

Ball Bearing Details



Harken MKIV



Furlex 200S

The head-swivel furlers tested for this review utilize various types of ball bearings, from carbon to stainless steel to Torlon and Delrin. The Harken MkIV (above, left) turns on Torlon and Delrin balls, which are hidden in the drum, completely protected from damaging ultraviolet rays. (We cracked open the drum for a peek inside.) The Furlex system (above, right) uses multiple races of stainless-steel bearings housed in an investment-cast stainless-steel drum core and bearing support. The Facnor LX130 (at right) design incorporates Torlon tack bearings. The drawback to this is that they are seated in an open track, exposed to the sun.



Facnor LX130