

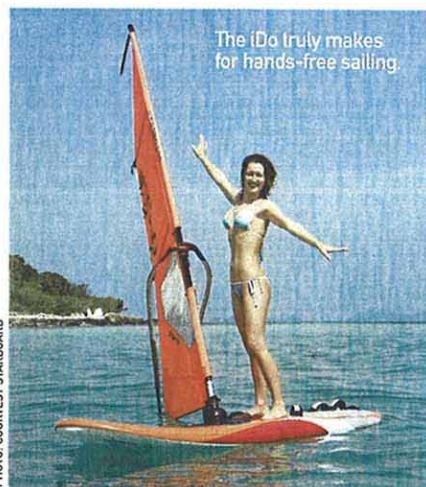
# WIND

# INVENTIONS

Four technological advances that could change windsurfing as we know it.

## NO UPHAULING!

Starboard's iDo looks to run right through one of the biggest roadblocks for beginner windsurfers — the exhaustion and frustration that come from constant uphauling. We got our hands on a demo unit — here's what we thought.



The iDo truly makes for hands-free sailing.

PHOTO: COURTESY STARBOARD

**HOW IT WORKS:** Rather than having a universal joint, the iDo mast base and extension pivots on a rigid semi-spherical frame, reducing the articulation from the standard 180 degrees to about 60 degrees. Huh? In lay-

man's terms, it means you can't drop your sail in the water — think of it like training wheels for balancing your sail. When sailing along normally, the iDo doesn't hinder the movement of the sail — it just stops the sail from falling into the water if the sailor lets go. That way, when a beginner loses the sail, it won't require painful uphauling, again and again.

**IN PRACTICE:** The iDo attaches to any board with a standard mast track, but we definitely advise going wide for stability. The iDo functions just as it should, keeping 3.0 to 5.0 sails within easy reach of beginners' hands. Like Starboard says, it works well in less than 8 knots of wind, but becomes a potential hindrance after that, as the board is more likely to capsize. It's not recommended for offshore winds (by them or

by us); and a leash (or a tether for an instructor to hold) is nice to keep the board from drifting downwind when the student falls off but the sail is still up.

**HOW IT HELPS YOU:** Sure, the iDo probably isn't the first thing on the wish list for any windsurfers past their first few sessions — but it has the potential to radically change the tone of a new windsurfer's first experience. We expect windsurfing schools will use the iDo to great advantage. It also could be a very handy tool for anybody who wants to teach friends how to windsurf — but still keep them around as friends.

[www.ido-innovation.com](http://www.ido-innovation.com)

