



THANK GOODNESS THIS BOAT ISNT OUTLAWED!

By Neil Holmes

The Review

The Baja 26 outlaw is a fantastic little boat good looking, quick and comfortable and it's now being produced and revamped by Fountain powerboats Baja's very first model was something special. In a bold display of drive and determination, four owner/employees assembled the original design in an abandoned roller skating rink in 1971. What they lacked in resources, they made up for in motivation — a single-minded mission to build the finest performance boats in the world. Over the next two years, Baja Boats was born, and a product line of 14- to 20-footers, including the classic CT 150 racing design, took shape.

The 1970s were spent perfecting the Baja design and style and saw them pursuing the sport boat market. It was a move that paid off in 1979 the Carrera SS Bowrider earned a Powerboat Magazine "Boat of the Year" award. In the 1980s they successfully expanded to include distinctively styled, world-class offshore boats like the 240 Sport and the 420 and over the past two decades its has continued to enthuse the

boat buying public with its sports boats including the Outlaw range. In 2008 Fountain Powerboats took over the manufacture of Baja and from what I can tell with stunning results.

The Outlaw 26, is a stylish boat with sporty undertones and it can ordered in an array of colour schemes and designs

depending on your personal preference. Onboard it has a well thought out design with well placed and easy to operate switches and controls, standard equipment includes gauges and throttle shifter unit from Livorsi marine. The fully hydraulic steering system by Latham marine is now standard fitting on all Baja's, this system gives great control and driver feedback. There are plenty of grab handles

comfortably placed for passengers and an exceptionally good seating position, I'm 6'.2" but I could sit or stand whilst driving without knocking my knees to pieces. And a feature I do like very much is the addition of a 'glove box' perfect for putting in keys phone and various bit and pieces The cabin is cosy but easily large enough for two people to sleep (although the

WHATBOAT?

THIS LITTLE BOAT HAS A HUGE GRIN FACTOR



specification says three) plenty of storage under the beds and all the usual additions, speakers, drinks holders, spot lights and two sky lights to give air and light, there is no toilet or shower but in all honesty this is a boat for maybe just a night away than a weekender its cosy but very comfortable.

The only problem I had was that I had to bend double to get in and out of the cabin; maybe shorter legs would be the solution to that issue! With waves around one

to one and a half metres the boat was exceptionally comfortable, a really soft ride with good responsive handling and running over some washes the boat landed so gently that I almost forgot we had just jumped them. The balance was good although as a driver I did notice that when we added two passengers in the back it became slightly more

rear trimmed this was easily adjusted with the efficiency of power trim and trim tabs. The tabs worked well and are rigged race boat style, this style of operation would be my preference in any boat i.e. port switch

operates port tab, the opposite of most European pleasure boats Tight low speed corners are probably best avoided as this caused excessive prop cavitation causing the boat to fall off the plane but this is easily rectified by adjusting your driving style, gentler use of the wheel and throttle will eliminate this behaviour.

This boat is fitted with Mercury's well respected 8.1 litre V8 Mercruiser496HO Magnum giving 425hp (280 KW) coupled to the Bravo 1X drive giving the boat speeds of touching close to 70 mph and with a hole shot of 7 seconds. This power plant option suits this boat very well although there are other packages available.



WHATBOAT?
GOODLOOKING, QUICK, VERSATILE
AND VALUE FOR MONEY.

Specifications:

Length:	26' - 7.93 m
Beam:	8'4" - 2.54 m
Weight:	4,800 lb - 2,178 kg
Draft:	38" - 96.52 cm
Fuel Capacity:	101 gal - 382.4 L
Passenger Capacity:	6
Sleeping Capacity:	3

Price on application.

Further information:

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Conclusion:

The 26 Outlaw is a great fun boat and meets virtually every requirement expected of a high performance craft in this category. Good handling and balance, great performance, exceptional comfort and sea keeping abilities coupled with its versatility make this a boat you can use for blasting around the bay, sedate family days out or even the odd night away

Pros
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Cons
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