



Proud to be... the ONLY Optimist built in the USA!

[optimistuff.com](http://optimistuff.com)

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## Why race a McLaughlin Optimist?

The most technologically advanced Optimist in the World!  
ENGINEERED FOR SPEED!

**McLaughlin is the fastest and has never been beaten in World Championship competition.**

2002 WORLDS McLAUGHLIN FINISHED 1, 2, 3, 5 AGAINST WINNER

2004 WORLDS McLAUGHLIN FINISHED 1, 3, 4, 5 AGAINST LANGE

THE CHANCE OF THAT HAPPENING IS .249%

**IN OTHER WORDS – IMPOSSIBLE... UNLESS McLAUGHLIN HAS AN ADVANTAGE.**

The advantage is McLaughlin has better speed in all points of sailing. Check out our recent results. McLaughlin is dominating! McLaughlin offers the best guarantee of any manufacturer – WE WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO MAKE YOU HAPPY WITH YOUR PURCHASE. And that's backed up by our history of customer service!

### WHO IS McLAUGHLIN?

We are a group of like-minded sailors, coaches and engineers dedicated to building the best Optimist Dinghy. Part of our mission statement is to "Provide customer service beyond anyone's expectation." From chartering boats and being present at every major regatta, our web site FAQ page which helps parents and sailors with every aspect of the sport, to the most knowledgeable people just a phone call away, we think you will agree that McLaughlin lives up to that promise. We are major contributors to the growth of the Optimist Class and to sailing in the United States.

### WHAT MAKES YOUR McLAUGHLIN OPTIMIST SO FAST?

Beginning in 2004 we retooled our molds. At that point we began winning a majority of the regattas and trophies. Why did this happen? There were many changes, but I believe our determination to align the mast and foils with the hull bottom through carbide alignment holes and fixtures was the key. To test this and assure consistency, we check appendage alignment with a 180-degree Laser alignment device. This provides the closest tolerances in the industry for mast, rudder and dagger board alignment. Here are several other reasons:

- The McLaughlin mast step is the highest allowed. This puts your sail higher in the air for more power.
- A stiff boat is a fast boat. We are the stiffest in the World.
- Center of gravity moved aft through vacuum bagging and care of weight placement.
- Minimum weight guaranteed.
- Sharpened aft transom/bottom edge releases water tension as it leaves the stern for decreased hull drag\*.

- Teflon polished machine buffed bottom means the boat is fast right out of the box. Keeps the hull clean and impervious to contaminants in the water\*.
- Low turbulence centerboard slot. The slot is reduced in size to the minimum limit through proprietary molded slot inserts. This keeps the water flow uniform from bow to stern\*.
- Our State-of-the-Art vacuum bag process allows a further aft balance point and optimized bow weight. This facilitates the ability of the sailor to lift the bow through waves.
- Rigging that optimizes human performance such as: One handed dagger board height adjustment and racing non-skid applied to the areas that your feet land in a roll tack\*.
- Double tapered mainsheet: easy on hands, moves freely in blocks, reduces the time to pull in mainsheet at mark rounds. Our custom spectra boom block extender allows the quick change of block ratios allowing either 3:1 or 2:1\*.
- Mast cup position locking assures the mast will remain where you set it.
- Choice of pressure sensitive mainsheet blocks. This block runs freely in light air but helps reduce arm fatigue in heavy air\*.
- Double padded outward lifted hiking straps are never upside down\*.
- Mast lock along with bungee mast keeper for low friction and speed of assembly. It also gives you double protection in case of a capsizes\*.
- We will customize the boat to your specifications. Be it rigging or design we will build you the boat you want. Special blocks, metallic, clear transoms, custom colors. You want to try something new? We will accommodate you.

\* Some of the above features are offered only on the Optisailors Pro Racer hull.

## HOW IS YOUR McLAUGHLIN OPTIMIST CONSTRUCTED?

If it is new, proven and fast, it's McLaughlin! You can be assured that your boat has the latest in technological advancement and rigging. For the last 15 years McLaughlin has been watched and copied by every Optimist builder in the World. What follows is a partial listing of the engineering and care we put into your Optimist.

