

Wichard proline tether

PRICE: £99.50 FOR A TWO-LINE TETHER
STAND: VARIOUS CHANDLERY STANDS

Wichard's new tether system has some useful features aimed at ease of handling. First of all, it's lightweight, made from aluminium and composite materials, and the tether line incorporates retroreflective webbing to make it visible at night.

To open, you slide the lock upwards, whereupon the jaws can be opened – but they can't open accidentally. We tried one and found it much easier to open than traditional designs.

Another useful feature is what Wichard call 'Smartloop'. The harness line includes extra webbing loops that let you turn your tether into a double tether line, or a double into a triple.

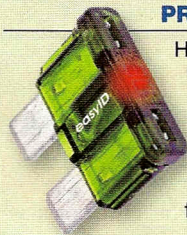
You can also remove the hook and replace the webbing when it wears out, which should save you money in the future.

■ www.wichard.com



Blue Sea easyID fuses

PRICE: £TBA STAND: AQUAFAX, A180



Here's a clever idea – blade fuses which tell you when they've blown. They have a small LED that lights up when the fuse blows, so you can instantly tell which of the 20 or so identical fuses on the fuseboard is stopping your chart plotter from working. They're available in amperage ratings from 3A to 40A.

Blue Sea Dual USB socket

PRICE: £9.90

From Blue Sea Systems comes a neat solution to charging electrical devices on board. Cigarette lighter-style sockets are not well suited to life on a boat, and the plugs can be cumbersome. Here's a much more compact one: it looks like a cigarette lighter socket and will fit in the same cut-out, but it's a dual-USB socket so you can charge anything with a USB lead, from phones and iPods to tablets and cameras. Best of all, you won't need to buy another cigarette socket charger.

■ www.blueseasystems.com



Gill footwear

PRICE: BALTIMORE DECK SHOE £80, NEWPORT DECK SHOE £95, TECH DECK TRAINER £80, PRO RACER TRAINER £90 STAND: A116

After three years in development, Gill has launched its new range of footwear. The range includes leather deck shoes and composite 'trainer' deck shoes, in a variety of styles. The Baltimore shoes have a traditional moccasin construction, while the Newport range has a moulded 'cup' sole. Gill says the whole range sports specially designed, extra-grippy soles.

Pro Racer 'performance trainers' and the Deck Tech race trainer round off the new offerings.

■ www.gillmarine.com

Baltimore deck shoe



Newport deck shoe



Deck Tech trainer



Pro Racer trainer



Gill luggage

PRICE: FROM £15 (WALLET) TO £120 (ROLLING JUMBO BAG) STAND: A116

Gill have also launched a range of luggage for sailors. The range includes a 95lt rolling cargo bag, an 85lt cargo bag, a 40lt compact bag, a tarp barrel bag and a 20lt waterproof backpack. All the bags have internal pockets, with the bigger models sporting separate compartments for wet and dry clothing and kit. At the smaller end there is a laptop case, navigator's bag, wash bag and wallet.

■ www.gillmarine.com



Comet Buoyant Orange Smoke Signal

PRICE: £27.64 STAND: AQUAFAX, A180

Comet Marine have launched a new, improved Buoyant Orange Smoke Signal. Orange smoke flares are used to mark the position of a casualty in the daytime, with the 'smoke' spreading out over the water and guiding helicopters and rescuers to its source. Commercial vessels must carry at least two in their liferafts, and it's recommended that leisure vessels carry them too – they could certainly help your being spotted during a daytime emergency. This one comes in a compact casing that measures 114mm (4.5in) by 82mm (3.2in), and will produce a dense orange smoke for at least three minutes. To use it you peel off the lid and pull on the draw string: you then have two seconds to drop it over the side (preferably leeward) of your liferaft before it begins churning out the orange smoke.

■ www.cometmarine.co.uk

