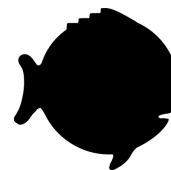
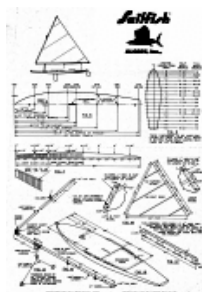
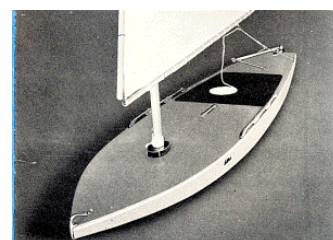
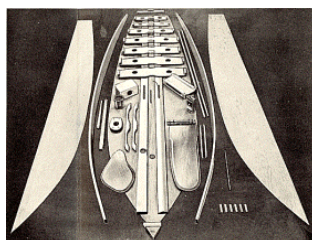


Evolution of the Sunfish

From the *Sunfish_Sailor* support library
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sunfish_sailor

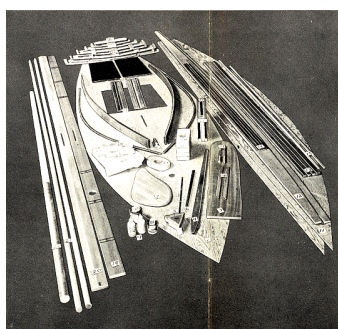


Year	Sunfish Serial Numbers	Changes and Events (other boats in the immediate Sunfish family also noted)
1945	Sailfish Serial Numbers Unavailable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alex Bryan and Cortland Heyniger create Alcort Inc. Sailfish, wood surfboard type boat, introduced. LOA 11' 7½", Beam 31½", 82 lbs., Sail area 65 sq ft
1949	"World's Wettest, Sportiest Boat" LIFE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LIFE Magazine publishes article that brings Alcort and the Sailfish national noteriety.
1951		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alex Bryan's pregnant wife found the Sailfish flat deck somewhat uncomfortable. The idea of adding a foot-well and widening the hull to accommodate creates the Sunfish concept.



1952

- **SUNFISH** introduced.
- Boat is plywood construction and offered as a kit or finished boat.
- LOA 13' 7½", Beam 47½", Weight 142 lbs., 75 sq ft, 10 panel cotton sail



Sunfish KITS!

Deck, bottom, stem block, inner keel and deck beams are pre-cut. Frames, daggerboard trunk and mast block are complete sub-assemblies. Rudder, daggerboard, sides, coaming, tiller, etc., are pre-shaped. Sail is included as standard equipment. Tailored from high-quality pre-shrunk white cotton especially for Alcott. Hardware and fittings are supplied with each kit. Finishing kit—with paints and varnishes in proper proportions—is available at slight extra cost.



1955

500 - 800

- First record of Sunfish serial numbers.
- Sunfish serial number stamping or tagging doesn't appear until the 1960 model with the introduction of the fiberglass hull. Evidence of wood hull Sunfish with ID numbers in this range is being sought. Earlier serial numbering may have only appeared on the invoice paperwork.

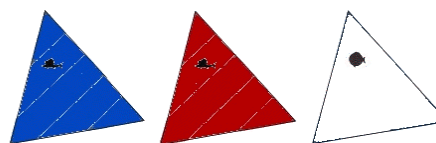
1956

800 - 1200

1957

1200 - 1600

- Nylon sails in solid colors: red, blue, or white, offered as an option for \$18 additional.



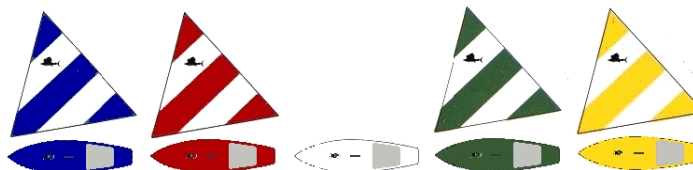
1958

1600 - 2000

- Fiberglass **Super Sailfish MK II** introduced - LOA 13' 7", Beam 35½", sail 75 sq ft
- Tapered aluminum mast, aluminum spars.

