

HALLBERG RASSY 352 DE VALK Handbook

Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk: An In-Depth Overview of the Classic Bluewater Cruiser

The **Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk** stands as a testament to Swedish craftsmanship, blending timeless design with outstanding seaworthiness. Renowned among sailors for its reliability, comfort, and elegant aesthetics, the De Valk model remains a sought-after choice for both cruising enthusiasts and liveaboards. In this comprehensive guide, we'll explore the history, design features, performance, interior layout, maintenance considerations, and why the Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk continues to be a beloved vessel in the sailing community.

History and Background of the Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk

Origins of the Hallberg Rassy Brand

Founded in 1943 by Rolf Hallberg and Hans Rassy, Hallberg Rassy quickly built a reputation for producing high-quality, seaworthy sailing yachts. The company's focus on durability, craftsmanship, and safety made its boats favorites among serious sailors worldwide.

Development of the 352 De Valk

Introduced in the late 1970s, the Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk was designed as an evolution of earlier models, combining classic lines with modern advancements. It was crafted to excel in bluewater cruising, offering a balanced mix of comfort, safety, and performance. The "De Valk" name, meaning "The Falcon" in Dutch, reflects the vessel's agility and strength.

Design and Construction Features

Hull Design and Materials

The Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk features a robust, full-length keel hull constructed primarily from high-quality fiberglass. Its design emphasizes stability and seaworthiness, enabling it to handle challenging conditions with confidence.

- Full-keeled hull: Provides excellent directional stability and tracking.
- Displacement: Approximately 8,000 to 8,500 pounds, contributing to its steady motion at sea.
- Hull shape: Rounded bilge with a slightly raked stem and a balanced rudder for smooth handling.

Deck Layout and Accessibility

The deck is designed for ease of movement and safety, with features including:

- Wide, non-slip decks
- Spacious, low-profile coachroof for visibility
- Well-positioned cleats and winches for effortless sail handling
- Large, secure cockpit with comfortable seating
- Easy access to the bow via wide sidedecks

Build Quality and Durability

Hallberg Rassy boats are known for their meticulous craftsmanship. The 352 De Valk's construction emphasizes:

- Solid fiberglass hull for longevity
- Use of high-quality hardware and fittings
- Well-sealed deck-hull joints to prevent leaks
- Durable gelcoat finish resistant to UV and weathering

Performance and Sailing Characteristics

Handling and Maneuverability

The Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk offers predictable handling, making it suitable for both novice and experienced sailors. Its full keel provides excellent tracking, while the balanced rudder ensures responsive steering.

Speed and Efficiency

While not a racing vessel, the De Valk delivers respectable cruising speeds:

- Cruising speed: Around 5 to 6 knots
- Maximum speed: Up to 7 knots under ideal conditions
- Fuel efficiency: Not typically a concern, as the boat relies primarily on wind power

Seaworthiness in Rough Conditions

Thanks to its displacement hull and sturdy construction, the De Valk performs admirably in heavy seas. Its design allows it to cut through waves smoothly, providing comfort and safety even in challenging weather.

Interior Layout and Comfort

Cabin Configuration

The Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk typically features:

- V-Berth Cabin: Forward, with ample storage and ventilation
- Main Saloon: Spacious with seating and a fold-down table
- Aft Cabin: Often a double berth, offering privacy and extra space
- Galley: Equipped with a stove, oven, sink, and storage
- Head Compartment: Complete with marine toilet, sink, and shower option

Living Amenities and Storage

Designed for extended cruising, the interior emphasizes comfort and practicality:

- Quality wood finishes and upholstery
- Adequate natural light and ventilation
- Multiple lockers and cabinets for gear and supplies
- Well-designed galley with modern amenities

Customization Options

Owners often modify interiors to suit their preferences, adding features like additional storage, upgraded appliances, or navigation equipment.

Maintenance and Upkeep

Regular Maintenance Tasks

To keep the Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk in optimal condition, regular maintenance is essential:

- Checking and repairing the hull's gelcoat and antifouling
- Inspecting the rigging and sails for wear

- Servicing the engine and drivetrain
- Cleaning and sealing deck fittings
- Ensuring electrical systems are functioning correctly

Common Repairs and Considerations

Despite its durability, owners should be attentive to:

- Potential deck sealant deterioration
- Fiberglass stress points
- Mechanical parts of the engine and steering system
- Upgrading systems like navigation or electrical components as needed

Why Choose the Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk?

Strengths and Advantages

- Seaworthiness: Designed for bluewater cruising, capable of handling open ocean conditions.
- Build Quality: High standards of craftsmanship ensure longevity.
- Comfort: Spacious interior for extended stays aboard.
- Timeless Design: Classic lines that remain stylish over decades.
- Resale Value: Maintains value due to reputation and build standards.

