

Maicas' Autoprop

Very often we receive owners comments on our propellers from overseas. Even though English is not their first language they make the effort to write and tell us their experiences. Here, in his own words, is the owner of 'Maica', a very pretty classic yacht.

My boat is a Maica 1962 from the CMN yard at Cherbourg. It measures 10m30 x 2m78 x 1m80, displacement about 6 tonnes. I made important repairs from 1998 until 2001. One day, during the sailings at Saint-Tropez, someone cut my mooring with its propeller. It was the occasion to note that in case of problem (there was a good east wind) the original engine of 10 HP is not adapted to the urgencies. I decided to change the engine. The advices of several engine companies lead me to install a 30 HP. I decided to choose an Autoprop too.



Now I know that if the engine companies had known the Autoprop, they would have advised me a 20 HP. I would have spared weight and money. The Autoprop uses so well the power of the engine that at low speed the boat advances at 4 knots and at medium-regime we reach the full speed. I know that in bad conditions I will have a good power reserve.

That becomes evident when we observe the curves of the “power input” by the propeller and the “power output” by the engine. I have the impression that my propeller gives a load always optimal at the engine. And this implies that the engine always work in the optimum conditions, what leads to saving of fuel.

I think that it is especially valid in cruise speed, since a traditional propeller is only adapted to the maximum power of an engine (so I am waiting for little differences there, but I never need it), whereas the Autoprop adapts itself to all the regimes of the engine. I have a reduce consumption at the cruise speed because of an adapted propeller pitch, and I have a good reserve of power in case of necessity. I do not know any other propeller the allow that.

I do not hesitate to make my pontoon or carenage neighbours to take advantage of my experience.