1959

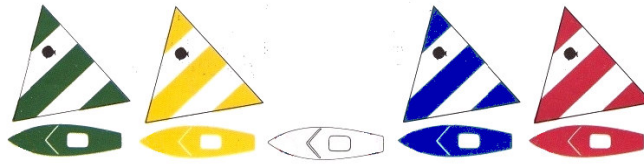
2000 - 2500



- **Fiberglass Sunfish** introduced -
- LOA 13'-10", Beam 48½", Weight 139 lbs. Sail 75 sq ft.

1960

2500 - 2900



- Serial numbers as low as the 1200's have appeared on what appear to be early production fiberglass hulls. There's no doubt production began on the 1960 model in 1959. Most all manufacturing companies build in advance to have product out to dealers on or before the first of the new year. The number scheme, however, is so irregular with these early hulls the beginning of the serial sequence is uncertain.



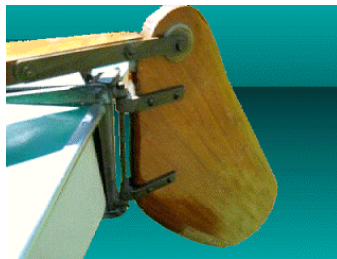
1961

2900 - 3400

1962

3419 - 5692

- Factory assembled wood Sunfish and Sailfish phased out of production [approx.] It's not known exactly when production ceased. The 1966-68 brochures still showed prices for the wood kit boats.



Early rudder hardware. Date being sought for transition to the gudgeon head style

1963

8432 - 13000

- 1963 brochure lists available sails as:
65 sq ft, striped Red-and-White Nylon or Solid White Dacron
75 sq ft, striped {Red, Blue, Yellow, Green}-and-White Nylon or Solid White Dacron

1964

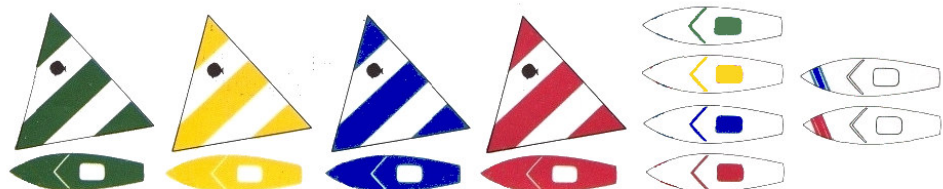
13000 - 20900

- **Catfish catamaran introduced - designed by George W. Patterson, built by Alcorn, Inc.**

- Dacron sailcloth standard

1965

20900 - 29000



- White sail with diagonal stripes at peak to match deck striping offered as an option.

1966 29300 - 38300 • Halyard block replaced by mast end cap with fairlead molded into the design.



1967 38300 - 48000 • Ratsey-Lapthorn sail shape improved with increased draft.



Sailmaker label examples - Not known if differences relate to changes in sail

1968 48000 - 59000

1969 59000 - 70000 • AMF (American Machine & Foundry) buys Alcott, Inc.
• Sail improved [change unknown]
• Sunfish Class Association established by AMF



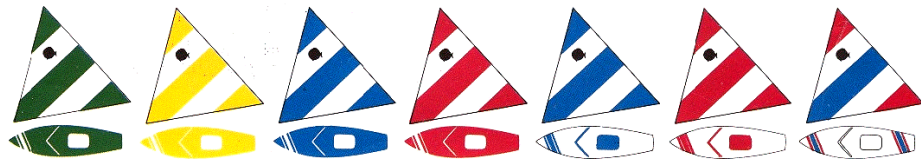
1970 70000 - 79000

1971 80000 - 91000 • Storage compartment added to rear of footwell
• Sail window option added (288 sq in)
• AMF MiniFish added to the AMF/Alcott product line
 Brochure, setup manual, spec sheet, and parts list available in the MiniFish folder.



- Plastic Sunfish bailer supercedes DePersia metal bailer
- Shadow style daggerboard introduced
- Cast aluminum rudder cheekplate introduced
- Gudgeon Bracket & Pintle Pin design changed, material now Stainless Steel
- Rudder design changed

1972 92000 - 103000



1973

103001 -

AMF12345M73A

- Diagonal stripe added to the rear deck of all color schemes.
- Split Year for Hull ID number. Factory serial number style used approximately Aug. to Nov.
- Nov. 1, 1972, federal Hull Identification Numbers (HIN) become a requirement.
- Hull ID placement must now be in the upper right of the transom.
- Two formats are acceptable, "Straight" Year and "Model" Year.
- Model Year "M" Format was typically used for Sunfish: AMF12345M73A (10th & 11th digits are year)
- See chart at end of list for a more detailed explanation of federal Hull ID Number formats



1974

AMF28000M74D

- Super Sunfish with a Laser-like, high aspect ratio rig introduced. Brochure, spec sheet, and parts list available in the Super Sunfish folder.





