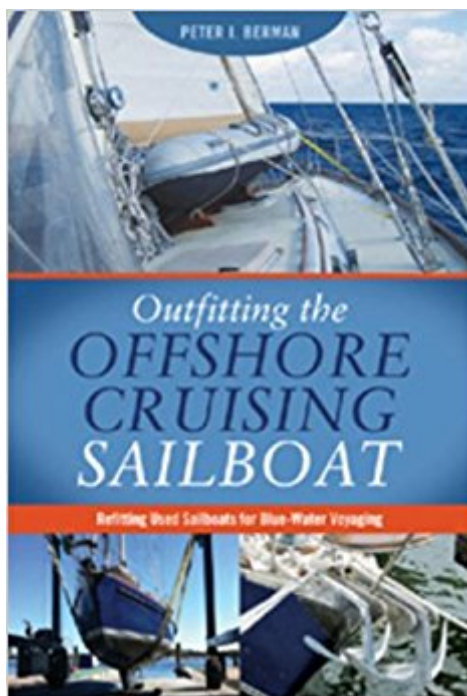


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# Outfitting The Offshore Cruising Sailboat



## Synopsis

Several books have been offered on buying used sailboats for the purpose of long distance voyaging including John Vigor's 20 Small Sailboats and Gregg Nestor's Twenty Affordable Sailboats. The used boats reviewed in these books are all available to those on a modest budget, and there are plenty other used fiberglass production boats out there which are solid candidates for the would-be cruiser. In

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## Customer Reviews

In Peter I. Berman's *Outfitting the Offshore Cruising Sailboat* (Paradise Publications, 2011, \$20, not available in electronic or audio format), Berman details how to buy a used fiberglass sailboat and refurbish it for offshore cruising. Sharing his 40-plus years of experience in overhauling and refitting a myriad of different sailboats for offshore cruising, Berman offers straight-forward advice on rigging selection, engines, ground tackle, safety gear, electronics installations, and the hull. --*Practical Sailor* by Peter I. Berman Review by Karen Larson Minneapolis, Minnesota The subtitle, *Refitting Used Sailboats for Blue-Water Voyaging*, of Peter Berman's new book, *Outfitting the Offshore Cruising Sailboat*, tells why it's an important new reference for good old boaters. Peter's basic premise is that new offshore cruising sailboats are prohibitively expensive and somewhat uncommon, while the market in used cruising sailboats is rich and vast and flourishing. There's something there for everyone. His 45-year experience as a cruiser in nearly a dozen different designs (CCA through modern racing designs) is enlightening. While Peter has formed strong

opinions about many features, he does not recommend one design type over another. He knows, perhaps better than most, that every sailboat is a compromise and that priorities and budgets will vary from sailor to sailor. What he offers is a series of observations and a logical review of onboard systems that will help any prospective offshore cruiser consider the pros and cons of each system, feature, and sailboat type. In the end, the reader of *Outfitting the Offshore Cruising Sailboat* will be able to determine which features are personally important and which have a lower priority. I chuckled occasionally at Peter's dry wit but found that I didn't agree with every word of his sage advice. I'm just one sailor, after all, with one set of values and preferences, but I was surprised, for example, to note that Peter overlooked the value of freshwater sailboats, as they apparently do not figure in the experience of this East Coast (and beyond) sailor. Peter starts his discussion of good used boats by ranking the most expensive systems: the rig, the engine, and the ground tackle. As these are the most expensive items to replace, he gives each system a thorough and thoughtful critique based on his experiences as a cruiser. There are many nuggets here for every would-be cruiser. In particular, he includes good tips about good and bad construction features in the rig, bearing in mind intended use for coastal vs. offshore work. This section clearly spells out features to look for if you will be cruising offshore. Over all, Peter offers great advice about buying a good old cruising sailboat and how to refit it for several more decades of offshore cruising adventures. Like the rest of us, Peter has conflicts about the best possible cruising sailboat. After saying that larger is always better, that system redundancy is critically important, and that you should replace practically everything before going offshore, Peter admits that his first cruiser was probably his favorite. A primitively equipped wooden Dickerson, this boat cost only \$16,000, had fewer systems to maintain, and was his most affordable cruiser. After telling readers they should probably invest the purchase price of the boat in the refit, and to replace all the important and expensive systems, he reminds us that the first priority is to just go. Time is the enemy, he says, so don't spend your life in endless outfitting. In the end, as in all things, it's up to the reader to make his own choices based on his own list of priorities. But Peter offers great advice that may help each reader rank his own list of priorities and consider some systems and construction methods that he may not have thought about. If you're still searching for your offshore sailboat and juggling the hundreds of variables, Peter Berman a guy who's been there and done that has some very useful advice for you. Read this book. Then go get the boat, get to work on the refit, and get going . . . now while you can. --Good Old Boat 2012

Our thoughts are that it is VERY in depth and very well put together. If a person is serious about putting together a used boat for extended offshore cruising this is a MUST read. The depth that this book covers would shame most and I use the word MOST surveyors. The best use for this

book would probably be for the person who already has this type of boat that would use it as a guide to improve/repair. Peter has done a great job and from the sound of it he has faced most everything in the book head on. --Clarke Coit & Bronson Lamb - St. Johns Boat Co. Jacksonville FL.

