

- THE NEW -

PLAYER

WHEN PETER WEBB'S PERFORMANCE MARINE JOINED FORCES WITH WHITTLEY – RESPECTED MANUFACTURERS OF OPEN WATER FISHING AND FAMILY CRUISING BOATS – EXPECTATIONS WERE HIGH.

Performance Marine has an established reputation as ski-boat specialists, due to a long association with Australian and US branded boats. Those partnerships ended in 2007, opening the way for Performance and Whittley to align and for an entirely new brand to enter the market. Our first glimpse of Spy Boats came at the Melbourne Boat Show last year, but it wasn't until recently that we had the opportunity to actually take a boat out on the water. We took the RX22 wakeboard model out for a spin at the National Watersports Centre in Carrum in January and quickly discovered that experience and skills have come together at Spy Boats to result in an excellent product.



EXTERIOR / HULL

Like the rest of the Spy range (incorporating five models in total) the RX22 hull was created using the advanced Computer Aided Design (CAD) system to allow the boat to be crafted to exacting specifications. It uses automotive design cues and the latest marine engineering technology to ensure all sections of the boat are precisely manufactured. The quality of the build is clear as the RX22 feels super solid when running through boat wakes. The 22ft RX22 certainly was imposing on the water, with its square rear-end and high sides. The test-boat's daring black and yellow graphics created a fresh and sporty look, which was enhanced by the sleek interior design. Customers can choose from a range of colours to suit personal taste.

INTERIOR

The interior looked superb, with classy lines and a great colour combination. The seats were comfortable and the different textures kept things interesting. Spy certainly made use of the whole 22ft, strategically designing the interior to create maximum space for your crew. The boat easily seats 10 people and the high sides and careful layout keeps everyone protected from spray and wind. There is storage under every seat and a large esky



DASHING: FARIA 5 INCH GAUGES AND SPY CUSTOM STEERING WHEEL ARE PRIME EXMPLES OF THEIR EYE FOR DETAIL WHEN IT COMES TO CUSTOM FITTINGS.

between the driver and observer, which can be filled with ice, and drained out through a plug into the boat's bilge system. The driver is well looked-after, with a classy dash and unique gauge design. The tacho and speedo are individual needle gauges, with small digital screens in the middle to show all your other measurements (like fuel, oil pressure, water pressure, water temperature and depth).

WAKE

Spy's hydraulic trim plate system allows you to alter the wake for different riders, or create a flat wash for families looking for crossover boat which will also be used for skiing. For wakeboarding, the Spy puts out a stock wake big enough for team rider Troy Roker, to perform basic inverts and spins. But when loaded up (with 350 litres of ballast), you'll see a nicely shaped and crisp ramp. The driver can adjust the shape using the trim plate to create a short ramp with a big booty lip, or a round wake, with a blunter lip. With the plate all the way down, while still having weight in the boat, this provides a quality slalom wake.



STAND OUT: THE RX22 GRAPHICS ARE LIKE NOTHING ELSE ON THE WATER.



ALL TORQUE: PLENTY OF MERCURISER GRUNT THROWS THE RX22 INTO A POWERTURN.

HANDLING

The real standout feature of the RX22 was how easily it got on a plane. Even with a boat full of people, the Mercruiser Black Scorpion effortlessly plunged the hull out of the hole, with the acceleration of a 19ft mid-mount ski boat. Also impressive is how flat the boat stayed when getting out of the hole, rather than lifting the nose. In no time, the boat was fang on top of the water, with the driver enjoying a clear view through the windscreen. Once at speed, it easily cut through double-ups and chop. The steering felt light and accurate, and the boat turned sharply considering its overall size.



TURN IT UP: CLARION FITTED SPY BOATS WILL DEFINITELY BE HEARD THIS SUMMER.

SOUND

Doof-doofers would love the cranking Clarion set-up in the test-boat. The six interior speakers, four tower speakers, two amps and sub hammered out the tunes, and could easily be heard while ripping behind the 22ft machine.

SPY RX22 SPECIFICATIONS:	
LENGTH	6.7m (22')
BEAM	2.44m (8')
SEATING	10 people
FUEL CAP	120L
STARTING PRICE	\$63,950
PRICE AS TESTED	\$69,900
CONTACT	Performance Marine 03 9465 4555



CROSSING OVER: TROY ROKER DEMONSTRATING THE RX22'S WAKEBOARDING CAPABILITIES.

It's impressive to see just how much the shape and size of the wake can change by adjusting the hydraulic plate system.