1975

AMF12345M75B

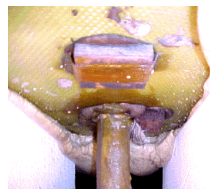
- Fiberglass Super Sailfish MK II phased out of production [approx.]

1976

AMF51100M76H

1977	AMF61400M77K	
1978	AMF71990M78C	
1979	AMF82900M79F	• Ratsey Lapthorn sail replaced by one made by Fogh Sails (later to become North Sails - Canada)
		
1980	AMF54321M80D	• Barrington style daggerboard introduced
		
1981	AMF54321M81J	
1982	AMF54321M82C	
1983	AMF54321M83L	• Minifish dropped from line [aprox.]
1984	AMF54321M84K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunfish granted International status by International Yacht Racing Union • Super Sunfish dropped from line • August 1, 1984 USCG introduces the "New" HID format (seen on 1985 model year production) • "New" format: AMF00100B784 (last two digits now show model year) <p>- See chart at end of page for a more detailed explanation of Hull ID Numbers -</p>
1985	AMF54321B585	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMF succumbs to a hostile takeover. Alcott sailboat division put up for sale. • International Sunfish Class Association formed to run class after manufacturer drops support.

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|------|--------------|--|
| 1986 | AIW54321G686 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMF/Alcort division sold to Loveless & DeGarmo, DBA Alcort Sailboats Inc. (7/1986) • Hull ID prefix: AIW (AIW00100B686) • Wood backing blocks replaced by aluminum backing plates for deck fittings. • Sail window option increased size to 600 sq. in. • Sails made outside North America for a time. |
|------|--------------|--|
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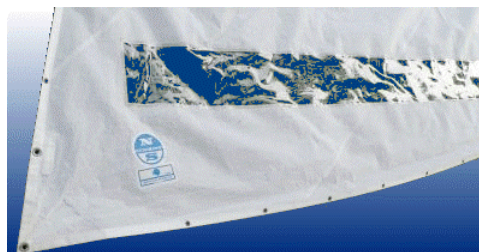
Wood Backing Block at Halyard Cleat

