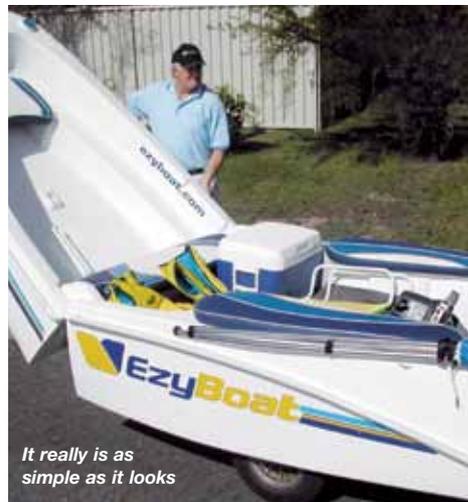


KIT REVIEW

MULTI-PURPOSE EZYBOAT

Wouldn't it be great if you could go trailer boating without having to worry about your trailer? Well now you can . . .



At the time of going to press, a craft the designers claim is "one of the most innovative small boats ever to be manufactured in the UK" will be officially unveiled at the Birmingham Boat and Caravan Show. Unlike other small boats, the EzyBoat, a versatile 4.4-metre fibreglass craft, folds up to form its own fully integrated trailer, complete with wheels that retract into the hull when it is launched. It is easy to tow and convenient to store - plus it can be unfolded from a trailer into a fully functioning boat within minutes.

Ezyboat CEO, Sascha Giest, explains: "You can trail it, sail it, or power it. When you're ready to take it home, the EzyBoat folds to an overall length of just 2.5 metres. It can be stowed quite easily in your garage, generally leaving sufficient space for a car as well." That means it also solves both the 'where to park the trailer' and the 'where to store the boat' problems.

The Ezyboat is designed to maintain its strength, stability and buoyancy when unfolded and its patented extendable draw bar is incorporated into a stainless steel keel that runs the full length of the craft. In fact, the

claim is that the EzyBoat is actually stronger than conventional boats of the same size. The Ezyboat is light enough to be towed behind a small car and it's approved to carry up to an additional 175 kg in the form of a small outboard engine, sails, camping and safety equipment. On arrival at the launching ramp, the boat is simply unhitched from the car, the drawbar extended and the boat unfolded. Once afloat, with everyone aboard, a lever retracts the wheels up into the hull and out of the water.

The EzyBoat is designed to accommodate up to a 25 hp outboard, although it will perform very well with much smaller motors or electric outboards. There's no need to remove the outboard as the hinged transom allows the motor to fold easily inside the boat for convenient storage and security.

The boat's innovative design also allows it to be sailed. An optional sailing-pack includes a mast and boom, mainsail and jib, centreboard, rudder and basic rigging - all designed for the novice sailor and all of which can be stored inside the folded craft.

"Under sail, it is a relatively stiff boat," says Sascha. "It points well and is capable of respectable sailing speeds while remaining easy

to use." The EzyBoat will be certified under EU Recreational Craft Directives for four adults in Category C. The company has entered into a boat partnership with Yamaha Motor UK and, over the next few weeks, will be working with selected dealers from Yamaha's existing retailer network. The plan is to launch the Ezyboat into markets around the world but, over the next 12 months or so, its primary focus will be on Europe. Though the details are not yet available, the recommended retail price for the EzyBoat is being described by the manufacturers as "highly competitive". Given the uncommonly versatile nature of the design, it's easy to believe.

With a folding hull and retractable road-legal trailer wheels, it's never going to set your world alight with great agility, efficiency and sharpness of handling. But while the rest of the world fumbles around with tie down straps, storage issues, parking problems and launching concerns, you and your Ezyboat will be looking back at them from the water with a smile. For the casual boater in search of easy, trouble-free recreation, it might just be a dream come true. We'll keep you up to date as more details emerge... ■

■ www.ezyboat.com