

Mitchell's Marine



Newsletter January 2011

HONDA 40 to 225hp NOW NMEA2000 COMPATIBLE.

The engine management systems on Honda's current model 40 to 225H.P. models are now NMEA compatible meaning that the instrument functions can now be displayed on compatible GPS and sounder units.

The display unit can be configured to show the information needed by the owner rather than be limited to standard type dashboard mounted gauges. If the unit is a GPS or combination unit it will also be able to carry out its original functions. This now means that dashboard layouts can be much less cluttered with all the vital engine management, navigation and sounder functions positioned right where they are needed.

These Engine Management computers when networked with compatible onboard Marine Electronics can deliver a wide range of engine information such as speed, RPM, fuel usage and engine temp to name a few.



10 backlight levels and a night mode for the after dark fisherman. The powerful 600watt dual frequency transducer of 50kHz and 200kHz allows for a maximum depth reading of 600m and also incorporates a temp sender and paddle wheel for speed. The unit also has some different screen configurations available such as zoom, split frequency and bottom lock. It is also NMEA Compatible.

COMBO UNIT

The G142CFD incorporates both the Fish Finder and Chartplotter into one compact display and is packed with all the features of both units.

For more information please visit Mitchell's Marine at 303-305 Draper Street Cairns to view a running display on these units or go on-line at www.gme.net.au

WHAT IS STALE FUEL.

With the weather that we have had over the last six months there are a lot of boats that have not been used and were stored with partially full fuel tanks. Fuel, particularly regular unleaded, will go stale if stored for long periods of time. Even up to six weeks can be considered too long.

Old fuels will lose some of their octane rating and will tend to form gummy deposits which will choke things up in the fuel system of your engine such as in carburettors, jets and fuel filters.

There are some fuel stabilizers on the market that, if added when the fuel is first bought, can increase its storage life. Fuel stabilizers will not regenerate old, stale fuel so to have an effect it must be put in when the fuel is fresh.

While it is always difficult to dispose of old fuel, quite often the result of running the engine on it is a trip to your servicing dealer for work on the fuel system. This usually ends up a lot more expensive than a few litres of fuel.

GME RELEASE NEW RANGE OF ELECTRONICS.

GME has announced the release of a new range of marine electronics called the G-Series. This includes a Fish Finder, Chartplotter and Combination unit. They each come with a 5.6" diagonal screen, high resolution 640(w) x 480(h) pixel display and are NMEA2000 compatible.



CHARTPLOTTER

The G142C Chartplotter or G-Plot uses the C-Map Max charts (SD Card), has an internal 16 channel GPS receiver, an embedded background world map, room for up to 10,000 waypoints and comes complete with bracket and flush mount kits. It is simple to use and has multi-screen options available with the ability to save 6 as your favourites. The NMEA2000 feature allows your (compatible) engine to communicate with the GME head-unit to deliver a wide range of information. Engine data such as speed, rpm, temperature, fuel usage and other statistics can be displayed on the unit's screen.

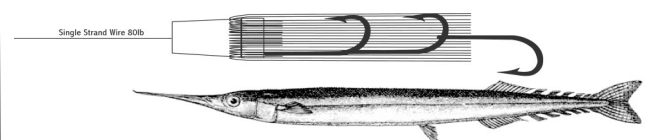
FISH FINDER

The G142FD is a state-of-the-art digital colour fish finder. This high performance sounder comes with a high resolution display,

TROLLING FOR MACKEREL

One of the most successful methods for fishing for mackerel is trolling gar baits. This is normally done on a rig with what is known as a WOG head in front of the Gar.

The Wog head makes the bait easier to secure and allows it to be rigged so that it will swim without spinning. Wog heads come in different colours and every fisherman has his own theory as to why his favourite colour works best.



The picture above demonstrates the idea of the Woghead. Note the last trailing hook just in-case the first 2 don't connect. These also work well on other pelagic species such as wahoo, barracuda and mahi mahi.

BLUEFIN RELEASE NEW CABIN BOAT.

