

# HOW TO IDENTIFY RIGGING

**MOST OF THE YACHTS** in the race are sloops. Some are ketches, others yawls. There is a schooner and a cutter, too. What do these names mean?

These are descriptions of the yachts' rigs. And the rigs are determined by the number, situation and size of their masts and the number and shapes of their working sails.

It is simpler than it sounds. Let's take them one by one.

A **sloop** has one mast and two working sails. This is an efficient and popular rig and is widely used in small sailing dinghies as well as larger, more sophisticated ocean-going yachts. The sloop has one mainsail aft of the mast and one headsail in front of the mast.

Similar in rig is the **cutter**, which also has just one mast but which has three working sails — one behind the mast and two in front. The cutter's mast tends to be stepped (situated) a little further aft than it would be if the yacht were sloop rigged.

The other rigs we shall consider have two masts.

After sloops, the most popular form of rig in the Rio race is the **ketch**. This looks like a sloop with a small extra mast at the stern. The mast up front is the mainmast and the smaller mast is called the mizzen. Not surprisingly, its sail is called the mizzen sail.

The **yawl** is very similar but its mizzen mast and mizzen sail are smaller than the ketch's and stepped further aft. A further difference is that the helmsman of a yawl steers from between the masts while in the ketch he is behind both masts.

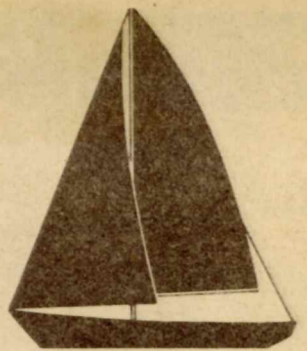
The **schooner** has its tallest mast aft. Thus the stern mast in the schooner is the mainmast and the shorter one up front is called the foremast. Eric Tabarly's yacht, Pen Duick III, is schooner rigged.

Why are the yachts rigged in different ways? It depends largely on the size of the yacht, the area where it will be sailed and the type of sailing it will do.

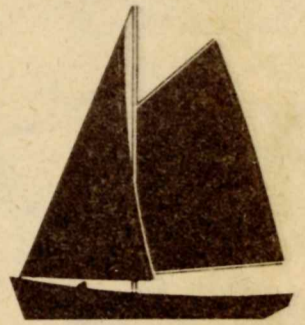
To illustrate: Voortrekker, the S.A. Navy's yacht, was rigged as a ketch when Bruce Dalling sailed it in the solo transatlantic race in 1968. This was because, with two masts, the size of the sails could be reduced and thus the sails would be easier for one man to handle.

But in the Rio race, Voortrekker has a full crew. Thus she can have a sloop rig and the larger area of her sails will pose no special problems.

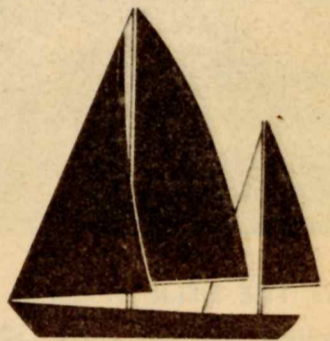
The ketch rig is suitable for the Rio race because it is efficient when sailing with the wind. It is not efficient for sailing against the wind. The schooner, too, is not suitable for sailing against the wind.



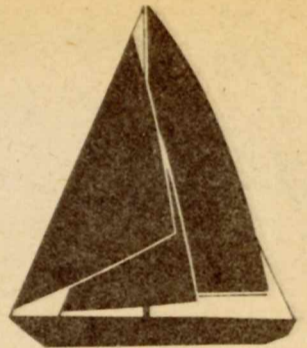
**SLOOP:** One mast and one sail for'ard of the mast.



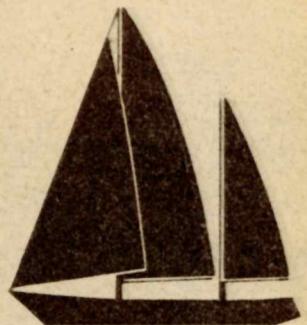
**GAFF SLOOP:** Sloop with four-cornered mainsail.



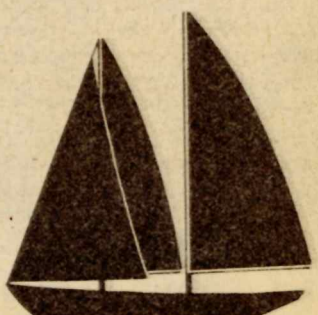
**YAWL:** Two masts, with the front one larger. The helmsman steers from between the masts.



**CUTTER:** One mast and two sails for'ard of the mast.



**KETCH:** Two masts with the front one larger. The helmsman steers from behind the masts.



**SCHOONER:** Two masts with the front one shorter.