

## Chapter 4B: Finnage Characteristics - Asymmetrical Halfmoon Plakat

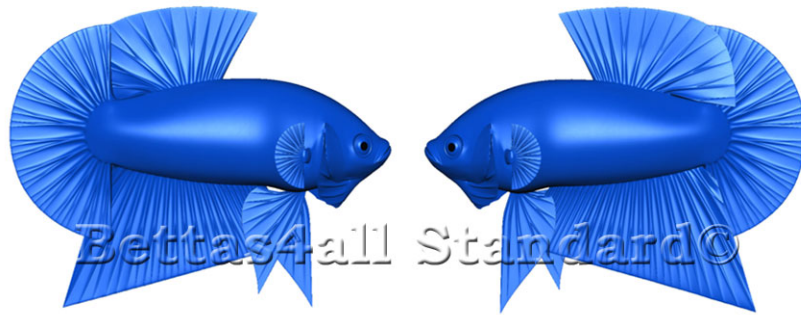


Figure 4B.1 2D representation of the 3D model of the ideal asymmetrical halfmoon plakat (created by Stefan George Psarakos).

### 1. General appearance

#### 1.1 Condition & Deportment

As described for all other show Bettas (see **Chapter 3**).

#### 1.2 Body size

As described for all other show Bettas (see **Chapter 3**).

#### 1.3 Overall balance

As the name indicates, the ideal asymmetrical halfmoon plakat has an asymmetrical appearance which is mostly caused by the length and shape of the anal fin and is contributed to by the breadth, length and shape of the ventral fins and dorsal fin (see **Figure 4B.2**).

The contour of the ideal symmetrical short-finned Betta can be captured by an oval of which the width is approximately 1.5-times the height (see **Chapter 4C**). In contrast to the symmetrical short-finned Betta, the upper part of the ideal asymmetrical halfmoon plakat approximately fits this oval but the asymmetrical lower part does not follow these contours and both the anal fin and the ventral fins clearly extend beyond the bottom edge of the caudal fin.

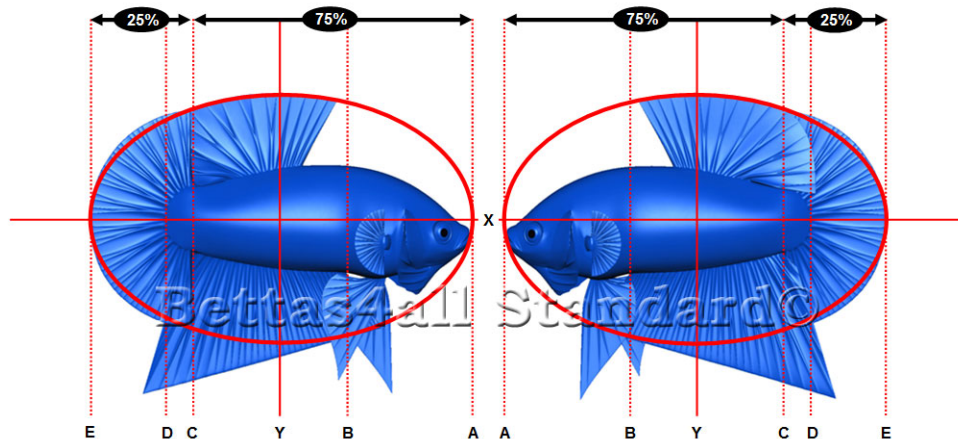


Figure 4B.2 The upper part of the ideal asymmetrical halfmoon plakat approximately fits the ideal symmetrical oval but the asymmetrical lower part does not follow these contours. The horizontal (X) and vertical (Y) midline as well as vertical lines A-E are used to describe the proportions of the ideal asymmetrical halfmoon plakat.

The vertical line which runs through the point on the body where the outer rays of the caudal fin are attached (C), divides the total length of the asymmetrical halfmoon plakat (A-E) into two parts, A-C and C-E, with a ~70/30 distribution respectively (see **Figure 4B.2**). An important point with respect to overall balance is the fact that the finnage has to be in proportion with the body. The width of the anal fin (B-C) is used as a reference to define the desired proportions (see **Figure 4B.3**). In the ideal situation the length of the rays of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle (D) to the outer rim (E), are equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin (B-C). When an imaginary vertical midline would be drawn, the vertical length of the dorsal and anal fin from the body to the outer rim is again equal to 1/2 of the width of the

anal fin. The length of the longest ray in the posterior part of the anal fin is equal to the width of the anal fin. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to 3/4 of the width of the anal fin (B-C).

