

AeroSouth

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PRESS RELEASE: AeroSouth begins shipments of high-performance “FS” rudder blades for the Sunfish sailboat



Following a year-long intensive development, AeroSouth this week has begun shipments of its revolutionary new rudder “FS” blades for Sunfish sailboats. The FS rudder blade promises a 50% reduction in drag and significantly lower weather helm compared to the legacy shape now used by recreational and competitive sailors on the world’s most popular sailboat.

The unique shape of the FS rudder blade is the result of hundreds of design iterations aimed at maximizing hydrodynamic efficiency while maintaining the same side force as the legacy blade. A special feature is its short chord and low thickness at the point where the blade penetrates the water surface, lowering losses normally caused there. The location of maximum side force is well below the water surface, further reducing surface losses. Inspiration for the patent-pending FE blade is the inverted taper / winged-keel of the Australia II America’s Cup sailboat, whose technology is based on

work from the famed Dutch engineer Joop Slooff, who serves as an advisor to AeroSouth.

Strength and durability of the FS blade has been obtained through a proprietary process of combining carbon fiber with marine sapele wood, milled to high accuracy, and encapsulated by a high-performance epoxy coating from the aerospace industry.

Key benefits of the FS rudder blade include:

- Half the drag - improves speed
- Lower weather helm on tiller
- Rot-resistant Sapele wood combined with carbon fiber
- Advanced surface protection
- Strong, more durable, yet lighter
- Attractive shape and finish
- Fits existing rudder hardware
- Low cost and quick delivery
- Designed and made in the USA

About AeroSouth: AeroSouth designs and makes components to improve the sailing experience. Our current focus is on the Sunfish and Laser sailboats. Full details on all AeroSouth products are found at aerosouth.net

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