

THE PLASTIMO ANCHORS



Jean-Louis Guery ©

A good anchor is your best insurance policy.

What is a good anchor ? An anchor that enables you to face all situations safely : open berth in a nice calm weather, or "emergency" berth when the boat drifts towards the rocks.
The holding power of an anchor is highly dependent on the nature of the seabed soil.

Some helpful hints

The basic rules of a good anchoring system

- The selection of the anchor is critical, as it is obviously playing the main part of your anchoring system. **Do not skimp on such an essential safety gear : the name and experience of an acknowledged manufacturer is the warrant for your peace of mind.**
- Do not overlook the importance of every element in your anchoring system : it is only by selecting top quality elements and assembling them correctly together that one obtains a perfectly reliable anchoring.
 - **The chain** diameter must be generous (see table), and its length at least 5 times the boat's length.
 - **The rope rode** : opt for polyamide, which provides good abrasion and tension resistance, and has a good stretching capacity (18 to 25 %) to absorb the surges that waves impart on the anchor.
- **Have 2 anchoring systems minimum** : the primary anchor at the bow, as the "working anchor" ; the second anchor in an easy-to-reach locker, serving as the "storm anchor". In any event, all anchoring systems must be ready to use at all times ; they should, if possible, feature

a different type of anchor (for example, a plough anchor at the bow and a flat anchor at the stern). A third anchoring system is also advisable, for short anchorage, such as "lunch-hooks", or as an extra security. In this particular case, an aluminium anchor with a weighted rope is ideal, due to its good holding power and easy handling.

- **The scope (length of anchor line)** should be determined according to **the water depth below your keel and the wind conditions** :

- **Less than 10 m** : 3 times the water depth, up to Force 3 ;
5 times the water depth, up to Force 6 ;
7 times the water depth, up to Force 9.
- **More than 10 m** : no more than 5 times the water depth.

- **Beyond Force 9**, you should set 2 anchors, either each on its own line (allowing a 60° to 90° angle), or both anchors on the same line with a 2 to 5 m chain interval. In both cases, you should provide a generous scope. A paint colour-coding every metre, on both rope and chain, will facilitate manoeuvres immensely.

Maximum length of boat	Boat displacement kg	Minimum weight of anchor		Shackle Ø mm	Chain Ø mm	Nylon rope Ø mm
		kg	lb			
Dinghy, tender, Optimist	-	2	4.4	8	6	6
Dinghy, inflatable boat, small catamaran up to 4 m	300	3.5	7.7	8	6	6-8
Towable sail/power boat up to 5.50 m	800	6	13	8	6	10
6.50 m	1.000	8	17	8	6-7	10
7.50 m	2.000	10	22	10	8	14
9 m	3.000	12	26	10	8	14
10.50 m	4.500	14	31	10	8	14
12.50 m	8.000	16	35	12	10	18
16 m	12.000	20	44	12	10	18
18 m	16.000	24	50	16	12	22
20 m	20.000	34	75	16	14	24
25 m	30.000	40	88	16	14	24
+ 25 m	+ 30.000	60	140	18	16	28

The anchor weight is only given as an indication, per length of boat. However, this criterion alone is not sufficient, and your anchor selection should also recognise the specific construction of your vessel.