

## ANCHOR TEST

BOATS & GEAR TRIED & TESTED

# Which anchor is best?







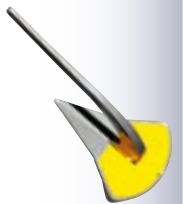




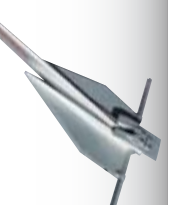
Anchor design has undergone a revolution recently and bold claims have been made about better holding in a greater variety of seabeds. But how good are they? To find out, Daniel Allisy tested seven new steel designs and two lightweight aluminium ones against two of the most popular and trusted anchors in the world: the CQR and the Britany.

The results are remarkable and the lessons learned invaluable



*Left: It takes a pull of 1,500kg on the cable of the excellent Kobra anchor to make it break out of hard sand, equivalent to the pull of a 12m (40ft) yacht anchored in 50 knots of wind – Storm Force 10*

ALL UNDERWATER PHOTOS: PIERRE MARTIN-RAZI  
ALL OTHER PHOTOS: XAVIER RICARDOU

	BRITANY	KOBRA 2	DELTA	BUGEL	MANSON SUPREME	BRAKE 16		SPADE S80	XYZ	CQR	SPADE A80	SPADE A100	FORTRESS FX37
<b>Anchor</b>													
<b>Verdict in a nutshell</b>	Very popular due to its low cost. Easy to stow because of its flat shape, but its holding power can't compete with newer anchors. A good choice for a kedgie	The best value-for-money on test. The design of the original is simplified (no more moving parts) and it had the second-best holding power	The most popular 'new-generation' anchor, marketed as a cheaper, modern alternative to the CQR, with ballasted tip. Performance was far from best on test	This odd-looking anchor looks deceptively simple. Third-highest holding power on test. Beware copies	Similar to the Bugel (same anti-roll bar) but its 'spade' is concave. The slotted stock is meant to do away with the need for a tripping line. A very good anchor	The best in our 2003 test, the Brake is still in the running, with respectable results. The steel stock will be redesigned to make it stronger		Unbeatable holding power in sand. The ballast in the tip makes it set quicker in sand, but without a sharp point it's less effective on hard or weedy bottoms	The performance of this American anchor was disappointing. It has been replaced by a new version, the XYZ Extreme	The CQR's results in this test were so astonishingly poor that we wondered if they'd sent us a faulty one. It's the most expensive anchor tested	The aluminium Spade is the same size as its steel sister. The weakness of its stock under high loads is all that prevents us from recommending it as a bower anchor	After testing the Spade A80 to destruction, we carried on with this higher-spec model, more comparable to the Fortress 10.6. We haven't given it a separate rating	Its holding power was absolutely astonishing for an aluminium anchor. Cumbersome, but worth considering if you find a way of stowing it
<b>Price</b>	£119.37	£109.92	£148	About £651.53	£289.95	About £340.69		£537.42	£423 (new model)	£649.99	£561.46	£739.35	£464.99
<b>Shape</b>	Flat	Spade	Plough	Flat spade	Concave spade	Winged spade		Concave spade	Flat spade	Plough	Concave spade	Concave spade	Flat
<b>Recommended LOA/displacement</b>	10.5-12.5m/4.4-8t	12.5-16m/8-12t	10-14m	4-8t	12-13m/8-10t	6-8t		12.5m/6t	15m	10-14m	10.5m/4.5t	16m/12t	14-15.5m/8-10t
<b>Ballasted tip?</b>	No	36%	28%	No	No	28%		58%	No	Yes	50%	50%	No
<b>Dimensions (length x width x height)</b>	84 x 38 x 15cm	83 x 37 x 38cm	82 x 36 x 35cm	79 x 34 x 45cm	81 x 39 x 37cm	81 x 37 x 35cm		78 x 33 x 40cm	67 x 51 x 40cm	101 x 32 x 30cm	78 x 33 x 40cm	92 x 38 x 43cm	106 x 82 x 23cm
