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Air-Only Low Profile Deck Ventilator

A walk-on deck vent that seals itself when seawater comes aboard, fitted to the 4-inch vent holes of a 1977 Catalina 30.

By **Jonathan Carter**, editor of SailboatsUSA.com · October 27, 2026

The short version: For sailors who want a vent they can leave open underway and walk on, the Air-Only Low Profile is worth the overseas order, and the seller is as honest as they come.

Why I went looking

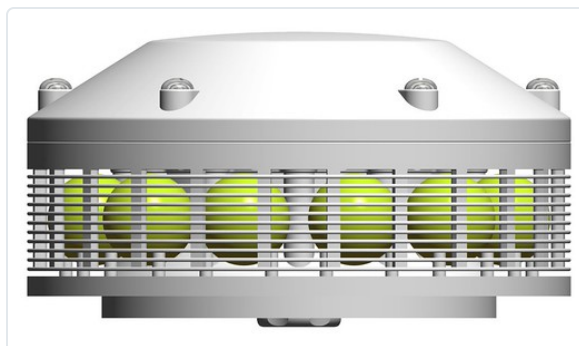
The Air-Only Low Profile is a walk-on deck vent that lets air in and shuts itself when seawater comes aboard, and it is the replacement I chose for the two tired 4-inch vents on my 1977 Catalina 30. Old mushroom and labyrinth vents on boats this age leak, crack in the sun, or get closed for good the first time they soak a bunk.

I considered solar-powered vents first, but nearly every owner review I read online said they fail within a couple of years. The electronics and small solar panels just aren't built to survive constant UV and salt spray. A passive vent with no electronics to die made this a fairly simple decision.

I first saw these vents featured by the YouTube crew at RAN Sailing. Air-Only is a small manufacturer based in Dnipro, Ukraine, and the design earned a Special Mention at the DAME 2003 awards in the deck equipment category.

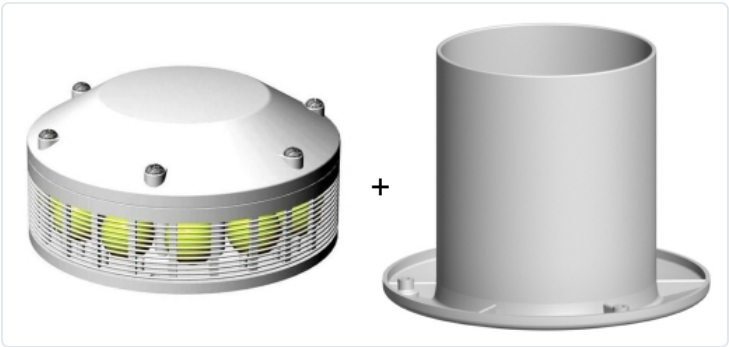
How it works

The heart of every Air-Only model is a core unit (the DS) with a row of round air holes and a soft PVC ball under each one. When water floods the vent, the balls float up their guides and seal the holes; when it drains, they drop and air flows again. No springs, no knobs to remember.



The float balls sit behind the louvered grille, ready to rise and seal the air holes. Drawing: Air-Only.

The Low Profile (DSLP) wraps that core in a flat, domed cover that screws to a cabin ring rather than straight into the deck. The ring does two jobs. You can pull the cover for cleaning as often as you like without disturbing the bedding, and it lets you fit the vent through a hatch, where you get a good view of it from inside the cabin. Inside, a pull-push closure throttles the vent to ¼, ½, ¾ or fully shut, and an insect net keeps bugs out.



The core unit and the flanged tube that passes through the deck hole. Drawing: Air-Only.



The ring also lets the vent go through a hatch lens. Photo: Air-Only.

SPEC	DSLP (LOW PROFILE)
Height x width	68 mm x 230 mm (2.68" x 9.05")
Deck cut-out (published)	95 mm (3.74")
Free flow area	24 cm² (3.72 in²)
Weight	About 1 kg (2.2 lb)
Material	Luran S UV-stabilized plastic; maker guarantees no yellowing or weathering for 15 years
Colors	White, Black
In the box	Cover, built-in Air-Only core, cabin ring, all fitting screws
Price paid	€75 each (about \$84)
Options	Breezy 12 V or 24 V electric fan fits any Air-Only-equipped vent

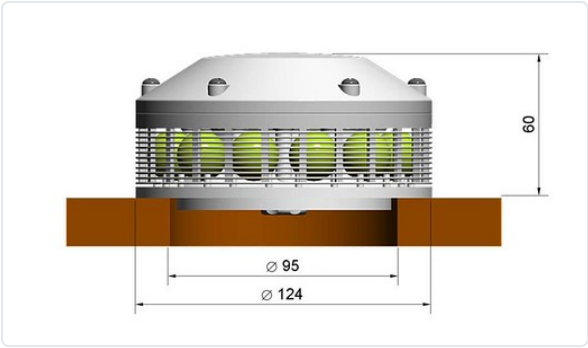
The maker says the cover is strong enough to stand and even jump on. Specs from [Air-Only's Low Profile page](#) and [core ventilator page](#), where you'll also find product photos and cutaway illustrations of the float balls at work.

