

Jeff Troy

## Nirvana

*Megatech's graceful racing sloop delivers. It's first class, all the way, in entry level value and performance.*



### Specifications

- Length: 32-1/2"
- Height: 65-1/2"
- Beam: 7-3/4"
- Draft: 12-3/4"
- Weight: 5-1/2 pounds
- Sail Area: 578 square inches
- Top Wind Speed: 15-20 knots
- Radio range: 1500'

### Contents

- Factory-assembled hull and deck
- Factory-rigged carbon fiber mast and Mylar sails
- Factory-installed FM radio system
- Weighted keel
- Varnished wood, folding stand
- Adhesive-backed number stickers
- 16-page instruction manual with "Introduction to Sailing"

Megatech International's Nirvana Racing Sloop is a sleek and beautiful RC sailing vessel, ready to sail and 95 percent complete. Whether a customer wants to race in regattas or just enjoy a relaxing day of sailing on lakes and ponds near home, this sailboat ideally suits the occasion.

Nirvana comes with features that make her a fast competitor in her class, but still maintaining the rigging simplicity and operating ease that's so helpful to the neophyte. Megatech has accomplished this broad appeal with so much integrity that even a non-sailor can handle Nirvana like a pro after just a few minutes on the stick. This is largely because of the pre-fabrication of the vessel, but also because of the comprehensive sailing primer included in the instructions. The seven-page *Introduction to Sailing* included in the manual covers wind direction and sail headings, basic racing rules, luffing rights and collision rules, and even provides a basic race course layout.

The fully assembled Nirvana Racing Yacht comes with a factory-installed two-channel FM radio system on 27 megahertz. A dozen AA batteries (eight for the transmitter and four for the receiver) get the system ready, and Megatech has a fantastic selection of high quality alkaline, NiCd and NIMH batteries available for the job. Once home, purchasers can get this sailboat ready for the water — or traveling to the water — in just a few minutes.

Nirvana's hull is sleek, and shaped like that of an Americas cup racer. Made from blown ABS, the one-piece hull and deck is strong and light. The



Blown ABS hull and deck, along with a collection of quality stainless steel fasteners, fittings and stays, contribute to Nirvana's long life.

hull comes in an ultra gloss blue finish and the deck is off white. Preparation is quick, and begins by installing the keel. The Nirvana's removable racing keel has a streamlined, weighted ballast bulb at the lower end. The top end of the



27 MHz FM system nestles in this sealed radio compartment.



Dennis Dotterer warms up to the art by sailing Nirvana close and maneuvering between two docks.

Once the keel is installed and the hull is placed on the stand, the upper rigging — that's the mast, booms and beautiful Mylar sails — can be fitted.

The upper rigging is built on a rigid carbon fiber mast that stands a full four feet tall from its step in the main deck to the tip. While the mast is exceptionally strong, its rigidity is enhanced by two stainless steel wire shrouds that secure to the port and starboard gunwales. A back-stay prevents any forward flex, while a stainless wire forestay eliminates rearward flex and serves as the hanging point for the jib sail luff. The mainsail and jib are each held at the foot by a carbon fiber boom, each with its own effective out-haul system.

Nirvana's main boom has a gooseneck with a boom-vang system. This setup allows either billowing or flattening of the mainsail as needed for different wind conditions. All of the rigging stays and sheet lines have stainless steel hook fasteners to simplify setup and assure an easy takedown for storage or transport. Hooks are simply inserted onto eyes in the deck, and bowsies are used to relax or snug the rigging.

Almost 580 square inches of Mylar are used for the Nirvana's sails, plastic coated for light weight, increased strength and waterproofing. Battens are installed on the leech of both the main and jib, helping the sails to maintain their shape in crisp winds. Additionally, the sails have just the right amount of roach on their trailing edges to maximize every breeze. The sail control lines run down through the deck hardware and pulleys, through the cockpit orifices and servo pulleys to the sail control arm. The rudder shaft is coupled to a beefy tiller arm, then linked

keel unit slides through a slot in the center of the hull, where it is uniquely secured by a 90-degree locking swivel tab that's neatly recessed in the main deck. The folks at Megatech are always thinking, so they even included a varnished, folding wooden stand to rig the racer at the water with the keel attached.



Close hauled on the port tack on the Marsh Creek State Park Lake.

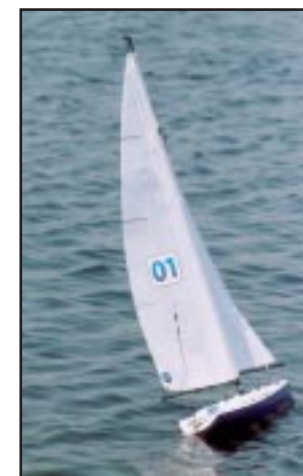
to an oversize arm on the rudder servo. The rudder is a large, deep water type, and makes holding Nirvana's heading a sure thing. All Megatech's onboard radio gear is top-notch, and sealed in a food container-like box.

A trip to the lake at Marsh Creek State Park proved to be a great outing for Nirvana. It was a sunny spring morning with an onshore breeze of about 7 knots. I've had a reasonable amount of full-scale sailing experience with my Windsurfer and a 22-foot sloop that I kept at the New Jersey shore some years ago, but I was just a little apprehensive about sailing as small as an RC vessel.

At first, I sailed her in close between two docks, not knowing whether I could depend on transposing my past experience to a model. In only a few minutes, my confidence level vaulted and I sailed her away from the safety of the dock and out into open water. Sailing Nirvana is described in a single word — WOW, and it can only be in capitals. This boat handles more easily than I could have ever imagined.

To drive Nirvana away from the shoreline, I sailed her close-hauled near the eye of the wind. She gained speed without falling off her heading, and out into the open water she went. With this available forward motion, I steered her nose-up into the wind. She luffed as she crossed the eye, then her booms swept over the deck and the sails filled on the other side. At this starboard reach, her sails were full and she was so pretty on the water that it sent a shiver up my spine. I had almost forgotten how graceful and majestic a sailing sloop can be. After more than a few beam reaches across the lake, I let her run downwind toward the dock.

Nirvana tracks straight and true. She has no bad habits; she just wants to sail and make you happy. Megatech has a real winner here. She's beautiful to watch, and both thrilling and relaxing to sail. For more information about the Nirvana Racing Sloop, circle #6 on the Reader Service Card, see the ads on pages 3 and 41, or telephone Megatech International at 201-662-8500. **HM**



Running on starboard tack, Nirvana sails out into open water.



Nirvana from Megatech International, North Bergen NJ.