



## Cleats with balls

There are many retractable cleats on the market to help your boat achieve this season's flush-decked look, but this CNC-milled artwork is one of the finest examples we've seen.

Rather than set them into a recess in the deck, the horns of the Nomen cleat are designed simply to pivot around two solid pins, folding down to leave a beautifully smooth and snag-free profile. A rubber ball encapsulated between the cleat's horns keeps the cleat open or closed, doing away with fiddly springs or buttons. It also synchronises the movement of the horns.

The advantage over a retracting mechanism is that the Nomen is as simple to install as a regular cleat. It requires no special cut-outs in the deck and just three bolt holes. Also, with the structural components being fixed, it is arguably more robust.

Available in three sizes, from 200mm to 400mm, it can only be ordered directly from Nomen. This exclusivity comes at quite a price: from around £209 to approximately £733. Larger versions can be made to order.

Nomen cleats are currently only available in aluminium, but there are plans to produce stainless models in 2004.

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