- Mast step: tapped threads, special McLaughlin screws that allow a tighter fit. The base plate is further epoxied in place. You will never have to worry about a loose mast step – Steve guarantees it! This was instituted before the 2002 Worlds and we have experienced absolutely 0 mast step failures since. Our mast step attachment is the strongest available!
- Maximized Composite Construction: McLaughlin pioneered the use of biaxial cloth in the Optimist because we knew it was the key ingredient for speed and durability. Biaxial fiberglass is 5 times stronger than standard allowed cloth. Ours is manufactured especially for our Optimist. It's more expensive and harder to work with, but we have always used it in every boat we build.
- Maximum strength mast partner protects the deck in a capsizes. We have always been very proud of this feature. When a storm hits, boats turn over, masts jump out of the mast step. As the boats are brought ashore, look around... you will be glad you have a McLaughlin as it will have minimal or more probably, NO deck damage.
- Fully allowable corner over lap of glass stiffens the boat for puff power conversion. McLaughlin is the Stiffest Opti in the World. Stiffness means the boat resists twisting in strong winds. Continual twisting leads to joint failures and a shortened boat life. A stiff boat last longer and turns the winds energy into forward motion or boat speed.
- Daggerboard slot designed to the thicker new rule foil specifications, lined with real Teflon<sup>®</sup> gives smooth entry and exit points. This keeps the board scratch free while making it easier to get up and down.
- We use maximum size "High Float" air bags with easy-fill tube valves pioneered by McLaughlin combined with lengthened retaining straps placed as far outboard as possible. This displaces more water

floating the McLaughlin higher than any other Optimist in event of capsize. It requires less bailing for quicker capsizes recovery!

- OPTIMAX<sup>®</sup> Mast Collar and Sleeve built to McLaughlin specs is now standard on every boat we make. The combination of a Delrin sleeve on the mast resting against the similar deck collar greatly reduces friction. But even more important, the collar cannot wear a groove in the aluminum of the mast, which eventually would cause failure.
- HARKEN<sup>®</sup> and OPTIPARTS<sup>®</sup> hardware are still the mainstay of the very best in top quality marine fittings. They cost more but the companies are so sure of their products they offer a lifetime warrantee. All our blocks are of the “New light weight Harken Carbo series”.
- All our materials are pattern cut for accuracy and consistency.
- The United States is fortunate to have the most consistent quality chemicals and glass products in the World. Chinese and European builders do not have access to our materials.
- We have built a temperature and humidity control factory designed specifically for quality Opti production.
- Herculean hull to deck joint: We use Methacrylate Adhesive in the bow and mid-ship frame joints because it protects the hull in a collision. The adhesive is stronger than the substrate. It’s just one of the many extras that make McLaughlin the best value.
- Arjay composite adhesive is lightweight and the strongest in the World. We use it to further stiffen the hull.
- Max allowed deck to hull glass for a rigid and long lasting boat.
- Cook Composites makes our gelcoat. They are the leader in gelcoat technology. Our gelcoat is harder with the best chemistry to resist UV oxidation. In addition our molds are shinier and taken better care of. Just look at our shine and see!
- Mainsheet block and hiking straps have inline 4-hole eye straps to protect against failure.
- Wall-to-Wall Nonskid: In response from the top sailors for a better roll-tack launching and landing pad we have increased the non-skid while leaving a 2.0” path to help prevent premature bailer wear.
- Ironclad chines and edges are achieved through a unique construction process that assures high glass content in the corners.
- Padded hiking straps that are easily adjusted.

## **SAILED AROUND THE WORLD**

McLaughlin has been chosen by some of the best sailors around the World; Spain, New Zealand, China, Sweden, Australia, Greece, Netherlands, Korea, Ecuador, Peru, Turkey and Japan, Israel, Canada, Mexico, Columbia, Brazil, Bahamas, Bermuda, Austria to name a few.