

NORTHWEST YACHTING

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Stow N' Sail

Tiwal 3.2 inflatable sailing dinghy || \$5,800.00

The demand for an easy-to-stow sailing dinghy has produced an array of clever designs, but the fundamental challenge remains. How does one make a halfway decent sailing dinghy that is both strong and easy to break down, assemble, and store below deck?

Enter the Tiwal 3.2, a high-performance inflatable sailing dinghy that looks like a hybrid between an inflatable paddleboard and laser sailboat. The wide, V-shaped un-

derbody looks like it could facilitate a stable ride, and the daggerboard should provide some good upwind sailing performance. The inflatable hull is made from the same tried and tested PVC material used in most traditional semi-rigid motorboats, and the rig has an aluminum framework with Dacron and Monofilm sails by North Sails held with a carbon fiber mast. Harken blocks and EVA deck pads are also standard. In other words, she has all the components

of a tough, versatile craft. The rig is boomless and there are both 36-square-foot and 75-square-foot sail area options.

The entire setup is stowed in two bags, one for the hull and one for the sail and structure. The whole getup weighs 111 pounds and can hold multiple sailors with a maximum load capacity of 418 pounds. The Tiwal 3.2 has an overall length of 10'6". Check out tiwal.com if you're interested, prices start at around \$5,800. —N.C.

Hook the Big One for Valentine's

Stradic FK spinner reels
\$180.00 - \$220.00



For some of us, nothing is more romantic than new fishing gear. The Stradic FK spinner reel is a new unit from the ubiquitous Shimano fishing company that targets the freshwater and beach-caster crowd. The Stradic FK is made of aluminum and has a waterproof finish that beads off the moisture to keep performance tight. The Shimano "G-Free" design moves the center of effort on the reel closer to the rod in a move to make rod operation as smooth as possible. What's more, the Stradic RX looks pretty darn sharp.

Prices range from around \$180 to \$220 depending on model. You can check out fish.shimano.com for more details.

—N.C.

Nub Revolution



What is sailing without the block? We're used to seeing traditional pulley-style blocks and probably don't give the classic design a second thought. The Nub is a new block that flies in the face of convention with no moving parts. This spherical block is essentially a specially made, 16-gram piece of plastic. Not only is it far cheaper than a typical block, but it can hold a whopping four tons of static weight. The Nub can also be fixed to a preloaded line if needed in a pinch and applications look only as limited as the number of knots you know.

A pair of Nubs is \$42.24, which is less expensive than the typical ball-bearing blocks. You can find more information online at nub-connectics.com. —N.C.