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*Where do I find the number of my Trident and the year it was built?*

# TRIDENT TIPS

Some answers to your questions

indication of the age of your mouldings from the sail number. Provided, of course, that you have her original

It depends what you mean by “number” and “built”. All Tridents were supposed to be issued with a Lloyd’s moulding certificate which bears the boat’s hull number.

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This is usually the same as the number on the mainsail but not always. Sometimes mainsails acquire other numbers (such as an

RYA number) or boats acquire mainsails that originally belonged to other boats or with no number at all.

Boats may also have Small Ships Register (SSR) numbers or a full Part 1 registration number marked on them.

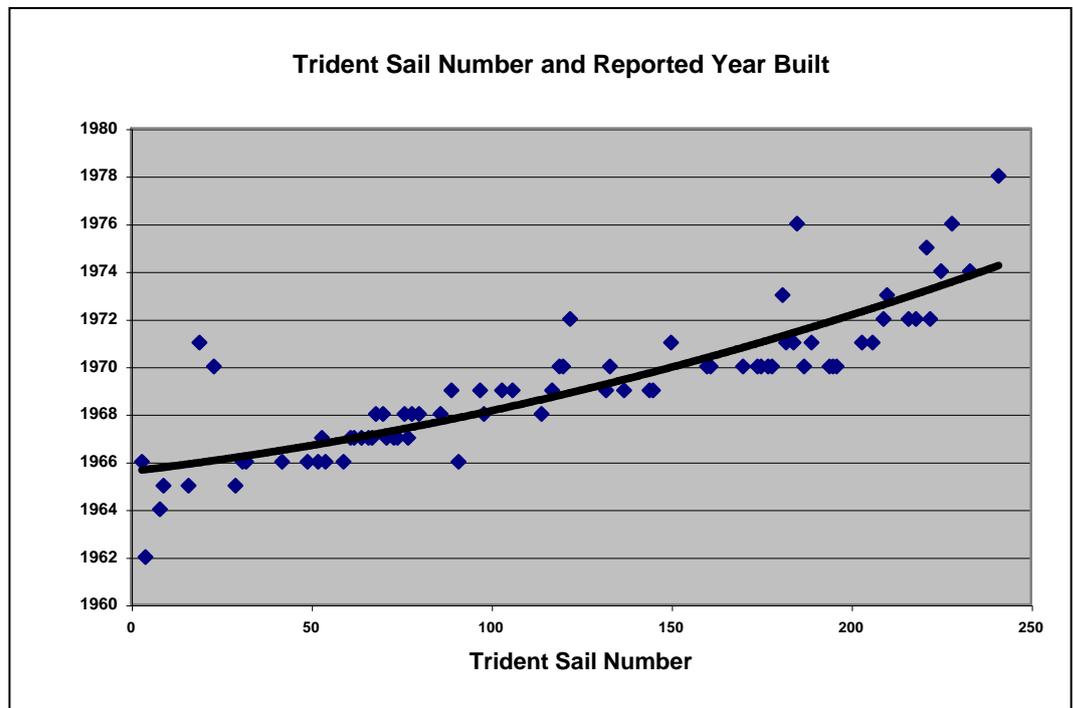
When a boat was actually “built” is a moot point. Most Tridents were supplied as kits and completed by their first owners, sometimes years after they were moulded.

If your boat came with its Lloyd’s certificate, that should have a date on it. That is the date the certificate was issued which gives you an indication of approximately when the hull was moulded by Marcon. Since some Tridents have identical dates on their certificates it is assumed these were sometimes issued in batches (though whether this happened before or after the hulls were actually moulded is not known).

Of course, knowing when the hull was moulded does not tell you when the boat was completed or finally launched. In at least one instance, more than 20 years passed between moulding and completion.

If you don’t have the Lloyd’s certificate – and many Tridents have been parted from theirs over the years – then you may get an approximate

sail number. Starting from number 1 in 1960, number 16 is thought to have been moulded in 1964. Lloyd’s hull certificates for numbers 60 and 65 are known to have been issued in May 1967, hull 174 was certified in Feb 1970. Certificates for 184 and 198 were both issued on the same day in November 1970. Number 232 is thought to have been moulded in 1973 and number 240 in 1975.



Completion dates after moulding are not necessarily sequential. The information held by the TOA on all known Tridents sometimes includes a reported build year. Plotting these against sail numbers gives a rough indication of the likely age for any given sail number.

When Tridents are sold, their stated age can sometimes appear to be out of line with these indicators. That may be because the date referred to is the launch date – which can be years after moulding. There may also be a tendency for vendors to understate their boat’s age a little. If a year or two is lost every time a boat changes hands the cumulative effect can eventually result in a significant distortion of a boat’s true age. Not that it really matters since condition is usually more important than age.