



The *Hebridean* is a self-steering wind vane for sailing yachts. It comes as a kit of high quality marine-grade components for do-it-yourself construction.

Powerful self-steering gear for DIY sailors

John Fleming from Scotland (1951-23) devised a sturdy and simple version of the tried and tested servo-pendulum self-steering system for sail boats. The kit of A4 stainless and carbon fibre components is built onto hardwood parts cut from 20x145mm plank sourced by the builder.

The Hebridean is designed to steer sailing craft of any weight or length with transom freeboard measuring between 0.6m and 1m (static) and which allow the vane to be up in the airflow. John's highly innovative frame geometry (registered design) does away with the need for sensitive, high-cost, low-friction bearings, gears and blocks.

Powerful, strong and light

The Hebridean is the only servo-pendulum system with a truly horizontal vane axle. This unique feature provides very high levels of sensitivity and power in all wind conditions.

The whole unit swivels freely from side to side on a pivot slotted into a tilting steel socket fixed on the stern. The Hebridean is light enough to lift off the transom, fold its arms and stow on the guardwires, or below. Forces from heavy seas are absorbed by the sideways swing of the unit. The Hebridean is further protected by breakable pushpit block lashings and tilts up out of the water if it encounters an obstacle head-on.

Repairable at sea

If damage is sustained at sea the simplicity of the Hebridean parts and construction – and the fact that you built it yourself – make successful repair in remote locations with simple tools and spares highly likely.

Tiller or wheel

The kit calls for lines led by blocks to the tiller. An additional kit of parts allows construction of a drum attachment for wheel-steered craft.

Tools and skills

There is no welding to be done. Basic workshop tools and woodworking tools to cut and shape the 20mm planking. A drill (pillar drill if possible). Hole cutters 38, 44, 51 and 64mm diameters. Metal polishing materials if you want a polished finish. Resin to mould two counterweights with the lead shot provided.

Construction

There are three sections to build: **Frame**, **Pendulum** and **Vane**. Comprehensive manuals are included.

Cost

See our [Prices & Ordering](#) page or email me. Carriage is calculated when you enquire. Please provide full delivery address and phone number. VAT at the standard rate is added to UK sales. Lead times vary.

