

2007 AWARDS
FOR PRODUCT EXCELLENCE

OUTSTANDING SPORT BOAT WORKMANSHIP



TEST RESULTS

Centerline/beam
28'8"5"

Hull weight/fuel capacity
5,000 pounds/80 gallons

Price as tested
\$205,665

Engine
Teague Custom Marine 800 EFI

Cubic-inch displacement/hp
509/800

Propeller
Mercury Bravo One 15 1/4" x 30"

Zero to 20 seconds
82 mph

40 to 60 mph
4.3 seconds

Top speed at rpm
90.1 mph at 5,750

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Dave's Custom Boats

[FX-28]

When it comes to craftsmanship in the West Coast custom genre, Dave's Custom Boats is in a league of its own. True, DCB is a small-volume builder that produces about 30 boats a year. But that doesn't quite explain the company's ability to consistently put out such finely built offerings.

What does explain it is owner Dave Hemmingson's obsession with detail and how the employees have a complete commitment to doing things right. That was obvious in the FX-28 we tested.

Catamarans are DCB's bread and butter, but that doesn't mean the company can't build a wicked V-bottom. Though DCB offers the model in composite form, our boat was laid up with conventional materials including vinylester resin and multidirectional fiberglass.

As usual, the builder didn't make a single tooling error,

at least any we could find. Equally precise and flawless were the gelcoat graphics where even the thinnest lines of color were crisply delineated. A straight, stainless-steel rubrail protected the hullsides, while the bow and stern of the boat were seamlessly capped.

Order reigned in the FX-28's engine compartment. To secure the engine, the builder used custom-fabricated mounts. To hold the parallel wire runs in place, DCB used evenly spaced stainless-steel cushion clamps. You could eat off the smooth bilge surface, but it would be a shame to get crumbs on anything that pretty.

All hardware, such as the pushpin cleats, was unobtrusive and functional. LED navigation lights in billet housings added an elegant touch.

We're always awestruck by the quality of boats like the FX-28. But we're never surprised when they come from DCB. 

► For the Performance Report on the Dave's Custom Boats FX-28, see "Gem Quality," May 2007, Page 84.

From left: The cockpit of the FX-28 included two bolster seats and a three-person bench. The helm featured Livorsi Marine controls, as well as Livorsi gauges above the tilting wheel. A single Teague Custom Marine 800 EFI engine provided power.

