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Tack most certainly isn't a

The AsTus 16.1 trimaran

By [Roxanna Maynard](#)

First launched on the market in 2006, the AsTus 16.1 trimaran was 'born from the desire to create a family-friendly dayboat offering maximum pleasure with minimum hassle.' It offers the feel and speed of a catamaran without the safety implications, making it well suited to those sailing with small children.

Weighing in at a 240kg, with a 17.2m² sail area, the AsTus is a brilliant reacher. With a draught of only 25cm she can be sailed right on to the beach and is also very easy to plane when weight is distributed towards her stern.

Blessed with strong winds (force 5 to 6) the boat easily achieved about 14 knots on a beam reach without flailing. The foils offer stability and even when one was completely submerged by a strong gust, the angle of heel wasn't substantial.

Telescopic bars mount the floats to the sides of the boat and are easily extended to reveal the trampolines. The boat can be launched from even the narrowest slip ways as it is possible to delay deploying them until you are out on the water. The reduced width means cheaper stowage, too.

The trampolines are made from a tight weave laminated fabric, so there is no worry of your valuables dropping through mesh as they could do on some other multihulls of this size.

The deck is very clean, and with the boomless rigging there is very little to fall over or cause injury, supporting the fact that it is a good family boat. The lack of a centre board means there is ample room for 4-5 adults and a 2 meter berth at the bow gives excellent storage.

Even with the option of a 15m² furling gennaker (£890 inclusive of VAT) the AsTus 16.1 trimaran certainly isn't a racing vessel. It is essential when tacking to back the main as well as the jib to avoid losing all your momentum in the turn. As with most multihulls; it is preferable to gibe as less power is lost. However, those wanting a more refined sailing experience can opt for a clear PVC window in jib (£40), 2nd reef in mainsail (£60) and mainsheet traveller (£375).

With an effortless rigging time of as little as 30 minutes (once practised) the design caters for even the most novice sailors. The pivoted mast can be stepped on the boat and all sails are easily rolled away.

Supplied with a full batten mainsail, furling jib, two trampolines and including delivery to London, the AsTus 16.1 retails at £9,490. For more information please visit www.exaqua.com.

To see more photos from the AsTus 16.1 trimaran check out the [AsTus album](#) in [TheMainSail Gallery](#).

Specification

- **Length overall:** 5.10 m
- **Beam:** 3.80 m (floats extended), 2.52 m (floats retracted)
- **Weight:** 240 kg
- **Draught:** 0.25 m
- **Sail area Main:** 12.7 m²
- **Furling jib:** 4.5 m²
- **Furling gennaker:** 15 m²
- **Max outboard size:** 4 hp
- **Design category C:** 3 adults
- **Design category D:** 5 adults
- **Designer:** Jean-Hubert Pommois



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