well guess what? We can always go back to a mono!



ABOVE: A Lightwave under construction.

OPPOSITE PAGE: The thought of level sailing was just too hard to pass up.

So, by trading our two masts for two hulls we are hoping that we will regain some of that space we've been missing.

Not only that, Terry has definitely mellowed over the years.

He believes he is now ready to become a responsible cat owner, and he is willing to eat humble pie.

With his renewed attitude, his vast sailing experience, and new improvements in yachting technology, he believes he will have no trouble sailing the Lightwave 38 for comfort and speed, and keep it upright!

Delivery

How long before we take delivery?

We ordered our Lightwave 38 in August 2003, and it was started in early January 2004. Roger and Nathan (and their team of boatbuilders) have been pushing a cat out the door every four to six weeks.

As of the time of writing they are still on schedule, so ours will be out the door sometime in May/June 2004.

There will still be a few jobs for Terry to do, such as fit doors, head liner, mast etc to give her our own personal touch, but all the hard, dirty work will be done. She will be named and launched sometime in June/July, and we expect to be able to move on board permanently in November of this year.

What next?

So what next? All being well we will take our new cat cruising in 2006. We loved Thailand, so we plan to go back up there for another couple of seasons at least before moving on to explore the Philippines, Japan, and the west coast of the US. The next trip will be our longest yet, and if we like the cat there will be no reason why it won't happen. Maybe we will see you out there somewhere. We'd like that. That way you will be able to see for yourself that a leopard really can change its spots!



Jan and Terry have sailed South East Asia, the Louisiades, the Solomon Islands and New Zealand together. Terry has worked in the marine industry for more than 30 years and has 40 years' boating experience. Jan has a degree in IT and is currently retraining as a teacher in order to teach when they next go overseas.

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