

## Technik

### FOB light Aluminium Anker - Seglers Albtraum?

*Die Geschichte eines Ankers der sich zu fest eingräbt. Warum diese Haltekraft auch negativ sein kann, erzählt uns Gerhard Filgis. Dieser lebt seit gut 25 Jahren auf Katamaranen, zuerst im Mittelmeer und dann in der Karibik, hat dabei zig tausende Seemeilen zurückgelegt und sicher hunderte Ankermanöver absolviert. Man kann also davon ausgehen, dass seiner Aussage eine gewisse Kompetenz zugrunde liegt. Hier sein Bericht über die verborgene Kommunikation mit dem beratungsresistenten Hersteller:*

Am 30.12.2014 haben wir den Aluminium Anker "FOB light, E 10" in Le Marine auf Martinique für € 274,- gekauft und in der Bucht von St. Anne ausprobiert. Der Anker landet immer richtig, vergräbt sich auch bei Bewuchs unmitelbar und hält bei Zug mit Maschine einwandfrei.

In der "Cuti Cove" auf St. Lucia hatten wir nach Neujahr sehr viel Wind mit

mehr als 30 Knoten bei pechschwarzen Wolkenbergen. Dass Boot (eine Iroquois MK II) schwoite im Kreis, als ein Fallwind von gut 40 Knoten den Anker auf dem falschen Fuß erwischte.

Das Ergebnis waren verbogene Rellingstützen nach der Kollision mit einem anderen Ankerlieger. Nach dem Einholen der Kette wurde der Grund ersichtlich: Es hing nur noch der abgebrochene Ankerschaft am Ende. Bei Nacht wäre ein Totalverlust am Riff unvermeidlich gewesen.

Nach längerer Suche wurde der Anker aus dem Sand in zwei Meter Tiefe geborgen und der Schaden beim Verkäufer reklamiert.

Die lapidare Auskunft vom Verkäufer war, dies sei noch nie vorgekommen und ausserdem wäre der nur als Zweitanker vorgesehen. Er sende uns einen neuen Schaft ... der natürlich das gleiche Handicap hat.



Die Kriterien für den Anker bezüglich Belastbarkeit in Tonnen und Länge des Bootes sind bei unserer Iroquois Mk 2 erfüllt, das heißt sogar unterschritten.

Die meisten Anker, wie zum Beispiel unser geschmiedeter Fortress X16 wären vermutlich nach einer solchen seitlichen Belastung verbogen, aber sicher in einem Stück wieder nach oben gekommen. Bei dem im **Aluminiumguss** hergestellten FOB light kommt nur der abgebrochene Schaft, der Anker bleibt am Meeresgrund liegen.

Es kann nicht sein, dass der Hersteller sich zu dem Sachverhalt nicht äussert die Tauglichkeitstests für seinen Anker und die entstandenen Kosten auf die Käufer abwälzt.

### **Mein Schreiben an Herrn Martin vom Hersteller FOB**

Bon jour Mr. Martin

On the 08,10,2016 in the morning there was bad weather with heavy easterly squalls around force 6 for about 30 hours and a swell from West, which pushed the boats slightly forward to Bucco Reef/Tobago.

I was ankering my boat, an IROQUIS MK 2 A 32", with 12 m, 8 mm inox-chain and 5m 16mm line in an moo-

ringfield on 2 m sandy ground.

Suddenly in the afternoon the boat drifted away after a heavy gust. You may imagine my surprise as I get only half of the E14 out of the water (see pictures).

For the remaining 20 hours my Fortress FX 16 kept me in place.

As I have mentioned before, the FOB light is the best lightweight anchor I had up to now, because it is very fast setting in whatever the ground even in massive growth.

But it has a very large problem: The MATERIAL - like my experience with the E 10 already showed.

I am sure, you have never seen that before, because most of the skippers hide their aluminum anchors in the lockers and never use them for really anchoring. Normally they only trust 30kg + anchors.

In awaiting your answer

Best regards

Gerhard Filgis

## **2. Mail nach drei Wochen ...**

Bon Jour,

FOB-Light-Problem for your information: To the management of FOB anchors and distributors.

As it is not only a very bad manner not to answer my mail after almost three weeks, it also shows your none after-sales service, as I had experienced with the disaster of my E 10 some month ago, where I stated that you use the wrong material for the FOB-light anchors.

