

Turkish Bling, or the Real Thing?

As anchoring is perhaps the single most important part of boating, any mention of anchoring or gear preferences is always sure to stir up a storm of commentary from all sides – even from people who may only rarely leave the dock. So when word of Quickline’s introduction of the Turkish manufactured Ultra Anchor to the US marketplace trickled into our consciousness, we just had to take a closer look.

Long proponents of what some people term as modern generation anchors, we have several older pieces of hardware decorating our front lawn. These include a huge Luke (Fisherman), a smaller collapsible fisherman, a massive CQR and a well used Delta. Had we a Bruce or any other of the types of anchors designed to plow or drag through the bottom, these too would have become an ornament.

With the sole exception of the Fortress anchor which weighs very little and holds so very well in a soft bottom, we now only use spade type anchors. For several years we have had unconditional success with a Rocna finding it sets extraordinarily fast in virtually all types of bottom. The Ultra shares some characteristics with the Rocna, but seems to be more of an advancement on the Spade, as it lacks the roll bar and has a lead weighted tip.

The Ultra also has some interesting sounding features, which we are certainly looking forward to testing in the coming summer. The shaft is apparently hollow, which is supposed to help orient the anchor as it drops to the bottom. This claim is similar to the Hydrobubble, which is one of the more ‘interesting’ looking of the modern anchors. Another elegant feature is the downward curved tip, which is said to facilitate a more rapid set.

Proponents of the Ultra anchor state that the lack of a roll bar, an important feature of the Buegel, Rocna and Supreme anchors, will help it go deeper. They claim that the roll bar impedes the competition from digging below the surface – something which our experience does not necessarily corroborate. Instead of the roll bar Ultra have added a “non foul chain bar” to stop the rode from wrapping around the anchor shaft when tossed overboard. However readers of our book (Happy Hooking – the Art of Anchoring) will know better than simply tossing their anchor and rode overboard. Any way you cut it, this is simply not a good idea.

Many manufacturers offer stainless steel anchors as most any boater loves shiny gear on deck. The Ultra however is also “hand crafted” and it is undeniably beautiful. It is certainly a lovely piece of jewelry you may add to your foredeck, and though we have as yet not tested it, it is most certainly the real deal.

The Ultra anchor is available from:

QuicklineUSA
8700 Warner Ave #110
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
714-843-6964 x210
FAX 714- 843-6906
sales@quickline.us

Capt. Alex Blackwell
Author : Happy Hooking – the Art of Anchoring