



BEST DINGHY

TOPPER TOPAZ ARGO

Roto-molded boats are a dime a dozen these days, but they're essential to the base of the sport, particularly sailing schools, so getting a new model to stand out is a challenge for companies like Topper. The boat has to be remarkably stiff, strong, fun to sail, and reasonably priced. The Argo, our judges agreed, hit on all four points.

The Argo is only 14 feet, but it's a generous 14 feet with 6 feet of beam. Its buoyancy was good, and seating, inside and on the cockpit coaming, was comfortable. With the Gnav vang up and boom up high, was easy to get across the boat.

In 10 knots and flat water the judges rotated through, disembarking with broad smiles. "The boat moves along great," said Allen. "The hull chine works; it heels until the chine digs and then it tracks perfectly. It's a lot stiffer than roto-molded boats we've sailed in the past."

Stewart agreed: "The tiller feels good, the boat balances nicely, and it's lively with the spinnaker. I can see younger sailors would jump in it and have a blast."

"It's more than a youth training boat," said Allen. "We were hiked, kite up, weight back, and the thing just ripped along. Nice and stable. I'd say it's more of an intermediate dinghy. It can be dumbed down for lessons, but with the bigger kite, two adults would have fun with it, especially with the traps."



DESIGNED FOR
SAILING SCHOOLS, FAMILIES, AND
GETTING YOUTH SAILORS ON THE
WIRE

REQUIRED CREW
TWO TO RACE, FOUR TO PLAY

BEST ATTRIBUTES
PROVEN ROTO-MOLDED
CONSTRUCTION, ENGINEERED
STIFFNESS IN THE HULL, EASY BUT
POWERFUL SAILPLAN

PRICE AS TESTED
\$12,000