

Beneteau First 235

A trailer sailer in the Beneteau

Although the First 235 has been in Australia for quite a few months, it has only just tasted salt water for the first time.

Interest has been such that it has covered many miles on its trailer, just being shown off. And this is not surprising seeing that the yacht is a trailer sailer.

It is the smallest in the Beneteau range at 23ft 4ins and has a drop ballasted keel. It is also available with fixed keel for the owner who prefers to leave his boat moored. To date, only the swing keeler has been brought into the country.

Short it may be but the designers have made every inch count with an almost vertical stem and transom hung rudder. The rudder has a retractable blade. It has a fractional rig, if you can call 9/10 fractional, and an amazing amount of space below for such a small boat with such a large cockpit.

The hull is fine forward with wide transom to give buoyancy aft. The profile is pleasing with wedge shaped cabin and straight sheer, rising forward. The rig is simple, consisting of forestay, adjustable backstay, cap shrouds set on swept-back spreaders and a single pair of lowers.

She is fitted with stainless steel pulpit and pushpit. The safety rail between is fairly low to maintain her lines and maybe one more pair of stanchions would be an improvement.

The cockpit is large and has a cut-away section



The Beneteau 235 has a big, open interior with comfortable sleeping and seating. The dinette table drops down and gives a full double bunk. And this is not the only one! There is another aft, under the cockpit.

on the starboard side with outboard mount. There is a hinged swimmer's ladder on the transom. Headsail fairleads are set well inboard to keep the side decks clear. A chain locker is set in the foredeck and is self-draining.

