

Inside Quantum South Africa

A tour of Quantum Sails in Cape Town, South Africa, gave *Practical Sailor* a first-hand look at a high-volume international sailmaking factory in operation. The loft, which takes its U.S. orders via the Quantum Sail Design Group in Annapolis, Md., makes a wide range of both cruising and racing sails. Highlights of the visit included a step-by-step look at the patented process used to create laminated sails.

- 1 Sails are designed in house or are sent in by Quantum affiliates from around the world.
- 2 Computer-generated plans are sent to the cutting room for initial panel cutting.
- 3 Carbon "yarns" are spread Spirograph style from a computer controlled machine in a patented process.
- 4 Once the fiber matrix is laid down, panels are glued down to seal off the fibers.
- 5 Webbing and slides are hand-stitched to the sail at the thread-work station.