Ideal Owners and Use Cases

The De Valk is perfect for:

- Serious cruisers seeking a reliable vessel for long-distance sailing
- Liveaboard sailors desiring comfort and safety
- Sailing enthusiasts who appreciate classic design combined with modern performance

Buying Considerations and Tips

Pre-Purchase Inspection

Potential buyers should:

- Conduct a thorough hull inspection
- Review engine and mechanical systems
- Examine rigging and sails
- Check for signs of water intrusion or corrosion
- Verify maintenance history

Cost and Availability

While not the newest model on the market, the De Valk remains available through broker listings and private sales. Pricing varies based on age, condition, and location, but generally ranges from \$40,000 to \$80,000 for well-maintained vessels.

Conclusion

The **Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk** embodies the qualities that have made Hallberg Rassy a legendary name in sailing: superb craftsmanship, seaworthiness, and timeless elegance. Whether you're planning a circumnavigation or seeking a comfortable cruiser for coastal voyages, the De Valk offers a reliable and beautiful platform. Its enduring design and reputation ensure it remains a worthy investment for serious sailors and adventurers alike. For those considering a vessel that combines tradition with performance, the Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk is undoubtedly a boat worth exploring.

Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk: A Classic Bluewater Cruiser's Legacy

The Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk stands as a testament to Swedish craftsmanship and design excellence in the world of cruising sailboats. Launched in the late 1980s, this model quickly earned a reputation for durability, seaworthiness, and timeless elegance. Whether used for long-distance cruising or as a comfortable family vessel, the De Valk remains a highly sought-after yacht among enthusiasts and collectors alike. This article provides an in-depth exploration of the Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk, covering its history, design philosophy, technical specifications, performance characteristics, interior layout, and the enduring appeal that continues to attract sailors worldwide.

Historical Context and Development

Origins of Hallberg Rassy

Founded in 1943 by Rolf Magnus Hallberg and Günther Rassy, Hallberg Rassy has established itself as a premier builder of quality cruising yachts. Based in Sweden, the company's philosophy emphasizes seaworthiness, craftsmanship, and understated elegance. Over the decades, the company has produced numerous iconic models, with the 352 De Valk being among the most renowned.

Introduction of the 352 De Valk

Launched in 1987 as part of the company's new generation of cruiser-racers, the Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk was designed by the renowned Swedish naval architect Olle Enderlein. Intended to combine classic lines with modern performance, the boat aimed to appeal to bluewater sailors seeking a reliable and comfortable vessel capable of offshore passagemaking. The De Valk name itself often refers to a specific series or customized versions, emphasizing quality and craftsmanship.

Legacy and Popularity

Produced for approximately a decade, the Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk quickly gained a loyal following. Its reputation for seaworthiness and longevity has helped maintain demand in the used boat market. Many vessels from this series remain active in circumnavigation projects, charter fleets, and private ownership, testifying to its enduring appeal.

Design Philosophy and Construction

Hull Design and Construction

The Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk features a traditional full-length keel combined with a moderate displacement hull, prioritizing stability and tracking ability. Constructed with high-quality fiberglass reinforced with epoxy resin, the hull exhibits excellent durability and resistance to osmosis. The hull's shape incorporates a rounded bilge and a fine entry bow, enabling smooth passage through varying sea conditions.

Key features include:

- Full-length keel: Provides excellent directional stability and protection in shallow waters.
- Long keel design: Enhances tracking and reduces heeling, making it ideal for offshore passages.
- High ballast ratio: Typically around 40%, contributing to stability and righting moment.
- Solid fiberglass hull: Ensures longevity and ease of maintenance.

Deck and Superstructure

The deck layout emphasizes safety and ease of handling. A classic teak or synthetic teak deck offers grip and aesthetic appeal. The superstructure is designed with large, well-placed hatches and portholes for ventilation and natural light. The boat's design prioritizes low profile and simplicity, reducing windage and potential maintenance issues.

Rigging and Sail Plan

The De Valk features a cutter rig or sloop configuration, depending on owner preferences. Typically, the mast is stepped amidships for optimal balance, with stainless steel standing rigging. The sail plan is designed for ease of sail handling with thoughtfully placed winches and sheet leads, suitable for single-handed or short-handed sailing.

Technical Specifications

| Specification | Details |

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| LOA (Length Overall) | Approximately 10.9 meters (36 feet) |

| Beam | Around 3.0 meters (9.8 feet) |

| Draft | Approximately 1.7 meters (5.6 feet) |

| Displacement | Around 5,000-5,500 kg (11,000-12,125 lbs) |

| Ballast | About 2,200 kg (4,850 lbs) |

| Engine | Typically a Volvo Penta or Yanmar diesel, 18-27 HP |

| Sail Area | Approximately 50-65 square meters, depending on rig configuration |

| Fuel Capacity | Around 80 liters (21 gallons) |

| Water Capacity | Approximately 150 liters (40 gallons) |

These specifications underscore the boat's suitability for offshore cruising, combining moderate size with ample stability and seaworthiness.

Performance and Handling Characteristics

Sea-Keeping Abilities

The Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk is renowned for its exceptional offshore capabilities. Its full keel and heavy displacement make it inherently stable, allowing it to handle heavy weather with confidence. The boat's hull shape ensures smooth passage through waves, with minimal pounding

and good tracking.