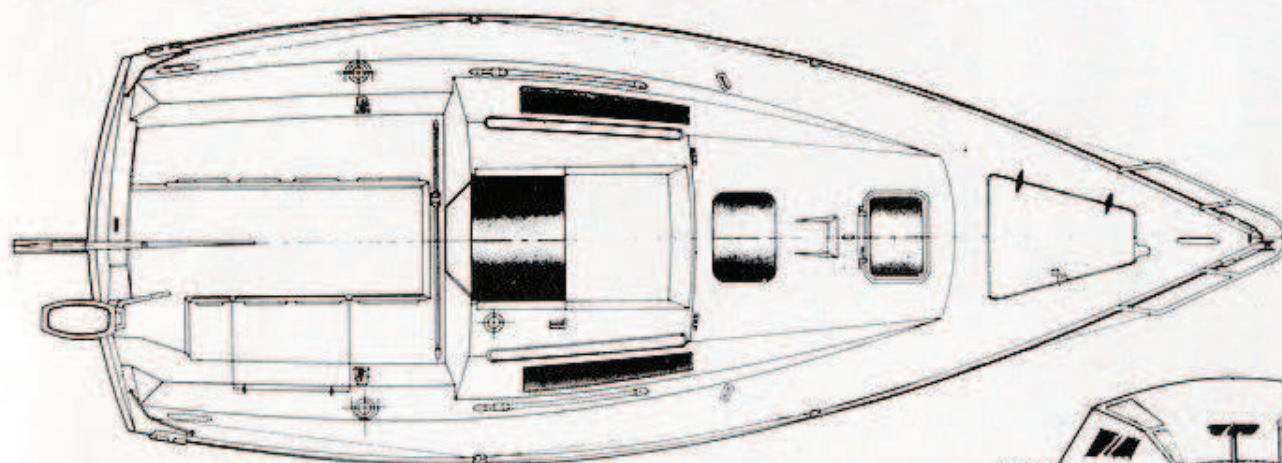
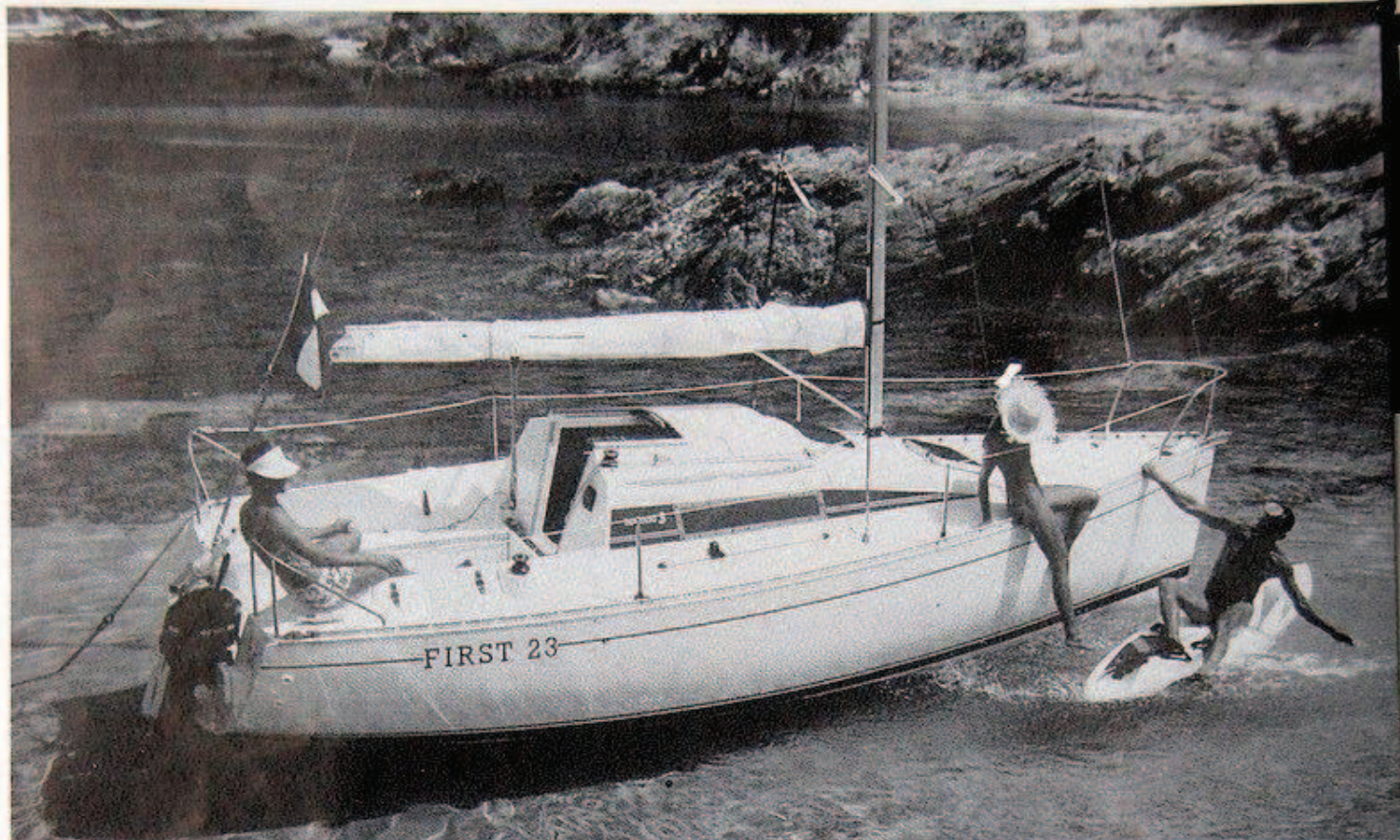
There is a locker under the starboard cockpit seat worthy of a 40-footer. It will take an outboard,

fuel tank and still leave room for the sails and warps. Halyards and control lines lead back to the cabin top where they are fed through jammers to a pair of winches.

Below decks, all the experience of Beneteau is evident. Right forward you find a "V" berth that turns into a good sized double bunk when the



The Beneteau 235 is impressively stylish.



SPECIFICATIONS:

LOA: 23'4"	Draught: Fixed keel 3'9"
Hull: 21'8"	Hull draught: 2'2"
LWL: 20'4"	Max.draught: Swing keel 5'9"
Beam: 8'2"	Ballast: Fixed keel approx 950 lbs.

