

Quicksilver

Activ 645 Cabin

The new Activ range goes from strength to strength with this 20ft starterboat that's packed with big ideas **from £34,650**

We checked out Quicksilver's clean-looking and very intelligent 675

Sundeck back in March, with very favourable results. However, we were then somewhat hesitant to accept an invitation to try the slightly smaller 645. Surely, it would be just a scaled-down version of its larger sibling? Not so. The design team charged with reinventing this Brunswick (think Sea Ray and Mercury) owned brand has come up with a particularly clever 20 footer that will not only cast a shadow over its competitors but their 675, too.

So why so clever? Well, if anything this is a more conventional cuddy design, but every inch of its 20ft frame works, ensuring it is as practical as can be. This is not only achieved thanks to good overall design work, but also in minor details, like supplying beackets to hang fenders from.

Invariably, on outboard boats, the well the engine sits in ruins the transom and you don't get much of a platform for watersports or even access. Here, they have managed to incorporate a tiered, stepped

arrangement making it easier to clamber to and from the cockpit and provide room to sit, strap on a wakeboard or get ready for a dip. The voids within these steps haven't been wasted either, and serve as lockers for handy storage.

Cockpit living

The cockpit seating – that incorporates a whole raft of moulded out lockers – is arranged as a U-shape, so nothing cute there, but what is particularly assuring is how far down in the boat you are sat, protected by high coamings. There's also room for six here without running out of legroom.

Tucked behind the seat back is a recess for the easily deployed canopy. Another item that gets a dedicated stowage spot is the collapsible table which also doubles as a sunbed infill. When not required, it resides in a locker running along the cockpit sole, but neater still is a recess here, complete with 12V socket, for a coolbox.

Access to the foredeck, with its run of non-slip synthetic teak and useful locker, is via a central, well angled, set of fixed steps. These take you safely and easily through the split screen. Locating the steps like they have, rather integrating them into the cabin door, has made cabin access a little tight but the cuddy is still roomy enough to include a double berth with enough headroom to sit. Unusually for a boat of this size, there is a full sea-toilet option for the boat and not simply the usual Porta-Potti job.

The 645 will take up to a single 175hp outboard but in this instance, it was fitted with one of MerCruiser's new compact 150hp four-strokes. This pushed the nicely balanced hull up to a clean 37 knots. At this speed the ride and handling were so comfortable and confident, you could keep the throttle floored most of the time and neither

the other occupants or hull are likely to complain. Of course, an eye on fuel consumption will tend to reign things in and you can halve your consumption to around 6gph and 4mpg by keeping to a more laid back but still swift 25 knots.

Overall, the handling is very reliable and confidence inspiring, helped by an excellent driving position with two adjustable squab seats and a console that is purposefully designed to accommodate a small plotter.

A flat, fiddled area has been fashioned into the console ahead of the wheel but if things won't stay put then transfer them to the deeper tray built into the companionway hatch.



Mark says...



Small boats are getting more and more attention from designers and manufacturers, which is great news, as this hugely likeable 20-footer shows.





Neat, recessed canopy is easy to use



Lined lockers cover the boat



Gripped foredeck and locker



A smart, clean and very practical cockpit makes dayboating a joy



Tight access but good cabin space



Driving position impressed our tester



Cockpit table stows when not in use



Seating for seven, not bad for 20ft

👤👤 You could keep the throttle floored and neither the occupants or the hull are likely to complain 🧑🧑



SPECIFICATION

LENGTH OVERALL 20ft 6in (6.25m)

BEAM 7ft 10in (2.40m)

ENGINE single Mercury 150hp outboard

PERFORMANCE

rpm	knots	mpg
3500	19.5	4.6
4000	24.0	4.0
5000	30.3	3.8
5800	37.1	3.3

PRICE with 150hp Mercury outboard £34,650 inc VAT

ENQUIRIES EP Barrus
Tel: 01869 363636
sales@epbarrus.co.uk

CONCLUSION

FOR Good access for watersports, versatile and practical cockpit

AGAINST Tight cuddy access

VERDICT Usually it is the larger boats that bristle with good ideas, so it is great to find a starter-sized craft packed with intelligent detail

MBM
rating