<b>Surface area</b>	800cm <sup>2</sup>	900cm <sup>2</sup>	950cm <sup>2</sup>	700cm <sup>2</sup>	900cm <sup>2</sup>	1,100cm <sup>2</sup>		800cm <sup>2</sup>	1,500cm <sup>2</sup>	800cm <sup>2</sup>	800cm <sup>2</sup>	1,000cm <sup>2</sup>	1,100cm <sup>2</sup>
<b>Weight (verified by test team)</b>	16.5kg	16.5kg	15.5kg	12kg	15kg	17kg (18kg prototype)		15kg	13.5kg	16.5kg	7kg	12kg	10.5kg
<b>Construction method</b>	Mechanically welded	Cast & welded	Mechanically welded	Mechanically welded	Welded & bolted	Mechanically welded		Mechanically welded	Bolted	Forged & welded	Mechanically welded	Mechanically welded	Extruded
<b>Material</b>	Galvanised steel	Galvanised steel	Galvanised steel	Stainless steel	Galvanised steel	Galvanised steel		Galvanised steel	Galvanised steel	Galvanised steel	Aluminium	Aluminium	Aluminium
<b>Other models available?</b>	No	No	Stainless steel	Various steel copies	No	Stainless steel		Aluminium, stainless	Stainless steel	No	Galvanised, stainless	Galvanised, stainless	No
<b>Made in</b>	China	China	China	Germany	New Zealand	France		Tunisia	USA	Scotland	Tunisia	Tunisia	USA
<b>Holding power in hard sand at 0°</b>	745kg	1,530kg	740kg	1,365kg	816kg	830kg		1,705kg	790kg	402kg	1,052kg	-	3,281 kg
<b>Holding power in hard sand at 70°</b>	575kg	966kg	262kg	782kg	1,008kg	1,150kg		2,117kg	24kg	115kg	-	-	-
<b>Holding power in hard sand at 180°</b>	446kg	1,294kg	361kg	1,267kg	1,406kg	580kg		-	-	61kg	-	-	-
<b>Average holding in hard sand</b>	590kg	1,263kg	450kg	1,138kg	1,076kg	853kg		1,905kg	407kg	206kg	1,052kg	-	3,281 kg
<b>Holding power in muddy sand</b>	446kg	1,058kg	662kg	999kg	631kg	268kg (prototype)		570kg (test rig broke)	205kg	363kg	-	798kg	959kg
<b>Average holding, 2 types of seabed</b>	518kg	1,160kg	556kg	1,068kg	853kg	560kg		1,237kg	300kg	285kg	1,052kg	798kg	2,220kg
<b>Test rating (max performance)</b>	7th	2nd	6th	3rd	4th	5th		1st	8th	9th	2nd	-	1st
<b>Test rating (average performance)</b>	7th	2nd	8th	4th	3rd	5th		1st	6th	9th	2nd	-	1st
<b>Holding ability when boat swings</b>	Moderate	Good	Mediocre	Good	Very good	Moderate		Very good	Poor	Mediocre	Good	Good	Poor
<b>Strong points</b>	Easy to stow below decks. Good holding in mud, cheap	Excellent design, sets rapidly, best value-for-money	Cheap, solid build quality	Snug stowage on the bow roller, bar provides useful hand-hold	Digs in well. Bar provides useful hand-hold	Fair performance and reasonable price		By far the best holding power in sand	Original design	A good reputation – until now. Very high build quality	Exceptional performance in sand, light weight	-	Awesome holding power, speed of setting
<b>Weak points</b>	Mediocre performance	None	Did not dig in deeply	Very high price for the stainless version	Rather high price	Cumbersome to handle on deck and to stow on the bow		Blunt point less effective on hard bottoms. High price	Hard to set. Not self-righting. Cumbersome on bow	Price. Risk of catching your fingers	Stock can bend under load. Not great on hard seabed	-	Price. Tricky to stow unless disassembled
<b>Contact</b>	Plastimo www.plastimo.com	Plastimo www.plastimo.com	Lewmar www.lewmar.com	Swisstech www.swisstech.com	Gael Force www.gaelforcemarine.co.uk	MPI, in France www.bateau.net/mpi		Blue Water Supplies spade-anchor.co.uk	XYZ Marine www.xyzanchor.com	Lewmar www.lewmar.com	Blue Water Supplies spade-anchor.co.uk	Blue Water Supplies spade-anchor.co.uk	XM Yachting xm-yachting.co.uk