1987	AIW54321F787
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|------|--------------|---|
| 1988 | PSB54321E888 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pearson Yacht buys Sunfish from Alcort Sailboats, Inc. (Registered with USCG-DB, 12/1988) • Aluminum rub rails replaced by rolled gunwales and increased hull to deck bonding surface. • Crown of foredeck increased • Footwell cockpit enlarged - $\frac{1}{4}$" longer, $3\frac{1}{2}$" wider • Non-skid pattern molded into deck either side of foot well. • Diagonal deck stripes omitted, replaced by a wide longitudinal stripe. • Hiking straps come standard on production boats. • HID prefix changes to PSB (PSB00100B788) |
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1989	PSB54321A989	• Introduction of North Racing Sail (optional)
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1990	PSB54321B090
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|------|--------------|---|
| 1991 | SLI54321C191 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pearson Yacht reorganizes, Sunfish/Laser is spun-off as it's own company (07/1991). • HID prefix changes to SLI (SLI00100H791) • S-L lists Sunfish hull weight at 129 lb. |
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| 1992 | SLI54321D292 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S/L sales brochure shows decks sporting pastel colors some with contemporary graphic appliques. • Recreational sail made for Sunfish/Laser by Neil Pryde Sails. |
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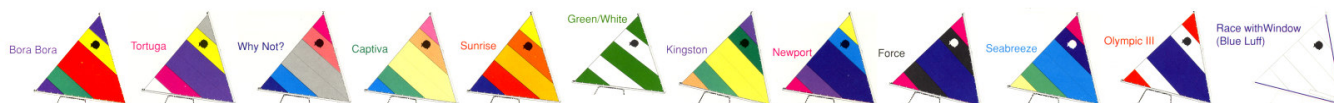
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|------|--------------|---|
| 1993 | SLI54321E393 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Composite, plastic resin coated, foam core "racing" daggerboard becomes an option.• Mast tube alleged to experience higher failure rate than in previous years (see 2005). |
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| 1994 | SLI54321F494 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aluminum tiller extension replaces wood one. |
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| 1995 | SLI54321A595 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Molded plastic rudder cheeks replace the cast aluminum.• No-loop steel cable bridle introduced.• Sunfish inducted into <i>The American Sailboat Hall of Fame</i>, credited with over a quarter million Sunfish built. |
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| 1996 | SLI54321C696 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Main sheet swivel block replaces "the hook"• Composite daggerboard becomes standard equipment |
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| 1997 | OQT543216797 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vanguard buys Sunfish/Laser (03/1997)• HID prefix changes to OQT (OQT00100H794) |
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|------|--------------|---|
| 1998 | OQT54321H898 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recreational and Race sail both made for Vanguard by North Sails. |
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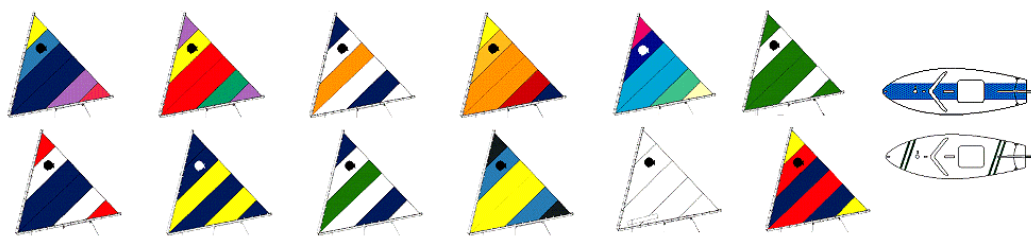
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| 1999 | OQT54321A999 | |
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| 2000 | OQT54321L900 | |
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| 2001 | OQT54321F101 | |
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| 2002 | OQT54321E202 | |
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2003 OQT54321A303



2004 OQT54321C404

2005 OQT54321B505

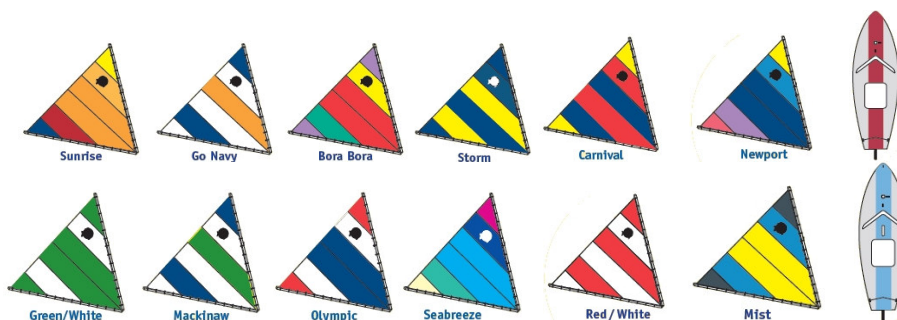
- Fiberglass Rudder blade introduced as an option.
- Mast reinforcing sleeve retro-fit kit introduced (see 1993)
- Hull weight listed by Vanguard as 120 Pounds.



2006 OQT54321K506

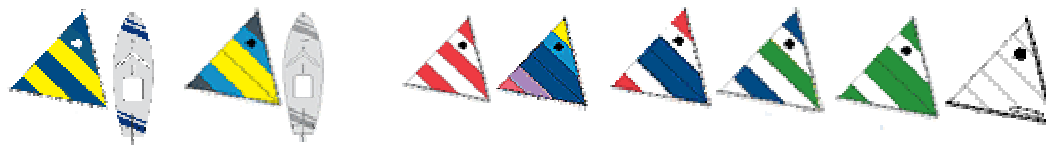
2007 OQT54321K507

- Vanguard is acquired by Gavel Securities, Ltd., parent company of Laser Sailboats, Ltd. and Performance Sailcraft Europe, Ltd.
- Daggerboard design changed to omit handle opening.



2008 OQT54321K508

- Vanguard name changed to *LaserPerformance*



2009 OQT54321K509

- Wood rudder blade discontinued, fiberglass rudder blade becomes standard. (Blade shape unchanged)
- Wood tiller discontinued, replaced by an aluminum tiller.