Blue Fin's range of cabin boats now has a new member with the 5.8M. Castaway model added to the lineup.

This aluminum hull is constructed with a 4mm bottom, 3mm sides and 6mm material in the pod. The deadrise on the hull has been increased to ensure a softer ride and with a horsepower rating of up to 150 she will make a great boat for those trips to the reef. The cabin section is made of fiberglass which will make the cabin area much cooler in our tropical conditions.

Standard equipment includes hydraulic steering, a 145 litre fuel tank, Navigation lights, a bilge pump wired to a dashboard mounted switch panel and a stainless steel boarding ladder.

With a centerline length of 5.9M and a maximum beam of 2.27 M this is a big volume boat ideal for fishing and overnight trips to the reef.



HONDA EXPAND RANGE OF MAINTAINENCE PRODUCTS.

As Honda's fleet of outboards continues to grow in the Australian market they have been steadily developing the range of maintenance products that will help you to look after your Honda outboard.

Two of the products recently introduced are a fuel stabilizer and a carburettor cleaner .

Stripping carburettors and cleaning out gum and varnish deposits as a result of stale fuel are one of the most common jobs in our workshop.

Fuel stabilizer if added to the fuel when fresh will lengthen its useful life. The product is supplied in a graduated plastic bottle so that it is easy to put the required amount in the fuel, dependent on the capacity of the tank and how much fuel is in it.

Carburettor cleaner will help to dissolve gum and varnish that may be in the fuel system. Carburettor cleaner is sold in a pressure pack and is squirted down the throat of the carburettor with the engine running at just above idle.

These products join the Lanolin pressure pack spray that has been available for some time. Lanolin is one of the best corrosion inhibitors available and the convenience of the pressure pack makes it easy to apply.

Honda's extreme pressure marine grease has excellent water resistant properties and can be used on all the grease points and linkages of your outboard. It is sold in a 397g grease gun cartridge.

Hondas range of marine four stroke engine oils are formulated with corrosion inhibitors and designed for high RPM operations. These oils are available in .946ML (1 quart) and also in four litre containers.



TRIM TABS.

While trim tabs are not needed on every boat the additional control that they provide over the boats running attitude make them a handy thing to have.

Tabs will give you the ability to counteract uneven weight distribution, straighten the boat up when running across a sea , push the bow down when running into a sea and usually stay on the plane at a lower speed. They can also provide some fuel economy benefits.

The trim tab plates come in a number of different sizes depending on the size and configuration of the boat. The width of the tab is referred to as the "Span" while the length from front to back is known as the "Chord" of the tab plate.

The rule of thumb when determining plate size is to work on an inch of span for every foot of boat providing the chord dimension is between 8 and



9 inches. The tab plates should not go right to the chine of the boat so try to leave at least six inches from the chine to the outer edge of the plate. If there are things like transducers, speedometer or live bait tank pickups on the transom make sure that they will not foul the tab plates.

Most trim tabs come with a backing plate which will make the installation of the plates a little easier. When mounting the plate make sure that the bottom of the plate is just above the bottom of the boat and do not forget to put sealer behind the plates and on the attaching screws before the final plate fit.

Some tabs are hydraulically actuated and some are electrically driven by motors inside the actuators. The electric tab kits come with wiring harnesses and once the switch is fitted to the dash the electrical connections are very simple.

With the hydraulic tabs the hydraulic pump should be fitted in a dry place which is accessible as there will have to be both hydraulic lines and electrical connections made. The hydraulic tubing that is supplied with the kit has to be run from the pump unit to the hydraulic rams on the trim tabs. Some brands require a separate hole in the transom for the hydraulic line and other brands have the hydraulic connection behind the ram bracket. Once the switch is fitted to the dashboard and connected the next job is to fill the oil reservoir with the correct oil, bleed the hydraulic system and the tabs should be ready to go.

AS THE CROW FLIES.

When lost or unsure of their position in coastal waters, ships would release a caged crow. The crow would fly straight towards the nearest land thus giving the vessel some sort of a navigational fix. The tallest lookout platform on a ship came to be known as the crow's nest.

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