

The Dutchman's Log



Spring has sprung or is at least springing. The tarps are off or at least coming off soon. Pre-season spiffing up is underway. We hope you'll take a moment to enjoy our spring newsletter after a productive, satisfying day of messing about in boats.



Believe in the *Magic* that will set you free!



There are many YouTubers chronicling various voyages and adventures. A few stand out for their seamanship and the excellent care with which they look after their yachts. Maya and Aladino of “SAILING MAGIC CARPET” lead in both categories. I should add music. Maya is an accomplished musician of startling grace and talent. Together they have conducted comprehensive refits (actually rebuilds) of one and a half lovely sailing yachts. I write “half” because Magic Carpet II is still in progress. Their good taste, skill, and meticulous care exemplify what we admire in yacht maintenance and we are very pleased they’ve taken a moment to share their thoughts on a few questions every sailor considering a major project will face.

What got each of you into sailing?

Maya: I first started reading about sailing as a teenager. It sounded like such an incredible way to travel and see the world, which is what initially drew me to boats.

Aladino: I got into sailing accidentally. I was actually on a long bicycle trip and ended up meeting several sailors who got me into it. I was instantly hooked.

Which was your favorite part of the major refits you've embarked upon?

Maya: When they're over! I'm not much of a boatbuilder, so for me, refits are definitely a “necessary evil.”

Aladino: I enjoy finding creative solutions to problems, which is basically what boatbuilding is. I also really like the chance to personalize my boat, because there is no perfect boat but it's all about how the boat will be used. I enjoy creating the boat I want to sail. I also enjoy putting love and care into things that I know will bring me joy later on. But essentially, I mostly do it for the love of sailing. While I do find enjoyment in the refit process, it's sailing that I really love. And sailing a boat that I know I customized myself is a really special feeling.

Which was the most arduous?

Maya: Definitely this one, Magic Carpet II. I've never done a refit of this scale before, and as someone who isn't a boatbuilder, it feels very overwhelming.

Aladino: I think the refit on Magic Carpet I was challenging because I was very, very low on funds and was pretty much dumpster diving for the parts I needed. Fortunately, I worked at a boatyard so the dumpsters had some good stuff in them. Haha! I was also much greener during that refit, so there were a lot more unknowns involved. I've also evolved as a sailor since that refit, so there are some things I did on Magic Carpet I that probably weren't necessary or that I would've done differently now. I was also working full-time during that project, so I had to sacrifice my evenings and weekends to get it done, which meant no social life for several years.

What advice do you have for cruising sailors with regard to ongoing maintenance?

Maya: Be realistic about who you are and how much you actually want to take on. You will need some rudimentary skills, tools, and parts on board in order to safely sail your boat. And of course, doing your own work cuts costs down a lot. But sailboat work can also feel never-ending, so make sure you know when to ask for help and don't burn yourself out in the process.

Aladino: Sailing is something we do for enjoyment so take that into account when you're deciding on a boat and a potential refit project. Start small. If you're really unsure about something or you don't have the time to learn, then leave it to the pros. Although I find a lot of purpose and fulfillment in doing refits myself, not everyone feels the same. At the end of the day, always ask yourself why you're doing something. And remember: it's easy to tear things apart, but it's harder to put them back together! Oh, and my biggest piece of advice: don't waste time on forums. Read some books written by pros, ask questions to people who have done this before, and use your own common sense.

Follow Maya and Aladino on their Magic Carpet ride.
Search: @SailingMagicCarpet on YouTube.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Epifanes Clear Varnish

This is the crème de la crème of our varnish line and perfect for just about anything you want to protect with a deep, high-gloss coating. And while beauty might be your number one desired effect, a clear finish's primary job is to protect the wood beneath it. We may love being on the

water, but water and raw wood rarely get along. Water and rot conspire to undermine all but the hardiest wet weather woods. As much as we love the warmth of the sun, its ultraviolet rays are another one of wood's natural predators. Scratches, too. And while we're at it, flex is a frenemy, as well. Many wooden components want to bend a little. Masts, bowsprits, and even the boat itself need to give a little. Things snap when they're brittle.

A high-performance varnish can be a superhero. It seals woods against water invasion. It will have U.V. absorbers that deflect rays like a high-SPF sunscreen. Multiple coats will take a scratch without flinching and bend without cracking when a board flexes—finish cracks are like the welcoming committee for unwelcome moisture.



Epifanes Clear Varnish has these superpowers. Tung oil, phenolic-modified alkyd resins, maximum U.V. absorbers—everything you require for long-lasting protection for all interior and exterior woods above the waterline. It's a great choice for freshly built boats and it's perfect for maintaining existing, intact, one and two-component varnish systems. Follow the directions carefully and for a deep dive into the art of varnishing, we highly recommend Dan Lee's online course at danleeboatbuilding.com.

THE OLD SAILS SAY

What's cookin', Charlie Noble?

It's the mid-1800s, and by-the-book merchant Capt. Charles Noble decides that because the galley smokestack is copper it ought to be shined daily—a job for the newest swab on the crew. It didn't take long for the crew to start calling the galley funnel "the" Charlie Noble and word spread like Brasso on verdigris. So anytime you see a boat's Charlie Noble making smoke, you'll know that something's cookin'.



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