Speed and Efficiency

While not a racing yacht, the De Valk offers respectable cruising speeds—typically around 5–6 knots under sail in moderate conditions. Its hull design emphasizes efficiency rather than outright speed, making it economical to operate over long distances. The boat's ballast and keel design contribute to minimal leeway and good pointing ability, allowing sailors to maintain course with less effort.

Sailing in Various Conditions

The boat performs well in a range of sea states, from calm lakes to Atlantic crossings. The combination of a balanced rig, responsive helm, and stable hull allows for comfortable and predictable handling. Its moderate sail area makes it manageable even in stronger winds, and the boat's design encourages safe reefing and sail management.

Interior Layout and Comfort

Cabin Arrangements

One of the hallmarks of the Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk is its well-thought-out interior, designed for comfort during extended voyages. Typical layouts include:

- V-berth forward: Spacious and private, with good storage.
- Main saloon: Central area with seating and dining space, often with a fold-down table.
- Aft cabins: Usually featuring one or two double berths, providing privacy and comfort.
- Galley: Compact but efficient, with a stove, sink, and refrigerator.
- Head: Equipped with a marine toilet, sink, and shower facilities.

Materials and Finishing

The interior showcases high-quality woodwork—commonly cherry, mahogany, or teak—combined with durable fabrics and practical flooring. The emphasis on craftsmanship ensures a warm, inviting environment, conducive to long-term living aboard.

Ventilation and Natural Light

Large hatches, portlights, and opening portholes ensure excellent ventilation and light. The design prioritizes airflow, which is critical for comfort during warm weather.

Storage and Practicality

Ample storage compartments, lockers, and under-seat stowage make the De Valk highly functional. The layout aims to maximize usable space without sacrificing ease of movement.

Ownership Experience and Market Considerations

Durability and Longevity

Owners often report that Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk vessels remain in excellent condition decades after their launch, provided they receive regular maintenance. The robust construction and quality materials contribute to their longevity, with many boats still actively cruising worldwide.

Maintenance and Upkeep

While built to high standards, the De Valk requires routine care, including:

- Regular hull inspections for osmosis or osmosis treatment.
- Rigging checks and replacements as needed.
- Engine maintenance, including oil changes and cooling system checks.
- Preservation of teak decks and woodwork.

Resale and Market Value

The boat's reputation for seaworthiness and classic design ensures strong resale value. As of 2023, well-maintained examples command premium prices in the used market, especially among circumnavigators and serious cruisers.

Community and Support

Owners benefit from a dedicated community of Hallberg Rassy enthusiasts, along with access to parts, technical advice, and support from specialized brokers and service centers worldwide.

Enduring Appeal and Future Prospects

The Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk remains a symbol of Swedish elegance and engineering prowess. Its blend of seaworthiness, comfort, and classic lines ensures its status as a timeless vessel. For those seeking a dependable offshore cruiser capable of long voyages or comfortable coastal cruising, the De Valk offers a compelling option. Its continued popularity in the used boat market attests to its enduring appeal and the high regard in which it is held by sailors worldwide.

Conclusion

The Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk exemplifies the perfect marriage of traditional craftsmanship and modern design principles. Built with safety, durability, and comfort at the forefront, it has proven itself as a reliable companion for ocean crossings and extended adventures. Its design philosophy, rooted in seaworthiness and understated elegance, ensures that it remains a cherished vessel decades after its initial launch. Whether as a first-time bluewater cruiser or a seasoned sailor's trusted companion, the De Valk continues to inspire confidence and admiration in the sailing community.

End of Article

Question What are the main specifications of the Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk? The Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk is a renowned cruising sailboat featuring a length overall of approximately 10.4 meters, a beam of around 3 meters, a diesel engine, and a comfortable interior designed for extended voyages and reliable performance. **Is the Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk suitable for long-distance cruising?** Yes, the Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk is highly regarded for its seaworthiness, sturdy build quality, and comfortable layout, making it an excellent choice for long-distance and offshore cruising. **What are the key features that make the Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk popular among sailors?** Its robust construction, classic Scandinavian design, spacious interior, reliable sailing performance, and reputation for durability contribute to its popularity among cruising sailors. **How does the Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk compare to other models in the De Valk series?** The 352 De Valk is known for its balanced combination of size, comfort, and handling, offering a slightly larger and more versatile alternative within the De Valk series, making it ideal for serious cruisers seeking a reliable vessel. **What should potential buyers look for when inspecting a Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk?** Buyers should check the hull condition, engine maintenance history, sail plan, rigging integrity, and interior condition, as well as review any service records to ensure the vessel's seaworthiness and overall well-being. **Are there active owner communities or support networks for the Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk?** Yes, numerous owner clubs and online forums exist where owners share experiences, maintenance tips, and support for the Hallberg Rassy 352 De Valk, enhancing the ownership experience and helping new owners with valuable insights.

Related keywords: Hallberg Rassy 352, De Valk Yacht Brokerage, blue water cruising sailboat, Swedish yacht, ocean passagemaker, fiberglass sailing yacht, classic cruiser, HR 352 specifications, yacht dealer Netherlands, luxury cruising sailboat