



Pontos are proud to be partners with the **Solo Offshore Racing Club**, and to be supporting both the inaugural **SORC Round the Rock Race** in 2016 and the **SORC Inshore Series**.

As part of this support, we are offering a 10% discount on Pontos winches to competitors in the Round the Rock Race and to members of SORC.

Pontos 4-speed winches are a major innovation in winch design which makes a real difference to single and short-handed sailors. **[To see what makes Pontos so different, watch this video of a short-handed JPK 10.80.](#)** Note how Pontos Grinders change the way you tack.

THE PONTOS RANGE

Pontos 4-speed winches come in two ranges, **Grinder** and **Trimmer**, each with three sizes, 40, 46, and 52. Changing gear is simple, just reverse the direction to engage the next gear. No buttons or levers to operate, the winch's automatic clutch mechanism ensures you use a gear ratio that matches the load

Pontos Grinder. The two additional gears of the **Grinder** deliver much higher line speed than standard winches (up to six times faster). Most manoeuvres such as tacking, or hoisting a spinnaker can be started and completed with the line loaded on the winch and locked into the self tailer. This makes sail handling easier and safer, and saves time as there is no need to stop to lock the sheet into the self-tailer and insert the handle

Pontos Trimmer. The additional gears of the **Trimmer** delivers real low-down power with three times the mechanical advantage of standard two-speed winches. Sail trimming can be completed with the fingertips - no strain and much less effort. The **Trimmer** helps greatly when crew strength or stamina is becoming a potential issue.

Pontos also produce a small but powerful 2 speed winch, the **Compact**. With the footprint of a Size 28, it delivers a 45:1 power ratio.

PONTOS AND SHORT HANDED SAILING

Pontos winches help single handers to improve speed, efficiency and consistency of sail-handling. Fatigue and the potential for accidents are reduced, and there is more time to focus on tactics and boat speed.

Tacking: Using the **Grinder**, even large headsails can be tacked by one person. Before the tack the lazy winch is loaded and the sheet locked into the self tailer, any slack pulled in. On tacking, the sailor simply starts to winch the new active sheet, changing gear as needed. That's it - no hand-hauling, no pauses to load the self tailer or to insert the winch-handle. The headsail is usually trimmed in before the boat settles on the new tack, so less struggling to trim in a sail that has already powered-up, or the need to "skirt" the jib.

If you missed it the first time, [this video of a shorthanded JPK 10.80](#) shows the benefits of tacking with **Grinders**, while this shows a large [overlapping headsail being tacked](#).

The **Trimmer** offers other benefits as a primary winch. Used in the same way as a conventional two speed winch, trimming under heavy load is much easier. There is no need to stand astride the winch to use trim headsails under load. Even after a bad tack, where the sail has powered up before it is trimmed home, the sailor can winch it with much less physical strain.

Mainsheet: With standard two speed winches the mainsheet sheet usually has to be hauled by hand before the winch can become effective. The **Grinder** is fast enough to recover slack line without hand-hauling. This can make sail handling easier and faster and gets you back up to speed earlier.

Hoisting sails: The **Grinder** enables solo sailors to raise headsails, spinnakers or mainsails quickly without hand-hauling. These videos show a [mainsail hoist](#) from the cockpit and [headsail hoists](#) in the Trans-Pacific 2-handed race

Trimming spinnakers and A-sails: The high speed gears of the **Grinder** means that large amounts of lightly loaded sheet can be recovered quickly, with the sheet on the winch throughout, thus eliminating the need for handhauling. This is particularly useful after a hoist or when gybing.

GUARANTEE FITTING AND SERVICING

Pontos winches are made to a high specification in a specialist factory that has been building winches for major brands for 30 years. This video shows [how a winch is built](#)

All **Pontos** winches come with a 5 year guarantee. They have proved their reliability through a rigorous testing and development programme, involving some of the best single handed sailors in the world. Several Class40 sailors have chosen **Pontos** for their boats, and have undertaken many transatlantic races. All the winches have performed flawlessly. In the **2016 Transat bakerly**, 40% of the Class40 fleet have been fitted with Pontos.



The Pontos drilling template is the same as more modern Harken winches. Replacing other winches usually involves some re-drilling or in some cases, the use of adapter plates.

Servicing is simple, and similar to standard two speed winches. Pawls and springs are interchangeable with Harken, so are easily available. A regular wash through with fresh water, and a little greasing and oiling is all that is required to keep the winches running smoothly.

UPGRADE TO PONTOS.

10% discount for SORC members and Round the Rock entrants

In the search for speed you have probably bought new sails, optimised your rig, saved boat weight, reduced friction, faired your hull and upgraded your electronics.

Pontos now offers competitive sailors a new route to enhanced performance. Our winches can make sail handling easier and more efficient, which can save seconds on manoeuvres such as tacking, sail trim, spinnaker hoists or gybing.

Upgrading - consider the net cost. There is a very healthy second-hand market in self tailing winches. Look on websites such as eBay, and you will see that self-tailing winches often sell for surprisingly large sums of money. [Click here for the Pontos UK RRP.](#) If you want to know more, visit our website www.pontoswinches.co.uk, use the [Contact form](#) or call us and we will get back to you to discuss how 4 speed winches could work best for you.

You can upgrade your winches before the SORC Round the Rock, so get in touch.

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