

## Nick says...



Keenly priced, practical and easy to use, could the Quicksilver Activ 705 be the ultimate starterboat?

## MBM SEATRIAL

## QUICKSILVER ACTIV 705

a one-piece windscreen, slim mullions, a large sunroof and even sliding side windows and you have an area that's sheltered yet in touch with the elements, giving an impressive view out at all speeds.

It's practical as well, the helm seat backrest reverses to create a four-seater dinette with the aft benchseat, or you can remove it to allow this area to infill to a decent sized double berth. A dedicated locker beneath the saloon floor houses a folding table and leg, so it won't roll around, and a further socket in the cockpit sole allows alfresco dining. Opposite the dinette a small galley has a detachable gas hob (again with its own dedicated stowage area) and a sink, plus a fridge under the forward seat.

Headroom is a remarkable 6ft 5in throughout the saloon area. Inevitably it drops away below decks, over the small double under the bluff foredeck. The only area of real compromise is the toilet compartment, which must be one of the smallest afloat with sitting room only. But at least it is separate.

So, the 705 is comfortable, but it is also safe. That sheltered wheelhouse is ideal for nervous crew and so is the high sided, self-draining cockpit, which is great for young children. The 5in side decks are narrow but perfectly useable, while handrails on the trailing edges of the wheelhouse aid progress forward. There's even a high/low auxiliary bracket for a very reassuring back-up outboard engine.

Away from the practical thinking, attention to detail can be lacking at times. Locker apertures are roughly cut and the finish is sparse in places, but all the bits that matter are

“At 20 knots the 705 is stable and confidence inspiring”



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**MOTOR BOATS MONTHLY TESTED**

# Quicksilver Activ 705

**Packed with user-friendly ideas, the first Activ cruiser could be a perfect starterboat. From £41,147**



Good visibility at the helm through large windows



The Activ's deep cockpit is safe and reassuring, which is ideal for young crew



The 705 boasts a third front seat alongside double helm



The helm seat backrest reverses to create a useful dinette with a folding table



Imagine being asked to create the ultimate starterboat. What would you build? We've given this some thought and we reckon the top priorities would be manageability, practicality, safety, and value. And it seems we're not alone. The new Quicksilver Activ 705 is the largest in the Quicksilver line-up and the first cruiser from the

award-winning Activ range. More importantly it is, quite possibly, the ultimate starterboat. Let's take those four themes in order. At 23ft long, this Carsten Astheimer (the man behind Sealine's rebirth in 2007) 705 is certainly manageable. It's small enough to be manhandled or fended off if it all goes a bit pear-shaped in the final

stages of berthing, yet it's big enough to be a coastal passagemaker.

The wheelhouse design puts the skipper and crew inside, away from the wind and spray, and five forward-facing seats – a double helm, a single to port, plus a double bench aft – is a luxury denied even to many 50ft boatowners. Add in





reasonably finished. Overall, build quality is easily as good as Jeanneau's Merry Fisher and Bénéteau's Antares models.

## Top performer

We have tested five Activ models now and every one has impressed. At 20 knots this quirky hull is stable, comfortable and confident, maintaining direction without constant wheel twitching. It also makes light work of the chop-laden

swell of our test day. Throw the 705 hard into a high speed turn and there is a degree of cavitation, but driven in the cruiser manner it is intended for it excels.

Two full-size pantograph wipers keep the screen clear of dollops of spray, while the open roof and triple-fold saloon doors stop you feeling isolated from the experience.

So with three boxes ticked, does the 705 represent good value? As part of the mighty Brunswick Group,

Quicksilver can take advantage of its massive economies of scale. The boats are moulded in America and then shipped to Poland for an efficient fitout. As a result you can buy a basic boat with a base outboard engine for under £40,000, representing great value for money.

Our test boat, fitted with a Mariner F150 four-stroke outboard, comes in at £55,000 on the water with the Deluxe cruising package. This £6918 option adds the smart black topsides, electric windlass,

shorepower, cold water deck shower, pressurised water, sea toilet, fridge, GPS, VHF Radio, warps, fenders and even a boat hook. Buyers can also choose petrol or diesel sterndrive options if they prefer.

As a first boat, the 705 is tailor-made for putting families afloat with minimum hassle and maximum value. However, it also has enough substance and sophistication to entice seasoned dayboaters looking to upgrade to a cabin boat.



A camper canopy extends the saloon



Dedicated table and leg storage



Double berth beneath the foredeck



A very compact toilet compartment



Small but useful galley with hob unit



Useful under galley storage

## SPECIFICATION

<b>LOA</b>	23ft 2in (7.05m)				
<b>BEAM</b>	8ft 4in (2.55m)				
<b>ENGINE</b>	Mariner F150 outboard				
<b>PERFORMANCE</b>					
<b>rpm</b>	<b>knots</b>	<b>lph</b>	<b>gph</b>	<b>mpg</b>	
3000	13	17	3.7	3.5	
3500	18	24	5.3	3.4	
4000	20	31	6.8	2.9	
4500	22	36	7.9	2.8	
5000	26	50	11.0	2.4	
<b>PRICE</b>	£29,995 inc VAT (no engine)				
	£41,147 inc VAT (with engine)				
	£55,218 inc VAT (as tested)				
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>		Quicksilver			
		<a href="http://www.quicksilver-boats.com">www.quicksilver-boats.com</a>			

## CONCLUSION

**FOR** Spacious and versatile interior, capable hull

**AGAINST** Finish is patchy

**VERDICT** Practical, safe and confidence inspiring. One of the best introductions to boating you will find

