

P&B web site Sails section

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Sailmaking

Sailmaking is the art of exploiting the wind. It begins with sensation and ends with science – experience on the water and expertise in the loft. And nowhere is there a better combination of the two than at Pinnell & Bax.

[Meet the P&B sailmakers](#) <link to Loft section of company profile text>

The Design

Sail design starts on the water, assessing performance, observing characteristics, planning improvements. P&B provides the edge. We compete successfully. We understand the many subtleties that turn a good sail into a winning sail.

- Cloth: woven, laminated film, stability on the bias, stretchability, weight, tear resistance
- Shape: broadseaming, luff round and hollow
- Mast: sail support, bend characteristics, pre-bend, rake
- Spreaders: length and deflection
- Rig tension, Slot, Cunningham and Twist

Each of these is a consideration in our sail designs, which we hold on mylar templates or store digitally. But design is evolution and the process doesn't end there. As materials advance, we're constantly searching for improvement – matching the need to the technology to achieve the best for you.

Learn more about sail design

The Sailmaking Process

The P&B loft is all about experience, expertise and attention to detail – applied by hand. Of course we use the latest design and cutting technologies, but to complement our skills not to replace them.

And here's how we make your sails for you -

- Templating: Sail cloth laid out and designs drawn on – using templates, or the plotter
- Cutting Out: Sail panels cut and marked for "seaming up"
- Seaming Up: Panels glued and stitched, creating the sail camber
- Marking Round: Luff line and leech shape cut, measurements and class rules checked
- Battening: Batten pockets stitched on
- Reinforcing: Corner reinforcements, foot tape, leech tape, luff tape and bolt rope added
- Finishing Off: Eyelets, head board, battens and sail numbers applied
- Quality Assessment: Full examination to ensure a perfect P&B product

Each stage is a testimony to our heritage, a guarantee of the quality of our sails.

Learn more about sailmaking

Sail Care and Repair

Of course, knowing we've taken so much trouble producing your sails, should inspire you to look after them properly. [So here's how.](#)

However, we know you sail hard, so wear is inevitable. If you find problems, don't ignore them. They're certain to get worse. And the longer you leave them the more expensive they'll be to fix.

Why risk disappointment at an important meeting, or a damaging failure?

Bring the problems to us. We'll assess the trouble and offer the best remedy at a fair price. And we'll advise you how to avoid the problem in the future. It's all part of our after sales care.

Not just a suit of sails...

With P&B sails you receive much more besides.

You're getting the benefit of our competition successes, our experience and expertise. That means the technical advice, tuning guidance and practical help you need to set your new sails effectively. As well as rigging and boat handling tips.

With P&B sails, you have our total commitment to giving you the advantage.

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Sail Care

Arriving ashore

- Never leave sails to flog. Always lower sails by pulling them down by the luff. Pulling the leech which will stretch the edge of the sail and cause fluttering.
- If you've been sailing on the sea, wash sails using fresh water and dry them over the boat or on the ground. Do not leave them to dry on the mast.

Stowing sails

- Stow sails rolled, preferably around plastic pipe to avoid creases, and in one of our sailbags for protection.
- If sails have to be folded, avoid creasing the window and creases near the leech.
- Before storing sails for a longer period, make sure they are clean and dry.
- If you hang sails, always support them by the head and tack to keep the weight off the leech. Spinnakers should be hung from the centre fold.

Cleaning sails

- Rinse sails regularly with fresh water
- Dirt can be removed by sponging with mild soap and lukewarm water
- Oil and grease are best removed using a product such as Swarfega, followed by a rinse in warm water
- Blood should be removed immediately using cold water
- Never iron sails

Inspecting sails

- Regularly inspect sails for wear and stress – especially during competition sailing and at the end of the season.
- Check the following:
 - Mainsail – clew, head, cunningham hole, tack, ends of batten pockets
 - Jib – head and tack seizing, clew, seams running into the leech and window
 - Spinnaker – head, clews, launcher patches

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