An easy solution is to refund me in full through one of your distributors in Marin - or make new flukes and shaft from marine grade Aluminum sheet-material, in necessary thickness but it will make the anchor much more heavier.

Should you have a problem with that proposal, I will attend to SMILE boat show and display the E 14 as to see on the pictures.

Awaiting your answer immediately as I am going to Le Marin latest on Wednesday.

Regards

Gerhard Filgis



### Mail von FOB

Michael MARTIN <fob.brest@fob.fr> schrieb am 18:34 Montag, 31.Oktober 2016:

**FEHLT DIESES MAIL ????**

### 3. Mail ....

Bon jour and God Morning,  
To the Management of FOB,  
Your dear Mr. Martin like to joking about to propose me to pay for new flukes. That would mean he buy a new weel for his car because the garrage forgot to tighten the screws.

Actually no one can do anything wrong by dropping an anker onto sandbottom and must relay on it s holding

On the other hand, even new flukes would never bring the lost trust of re-lyabillity for FOB Light ankers back, as it can fail again.

In the hope of someone take real action in that matter, I am greating you with best regards

Gerhard Filgis

### 4. Mail an FOB vom 1. März 2018

Dear Mr.Martin,

as you can see on the photo, it happened again during a very windy night 35-40+kn in "Chatteau Belaire"on St.Vincent. Black sandy ground and 13m, 8mm chain +10m, 20mm rope.

Conclusion: The FOBlight cannot take shockload without damaging itself. If you would make new fluke from 6mm marine grade aluminum (Fortress X16 is only 4.5mm) so I can test it for you.

Otherwise please send a new fluke to Alexandre at Le Grenier du Marin.

Best regards

Gerhard Filgis

### Mail an FOB 25. Juni 2018

Betreff: FOB light

Dear Mr. Martin,

the following is the mail I did send to you early this year and waiting still to hear from you.

*Dear Mr.Martin,*

*as you can see on the photos, it happened again during a very windy night*

*..... (wie zuvor)*

*Otherwise please send a new fluke to*

*Alexandre at Le Grenier du Marin.  
Best regards  
Gerhard Filgis*

Meanwhile I really get fed up with you and your anchor who is as unreliable as you, and aftersales service is a strange word for you.

I've made up a collection of pictures wich will appeare under rubrication:

"FOB light FRAGILE" at GOOGLE.

Hoping you are comming up by return with a for me acceptical solution.  
Nr. 1 pic. shows the remains of an E14, bend shaft, no flukes at all, for sale € 43.- at "Le Grenier Du Marin" wich proof's that I'm not the only victim or fool who fell for your add's.

Regards  
Gerhard Filgis

**Mail von FOB vom 25.Juni 2018**

Objet : FOB light

Dear M. FILGIS,

We are again really surprised about your recent complaint but we still take it into consideration as an anchor manufacturer.

In this respect, please see below some useful information/explanations.

We do not receive such bad comments/complaints about our FOBLIGHT anchor from other customers/sailors/retailers/shipchangers/shipyards (national and/or worldwide).

Sailors -Boating Industry, Recreational crafts (sailing boats and/or motor boats)- are usually satisfied with our FOBLIGHT anchor, a lightweight and demountable anchor, fluke-style anchor and adjustable shank/fluke angle.

Our anchor FOBLIGHT is manufactured in FRANCE under approved technical drawings and reliable manufacturing process.

The anchor FOBLIGHT remains an efficient, powerful & reliable lightweight anchor, up to three times lighter than traditional anchors but still have similar holding power.

We remind you that we already sent to our distributor "Le Grenier du Marin" (MARTINIQUE) flukes FOBLIGHT E14 according to your previous request (in order to replace a damaged fluke E14).

We cannot sent a new fluke E14 each time an anchor is damaged after having being used under very windy/bad

weather conditions and we also need to get our Distributor's agreement/approval before to dispatch new flukes/spare parts.

If both marine grade aluminium anchors FOBLIGHT and FORTRESS (high-tensile aluminium anchors) are not enough reliable for you or not enough powerful at anchor (sand-bottom), we respectfully suggest you to use a steel anchor (approved High HoIding Power, manufactured in Europe and/or USA).

You can use a Flat Twin-Fluke Symmetrical anchor/hot-dip galvanized or a Plow fixed-shank design anchor/hot-dip galvanized especially at anchor (any kind of sea-bottom) under Caribbean windy conditions and/or bad weather (swell).

Hope this helps out,

Best regards,

Michael MARTIN

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