

Top Tip #7

The Solo is essentially a one design class, though one of the reasons that it is such a popular boat is its ability to take a wide range of helm weights by allowing different masts, booms and sails. Each rig has undergone careful class measurement prior to it being allowed.

For the newcomer to the fleet this can make buying a solo seem slightly bewildering. The table below (reproduced from the NSCA website) lists the popular mast sections used with indicative weight ranges for each. The fitness of the sailor plus the conditions in which the boat will be used should also be factored in.

Mast Section	Weight Range
Proctor Cumulus	80 - 95 kg (12.5 - 15 stone)
Proctor C	< 70 kg (< 11 stone)
Proctor C sleeved	73 - 80 kg (11.5 - 12.5 stone)
Superspar M1	< 70 kg (< 11 stone)
Superspar M1 sleeved	73 - 80 kg (11.5 - 12.5 stone)
Superspar M3*	> 95 kg (> 15 stone)
Superspar M7	80 - 95 kg (12.5 - 15 stone)
Wavelength	< 92 kg (< 14.5 stone)
Needlespar	< 80 kg (< 12.5 stone)

*no longer manufactured

If you are not sure what your mast is then a full guide to identifying different mast sections can be found again on the NSCA website at <http://www.solosailing.org.uk/articles/PKimmens-6.asp>
Also, as an interesting aside – if you do still have an old Solo wooden mast lying around somewhere – then it's still legal!