



Baltic Yachts 147

The Varifold folding propeller it is rapidly gaining acceptance as the 'propeller of choice' for racing and cruiser racing yachts from 50 to 150 feet.

This sailboat propellers unique shape when deployed enables it to provide yachts, even those with very large engines, with the low noise and vibration characteristics demanded by their owners. The four blade Varifolds abilities where confirmed very soon after its launch when it was fitted to a custom built 147 foot Baltic yacht. Two propellers had already been tried on the vessel, which is powered by a 750hp engine, but neither propeller was able to cope with the power of the engine, in a very light but extremely strong 'high tech' structure, without producing severe vibration.

Baltic turned to Bruntons for help and the company produced a 36 inch propeller which, not only solved the noise and vibration problems but also had a significant impact on the yachts performance under power as PG Johansson of Baltic explains, "Everybody involved strongly indicates that your propeller more than lives up to the expectation we had for it. Vibration and noise reduced dramatically plus the power and speed going forward increased substantially". The Varifold also minimised drag to such an extent that, even at 25 knots their is no shaft rotation, and the fitting of a shaft lock has proved unnecessary.