The RAN Sailing video shows the kit laid out piece by piece: a white vent tube, a bag of bright yellow float balls, the screws, the core casing, the domed cover, yellow O-rings and a wide flat mounting ring. It's all plastic and rubber, with nothing that can corrode or burn out.

Will it fit a 4-inch hole?

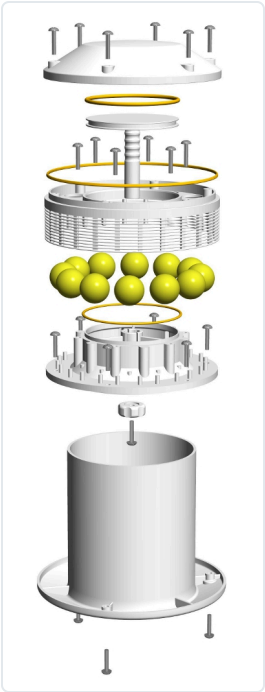
Yes. The maker confirmed it drops into the Catalina 30's existing 4-inch (101.6 mm) holes, even though the published cut-out is 95 mm. That's the question most US owners will have, since 4-inch is the common size here.

I asked before the order shipped, and Air-Only replied the next morning with dimensioned drawings of the core unit and its tube, plus links to fitting photos. The 4-inch hole runs about 3 mm oversize per side, and the 9-inch cover overlaps it with plenty to spare.



Core unit dimensions in millimeters: 95 mm deck cut-out, 124 mm flange, 60 mm above the deck.
Drawing: Air-Only.

Install tip: If you're fitting an oversize hole in a cored deck, seal the exposed core with thickened epoxy before you bed the ring. Butyl tape under the cabin ring is cheap insurance.



Exploded view, top to bottom: cover, O-rings, closure, housing, float balls, base and tube. Drawing: Air-Only.

Ordering from Ukraine

The buying experience was the best surprise: the seller caught my mistake and refunded me before I noticed it. I ordered two Low Profile sets plus two standalone core units, not realizing each Low Profile already includes a core. Olena at Air-Only emailed the next day to ask if I really needed the extras, then revised the order to just the two Low Profiles and refunded the rest.

ITEM	EACH (EUR)	EACH (USD, APPROX.)
Air-Only Low Profile White (DSLPP)	€75	\$84

The order went in October 2 and shipped October 5 by Ukrposhta, handed off to USPS for delivery. The shop quotes 7 to 10 days to the US. Tracking came with a CN22 customs label and a commercial invoice already attached, so customs paperwork was handled for me.

The shop runs in euros, so budget for exchange rates. Dollar figures use the October 2, 2026 rate of \$1.1258 per euro ([ValutaFX](#)); your card or PayPal conversion will differ a little.

Installation and on the water

The vents are on their way to the boat. I'll update this review with install notes, airflow below, and how they handle rain and spray once they've been through some Pacific Northwest weather.

Verdict

For sailors who want a vent they can leave open underway and walk on, the Air-Only Low Profile is worth the overseas order, and the seller is as honest as they come.

What I like

- › Self-closing float design: nothing to remember when the weather turns
- › Low, walk-on cover that won't snag sheets
- › Cover screws to a ring, so cleaning never disturbs the bedding
- › 15-year UV guarantee on the plastics
- › Fits a standard US 4-inch hole, confirmed by the maker
- › Fast, candid customer service that refunded my mistake unprompted

What to weigh

- › Free flow area is 24 cm² (3.72 in²), about a 2.2-inch opening, so expect less airflow than a big open cowl
- › Ships from Ukraine: euro pricing and 7 to 10 days in transit
- › Published cut-out is metric (95 mm), so check fit for your hole size before ordering

Sources

- › [Air-Only Low Profile product page](#)
- › [Air-Only core ventilator \(DS\) page](#)
- › [Air-Only product line](#)
- › Air-Only contact email: info@air-onlyventilators.com
- › Air-Only on Instagram: [@marine_ventilation](#)

Disclosure: I bought these vents with my own money; Air-Only didn't provide them or pay for this review. Before publishing, I asked Air-Only to check the review for factual errors, and two corrections were made. SailboatsUSA.com kept final editorial control.
