



TOP Christophe Mora's twin-keeled Django 770 *L'Envol* ashore for scrubbing in Camamu Bay, Marau, Brazil

RIGHT *L'Envol* steers herself ahead of a big sea on passage from Gambier to Tuamotu



Christophe Mora/intothewind.fr

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Marée Haute/Django

For those who fancy a smaller twin keel cruiser that, like the RMs, leaves more conventional yachts floundering in its wake, the Marée Haute (mareehaute.fr) range is well worth a look. Back in 2016 I enjoyed a test sail on its 'biquille' Django 7.70 (25ft 3in). Designed by MiniTransat

maestro Pierre Roland, the 7.70 has L-shaped twin keels with large torpedoes on their bases and draws a healthy 1.2m. In a wind between 23 and 25 knots I was astonished to hit 6.7 knots to windward at 23° to the Apparent Wind (AW), 7.5 knots at 40°AW and 10 knots while surfing then planing on a broad reach. It was hard to believe I was helming a twin keel yacht.

Throughout this amazing jaunt the hull chines gave directional stability, the twin rudders never lost their grip and the boat never tried to broach. And we didn't even get wet!

The high quality laminating (by infusion) helps keep the boat light and fast. This 7.7m twin-keeler weighs just 1,850kg compared, for example, to the 7.62m Hunter Ranger 265's 2,590kg. However its spacious but simple interior is of course considerably less luxurious than the heavier Ranger's.

'These are serious yachts with practical sea-going interiors'

But that doesn't mean the Django 770 doesn't travel to distant horizons. Christophe Mora sailed his twin keel 770 *L'Envol* single-handed from France down to the depths of Patagonia. Then Carina Juhhova joined him to cruise the South American coast and across the Pacific.

Christophe emailed me saying "Carina and I have just crossed the Great Australian Bight – a long trip down in the '30s'. Despite a 4m cross sea, *L'Envol* averaged 6 knots over the 650 miles. Sometimes we have to sacrifice a bit of comfort; but there's less maintenance than on a 40-footer. And I like the 'biquille' because we can slalom around river sandbanks under sail! And can dry out, saving the cost of travelhoists!"

You can follow this incredible adventure on intothewind.fr/carte-du-voyage

If you like Marée Haute's recipe for fast twin keel cruising, but prefer something bigger, the Django 9.80 and 12.70 both offer considerably more of the same. They have resin infusion high quality laminates, chined hulls and long waterlines. But of course they offer much more space and comfort. Both come in 'Explorer' and 'Cruiser' versions with extra berths in the latter. And both have a chart table, well-equipped galley and separate heads compartment. The forecabin in the larger 12.70 is enclosed while the 9.80 has a 'Breton' style open forward double berth. The 12.70 offers twin aft stern cabins while the 8.90 comes with one or two. The keel options for both models offer a fixed fin, lifting or twin keels.

Like the RMs, these dramatic Django designs lift 'biquille' performance to new heights. Twin keelers have come a very long way since the early days of Westerly in the UK and Wrighton in France. Of course like any yacht – whether fin, twin or lifting keel – a brand new 'biquille' Wrighton, RM or Django does not come cheap. But all have been around for long enough to provide plenty of less expensive second-hand boats that can be tracked down.