Several books have been offered on buying used sailboats for the purpose of long distance voyaging including John Vigor's 20 Small Sailboats and Gregg Nestor's Twenty Affordable Sailboats. The used boats reviewed in these books are all available to those on a modest budget, and there are plenty other used fiberglass production boats out there which are solid candidates for the would-be cruiser. In *Outfitting the Offshore Sailboat*, Peter Berman reviews the criteria for selecting a used fiberglass hull sailboat, but picks up where Vigor and Nestor leave off. Berman shares his 40+ years' experience of overhauling and refitting a myriad of different sailboats in preparation for offshore voyaging. Follow the information offered in *Outfitting the Offshore Sailboat* and you can buy and refit a cruising sailboat for a fraction of the cost of buying a new boat.

Very thorough and hard-headed analysis of what does and does not stand up to long-term offshore use in the writer's experience. Little good news here for current owners. Example: I thought auxiliary diesels were bulletproof: Nope, they're not made for the long haul. He does like in-mast furling, though. Go figure.

An experienced hand gives forth on the many most important considerations and likely costs of restoring a cruising sailboat. Estimates are a little daunting when added all up but still much less than a comparable new boat. A valuable corrective for the casual dreamer. Covers the range of options on less and more elaborate projects.

Extremely well written. Well organized. Many, many essential fine points to know and look for in outfitting or refitting a boat.

I'm surprised at how easy it is to read and how much I'm learning. I'm not sure if I'm learning new things or just putting a lot of things together in a more organized way of thinking. Either way I have learned enough to make it a good purchase. When you're going offshore you can never be too careful or too prepared. This is helping me get better organized and make better decisions about how I spend my money on the boat. I recommend it.

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Don Casey's Complete Illustrated Sailboat Maintenance Manual: Including Inspecting the Aging Sailboat, Sailboat Hull and Deck Repair, Sailboat Refinishing, Sailbo (International Marine-RMP) Outfitting the Offshore Cruising Sailboat Sailboat Hull and Deck Repair (IM Sailboat Library) Sailboat Refinishing (International Marine Sailboat Library) Handbook of Offshore Cruising: The Dream and Reality of Modern Ocean Cruising Tax Planning With Offshore Companies & Trusts - The A-Z Guide (Offshore Tax Series Book 3) Non-Resident & Offshore Tax Planning: How to Cut Your Tax to Zero (Offshore Tax Series Book 1) Cruising Alaska: A Traveler's Guide to Cruising Alaskan Waters & Discovering the Interior (Cruising Alaska) Cruising the Southern and Western Caribbean: A Guide to the Ships & the Ports of Call (Cruising the Southern and Western Caribbean) (Cruising the Southern & Western Caribbean) Ready for Sea!: How to Outfit the Modern Cruising Sailboat and Prepare Your Vessel and Yourself for Extended Passage-Making and Living Aboard Victory in Spiritual Warfare: Outfitting Yourself for the Battle Guaranteed to Last: L.L. Bean's Century of Outfitting America The Cruising Guide to Central and Southern California: Golden Gate to Ensenada, Mexico, Including the Offshore Islands Nigel Calder's Cruising Handbook: A Compendium for Coastal and Offshore Sailors Cruising World's Workbench: 200 Ideas from America's Leading Cruising Magazine to Improve Your Life Afloat Cruising Guide to Trinidad and Tobago Plus Barbados and Guyana (Cruising Guides) Cruising Alaska: A Traveler's Guide to Cruising Alaskan Waters & Discovering the Interior FOOTLOOSE CRUISING GUIDE TO THE ATLANTIC ICW Fifth Edition 2017-18: A miles by mile anchorage and cruising guide to traveling the East Coast Intra-coastal Waterway from Norfolk, VA. to Miami, Fl. FOOTLOOSE CRUISING GUIDE TO THE ATLANTIC ICW: A miles by mile anchorage and cruising guide to traveling the East Coast Intra-coastal Waterway from Norfolk, VA. to Miami, Fl. World Cruising Routes: 7th edition: 1000 Sailing Routes In All Oceans Of The World (World Cruising Series)

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