

The Ultimate Sail Pattern Guide

From Flamer to Spirit, We've Got Them All



In the beginning, all sails were white.

In the late 1960's, only a few boat manufacturers offered colored sails, most notably Alcott, the makers of the Sailfish and Sunfish. Hobie Cats seemed made for color. But the first colors weren't in the sails – they were in the hulls.

When you ordered a Hobie 14 in the late 60's, you could choose from twelve different gel coat colors and you could select separate colors for the hulls and decks. From a distance though, you still couldn't tell a Hobie Cat from any other sailboat. Hobie Cat needed

something to make their product unique and with any luck, sell more boats. The fully battened sails were a natural canvas, so Hobie started introducing colored panels. The rest is history. Today, Hobie Cats and colored sails are inexorably connected.

The first experiments with color were tentative – a single panel in the main and jib. Then alternating color panels were introduced and ultimately, whole sails of a solid color. In 1974, someone had a brilliant idea: package a full-color sail pattern with special hull and tramp colors, use the relatively new black anodized aluminum and give the scheme a name. Thus, the first named “package boats” – Banana, Orchid and the ever popular Flamer designs – were born in 1975.

In the late 70's named package boats really took off. Who can forget the Tequila Sunrise, the most popular pattern ever? Also, in 1977, Hobie Cat began providing boats for the World and US National Championships. In some cases, these had the new sail patterns for the coming year, but often, they would be custom patterns not available otherwise. Large, sail numbers in

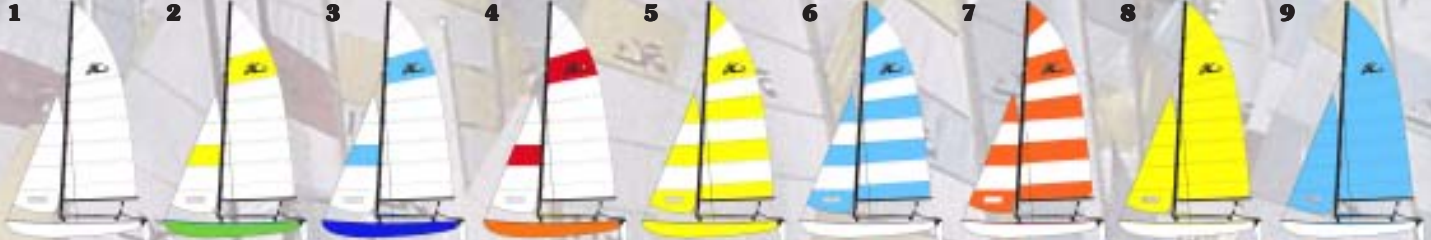
an ornate font replaced the plain identification numbers of the early sails. Eventually, the package names became associated with just the sails.

In the 1980's, the number of color patterns exploded, driven by sailcloth dyed with multiple colored stripes. The popular Prism and Blue Hawaii patterns would not have been possible without this innovation. The dyed sailcloth was extremely versatile. It could be used in a single panel, with as many as eight different color stripes, or combined with a reversed second panel to create the “double” patterns. It could be moved around to different panels, but did not work well in the higher panels due to their increasing wedge shape. As boat production numbers waned in the late 80's, the dyed material became harder to get in smaller quantities. The last pattern made with it was the All American in 1990.

But while the sail patterns were becoming more numerous, hull colors were being phased out. Sun fading and discoloration were real problems with some colors, so by the end of the 1980's, hulls were limited to white, blue and yellow. The exceptions to this were the Stars & Stripes special edition of 1987 with gun-metal blue-gray hulls and its special commemorative sails and some of the 1989 Nationals boats had light gray hulls. With the exception of last year, the last provided boat Nationals was in 1989, but Hobie continued to supply a limited number of charter boats with sail patterns unique to the events.

In the early 90's Hobie began to experiment with some completely different technologies to set their products apart. Sail window material became a design element in the ill-fated Formula 1 package. These sails were unlike anything seen before or since. They were teamed up with white powder-coated aluminum to create a striking look. Unfortunately, they didn't wear

1970 – 1972



1973



Lt. Blue / Dk. Blue

1974



Red / Gold



1975



1976



1977



Banana



Flamer



Orchid



Spirit of '76



Goldfinger



White Knight



Tequila Sunrise (yellow hulls)



'77 Nationals Yellow



'77 Nationals Red



1978

Cat Fever (yellow hulls)



Chunky Banana



Keoke



Orange Crusher



Blue Streak



Red Rocket

1979



Tequila Sunrise (blue hulls)



Emerald Blue



'79 Nationals Blue



'79 Nationals Yellow



'79 Nationals Green



'79 Nationals Orange



1980



46 Carumba 47 Hot Flash 80 Nationals 48 Jalapeno 80 Nationals 49 80 Nationals Purple 50 80 Nationals Blue 51 80 Nationals Red

1981



52 Flasher 53 Cat Fever (blue hulls) 81 Nationals 54 Boomer 81 Nationals 55 Smokin' 81 Nationals 56 Gonzo 81 Nationals 57 Orange Crusher 81 Nationals

1982



58 59 60 61 62 82 Nationals Red 63 82 Nationals Orange 64 82 Nationals Yellow 65 82 Nationals Lt. Blue 66 82 Nationals Dk. Blue

1983



67 Blue Hawaii 68 Blue Hawaii (reversed) 69 Hot Flash 70 Prism 71 83 Nationals Orange 72 83 Nationals Green 73 83 Nationals Purple 74 83 Nationals Lt. Blue 75 83 Nationals Dk. Blue

1984



76 Summer Games 84 Nationals 77 Plum Crazy 84 Nationals 78 Tsunami 84 Nationals 79 84 Nationals Yellow



1985



1986



1987



1988



1989



1990



All American



Formula 1 Green



Formula 1 Pink



Neon



90 Nationals



Breezer

1991



Hot Fizz



Orange Mylar



Purple Mylar



Raspberry Wedge



Teal Mylar



Red / Yellow Mylar



Mardi Gras

1992



92 Nationals



Wild Thing

1993



Fiesta



Fiesta del Sol



Mint Julep



93 Nationals



Huatulco Worlds Yellow



Huatulco Worlds Blue



Huatulco Worlds Purple



Huatulco Worlds Red



Huatulco Worlds Green



Blue Lagoon



Del Mar



Mimosa

1995



Twilight Mylar



Baja Blues



Native Sun



Mango Madness



Twilight



Poche



Capo



Islands



Sublime

2004



02 Continentals



Playa del Sol



Seaside



Riviera Maya Worlds Red



Riviera Maya Worlds Green



Riviera Maya Worlds Grey



Misty



Solana



Spirit

2005



Misty



Solana



Spirit

2006