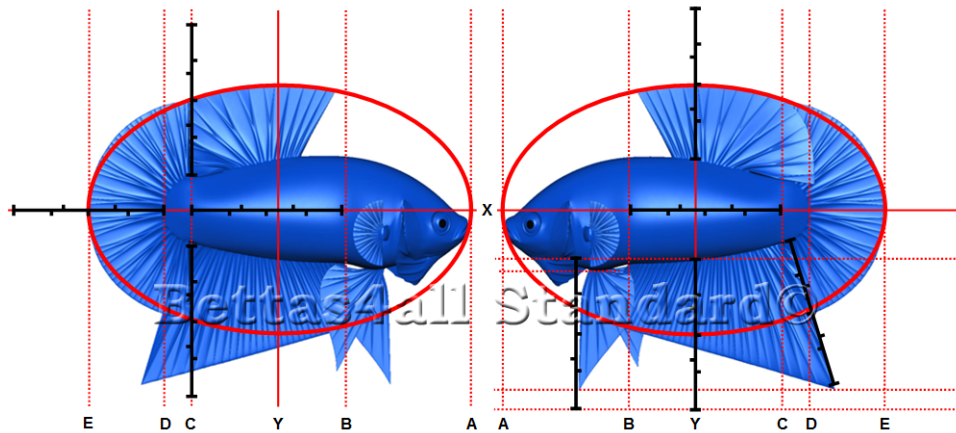


Figure 4B.3 The width of the anal fin (B-C) is an important marker to demonstrate proportion.

## 2. Body

### 2.1 Form & dimension

As in all other show Bettas (see **Chapter 3** and **Figure 4B.4**).

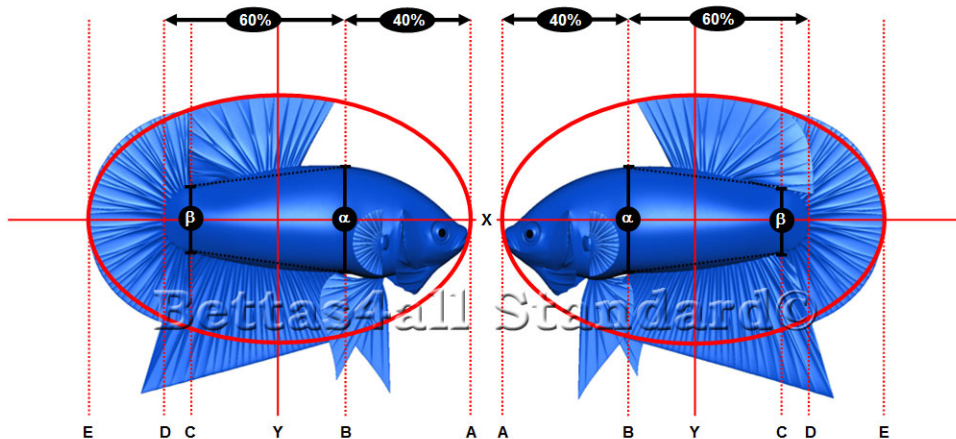


Figure 4B.4 Ideal body shape form & dimension of the asymmetrical halfmoon plakot.

### 2.2. Scalation

As in all other show Bettas (see **Chapter 3**).

## 3. Finnage

### 3.1 Caudal fin

The form of the caudal fin of the asymmetrical halfmoon plakot can be compared with the shape of a capital letter “D” (see **Figure 4B.5, left**). The caudal fin has a symmetrical appearance which means that it could be divided into two equal parts that are mirror-images of each other across a horizontal midline (X). The ideal caudal fin has a 180-degree spread, straight rays and sharp corners. A spread of more than 180-degrees is not preferred over a 180-degree spread. The caudal fin has 12-13 primary rays which extend from the peduncle and ideally the branching of the rays can range from secondary (4-ray) to tertiary (8-ray) branching. The branching of the rays should be evenly distributed throughout the caudal fin. The webbing of the caudal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