2010

OQT54321C410



**Looking for years
of the following
changes:**

- Sail cloth - Cotton to Nylon, Nylon to Dacron
- Date/hull number range for dual drain plugs
- Date/hull number range for bullet shaped halyard cleat
- Gudgeon plate added to rudder
- Reinforcement step added in mast tube
- Bow handle changes - scalloped to smooth.
- The story behind the addition of "International" to the Alcott, Inc. label
- Boom Blocks - From swivel Racelite to a fixed block back to a Swivel
- Tapered aluminum mast to straight form mast
- Halyard deck block to fairlead ('71-'72 ?)
- Halyard horn cleat changed from metal to plastic
- Introduction of plastic spar endcaps with fairlead
- Stainless steel bow handle introduced

USCG Hull ID Number Formats - Illustrated

Hull Identification Numbers (HIN) first became a federal requirement on Nov. 1, 1972. From Nov. 1, 1972 to Aug 1, 1984 two formats were used to show the date of production, STRAIGHT YEAR and MODEL YEAR.

STRAIGHT YEAR example

AMF	59484	07	79
Manufacturer Identification Code	Hull Serial Number	Month of Production	Year of Production

MODEL YEAR example (Typical on Sunfish)

AMF	59484	M	84	G
Manufacturer Identification Code	Hull Serial Number	M=Model Year format	Model Year	Month of Production (see table)

A=Aug	B=Sept	C=Oct	D=Nov	E=Dec	F=Jan
G=Feb	H=Mar	I=Apr	J=May	K=Jun	L=Jul

In 1984 an updated format known as the "NEW FORMAT" replaced STRAIGHT YEAR and MODEL YEAR formats. From January 1, 1984 until August 1, 1984 STRAIGHT YEAR and MODEL YEAR were optional. On August 1, 1984 the New Format became mandatory.

"NEW" FORMAT example

SLI	99999	B	7	87
Manufacturer Identification Code	Hull Serial Number	Month of Production (see table below)	Year of Production	Model Year

A = Jan	B = Feb	C = Mar	D = Apr	E = May	F = Jun
G = Jul	H = Aug	I = Sep	J = Oct	K = Nov	L = Dec

According to USCG Boating Safety Circular # 70 -

"The ninth and tenth characters in each Hull Identification Number indicate the month and year of the date of certification. In all other cases characters nine and ten must indicate the date of manufacture, which can be no earlier than the date construction or assembly began and no later than the date the boat leaves the place of manufacture or assembly or is imported into the United States for the purposes of sale . . .

A boat is considered certified to comply with safety standards in effect on the first day of the month shown in the ninth character of the HIN. Character ten is the last digit of the year of certification (or manufacture).

Characters 11 and 12 are the model year of the boat and must be indicated using Arabic numerals for the last two numbers of the model year. Selection of the model year of a boat is up to the boat manufacturer."

- Information Resources -

Article, "Determine the age of a Sunfish" by Daniel Feldman and Al Barsa, Jr.

LIFE Magazine Volume 27, Number 7, August 15, 1949

Alcott Sunfish Brochure, "Lets Go Sailing" - 1957

Alcott Sailfish Brochure - 1957

One Design & Offshore Magazine - 1967

Alcott Sailfish/Sunfish Brochures - 1963, 1965, 1968

AMF/Alcott sales flyer - 1972

AMF "The Fun of Sailing" catalog - 1977 and 1978

The Sunfish Bible by Will White, Omega³ Press, Sarasota, FL

Sunfish/Laser Brochure - 1992

Neil Pryde Sails web page

Vanguard Brochure - 2003

Sunfish_Sailor Steering Committee - Will White, G.Turluck, D.Feldman

Personal boat photographs contributed by the members of the Sunfish_Sailor Owner's Support Group

USCG Manufacturers Identification Code (MIC) Database

United States Coast Guard Boating Safety Circular # 70, *BACK TO THE BASICS - HIN 101*

Code of Federal Regulations Title 33, Volume 2, Sec. 181.25 Hull identification number format (Revised as of July 1, 2002)

This information has been compiled in support of Sunfish owners and enthusiasts. The data is assembled to the best of our knowledge with the resources available at the time. Additional resources, information, and updates are always welcome.

Please contact: Sunfish Sailor - http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sunfish_sailor

Many Thanks to all who contributed to this effort

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