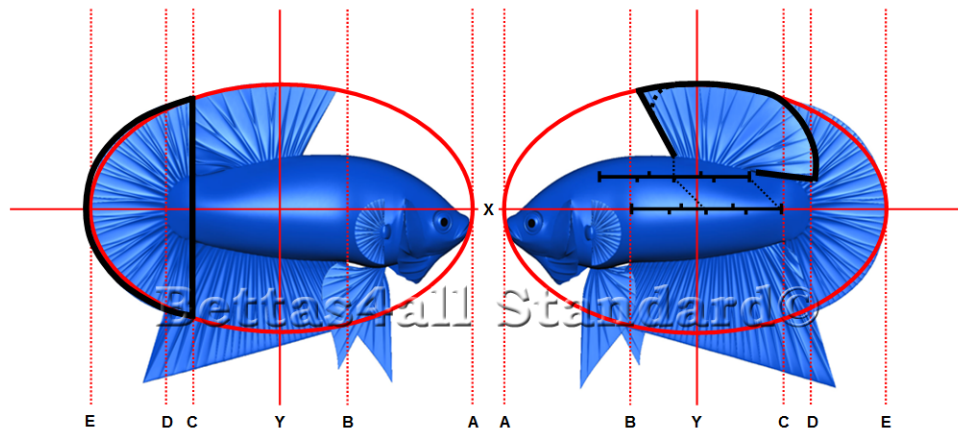


Figure 4B.5 Ideal form of the caudal fin (left) and dorsal fin (right) of the asymmetrical halfmoon plakot.

### 3.2 Dorsal fin

The dorsal fin of the asymmetrical halfmoon plakot snaps open like a fan and has the shape of a modified scalene trapezoid (see **Figure 4B.5, right**). The volume and the capacity of the dorsal fin to open up like a fan is achieved by an increase in branching of the rays (mostly secondary or tertiary branching) and possibly a slight increase of rays (ranging from 9 to 12 rays). Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin (B-C). The rays in the back of the dorsal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly declines towards the front. The rays in the front of the dorsal must be slightly directed forward, and the back of the dorsal fin overlaps the upper part of the caudal. Overlap of the back of the dorsal fin with the body is not desirable. The webbing of the dorsal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

### 3.3 Anal fin

The anal fin of the asymmetrical halfmoon plakot has the shape of a modified scalene trapezoid and starts at the thickest point of the body (B) (see **Figure 4B.6, right**). The longest ray of the anal fin clearly extends below the bottom edge of the caudal fin (without a clear pointed tip) but the length of the rays gradually declines towards the front. During flaring the front of the anal is directed forward and the back overlaps the lower part of the caudal. The volume and the capacity of the anal fin to open up during flaring is achieved by a moderate branching of the fin-rays (mainly primary ray-splitting although secondary ray-splitting sometimes also can be observed). The webbing of the anal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

### 3.4 Ventral fins

The form of the ventral fins of an asymmetrical halfmoon plakot is as in all other show Betta (see **Chapter 3**). Additionally, the ventrals of the asymmetrical halfmoon plakot should have a full volume (see **Figure 4B.6, left**).

### 3.5 Pectoral fins

As in all other show Betta (see **Chapter 3 and Figure 4B.6, right**). The pectoral fins of the asymmetrical halfmoon plakot are D-shaped with primary (2-ray) branching.



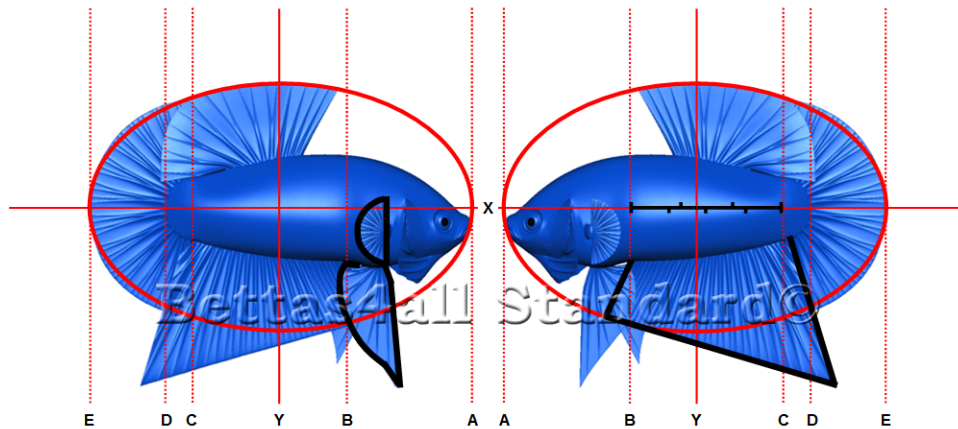


Figure 4B.6 Ideal form of the ventral & pectoral fins (left) and anal fin (right) of the asymmetrical halfmoon plakot.



Figure 4B.7 Example of asymmetrical halfmoon plakot males.

(A) was bred by Josip Kevari (Austria), (B) was bred by Joep van Esch (The Netherlands) and (C) was bred by Eugenio Fornasiero (Italy).

Please note that this fish is an example and still exhibits points requiring improvement.