

The 450 Hornet Trophy has a fast, dry ride under power.





450 HORNET TROPHY

The Quintrex 450 Hornet Trophy is big for its size.



Hull design

The 450 has the Eclipse V-Fared series hull, which in this case is based on a very generous two metre plus beam. Setting a nice wide beam on a hull of around 4.5 metres ensures a lot of things including stability, good sea keeping and an excellent load carrying capacity.

FWF FISHABILITY

This is a great, stable, tournament craft and one of the benchmarks at its size I'd like to see more rod storage and I'd also prefer a front casting kidney seat located on the bow.

No problems about storage of general tackle though, as this boat has heaps of storage area and the fish wells are terrific.

The new console is a winner, as is the whole package

FWF FEATURES

Unique Quintrex features

Eclipse V-Flared Series Hull M3 Transom Basic Flotation (ABYC Standard)

Standard features

Accessory kit Auto bilge pump 2008 sports side console Roto-moulded battery box Alloy cleat on front deck Anchor well with carpeted cover

Battery tray in casting platform 4 switch ignition box

Bowsprit

Fold down drink holder

Transom handles (2) Bowroller mount plate

Casting platform storage bins

Rod holders (2)

Plumbed livewell rear casting platform

Fuel tank (60 litre)

Front and rear casting platforms

Full carpeted floor

Piano hinges

Transducer bracket

Painted with stripes

Navigation light set Short side aft rails

Seat positions (4)

Fold down skipper seats and pedestals (2)

Lowrance X53 Sounder

Mechanical steering

Extruded side decks

Quintrex trailer

FWF SPECIFICATIONS

Length overall 4.53 m Length bow to transom 4.53 m Beam 2.04 m Depth 0.91 m Material thickness (bottomsides) 3 mm Material thickness 1.6 mm (topsides) Transom shaft length Recommended maximum rating 60 hp Maximum transom 120 kg weight Maximum number



length of the boat. Have a look at the accompanying bow shot to appreciate how these chines form that wide bow, yet allows for a good vee on otherwise what would end up a blunter punt-style configuration.

This combination gives the 450 Hornet a great ride in choppy and rough water and the chines keep the water down and the spray out. On top of all this the engineers at Quintrex have still been able to maintain maximum beam at the bow to maintain internal dimensions.

Another plus with running good chines to the stern means that stability is increased when running with the waves or a sea. They hold the track of the hull downhill and there is really no evidence of a propensity to broach when going downhill in a big chop. The hull construction is from pressed aluminium with the sides being 1.6 mm and the hull 3.0 mm and the hull felt really solid and tight.

The 450 features the new M3 Transom configuration, which is primarily the reason for the upgrade from 445 to 450. The new M3 transom sees the introduction of more usable space to the transom of the boat. The design makes way for a distinct boarding platform with a 'soft-touch deck grip' providing more grip and room for keen anglers to get right down the back of the boat and make full use of the increased internal space. The new design is also perfect for swimmers and divers and makes boarding the boat from the rear much safer and easier.

Ride and performance

In that aggressive chop on the Gold Coast Broadwater this little hull performed brilliantly, running dry and predictably either into a stiff chop or with a big incoming swell running in from the seaway. There was no indication of a tendency to broach and the ride is clean, stable and most importantly very predictable. The Eclipse V flared hull design quickly lived up to expectations and was a real eye opener, giving a soft, predictable ride in the conditions encountered. The hull planes easily and gets up

early with very little throttle.

The test boat had a tiller steer 60 hp Mercury standard two stroke long shaft on the transom with a standard aluminium prop. Top speed was around 55 km/hr and the hull runs beautifully, nice and flat, bow well out of the water and the chines grab all the spray throwing it out down and wide.

Stability at rest is excellent and is a result of the generous beam. The chines and the low deadrise at the stern make it a great fishing platform. In summary, considering that this craft has been mainly designed for flat fresh water use

of passengers

4 (basic flotation)







and in estuaries, it is much more than that. It will cope with a serious chop and if handled correctly could cope with some pretty adverse conditions. That makes for some real peace of mind as all of us, every now and again, get caught out in conditions that we'd rather not be boating around in.

Fitout and deck layout

Fitout on the 450 is about as good as you can get in an aluminium package. The feature of this new version is the console that has been newly developed for this hull. The console accommodates all the gauges on a very professionally produced dash. The screen is a decent size and offers real protection. In addition, the sizing under the console has been calculated so that it can accommodate a standard Engel fridge/freezer mounted on the Engel locking bracket. This means that you can pull the fridge in and out from under the console on the sliding bracket arrangement.

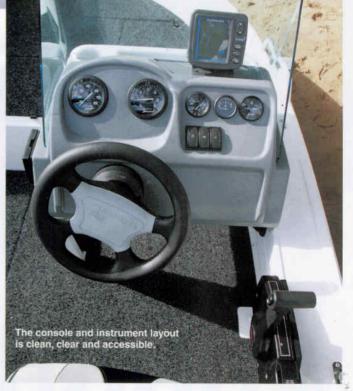
The front features a huge 100 litre plus dual hatch accessed bay that can be used for storage or if required can be converted to a live fish well. It is essentially a huge, rotor-moulded bin that sits independently inside the hull. The advantages here is that it is off the floor and waterproof and as I said also offers an alternative use as a live fish well. There are a further three storage hatches under the

From above left:

There is plenty of front storage for the anchor and to keep safety gear handy.

The batteries can be secure in the rear storage.

The radical new designed transom, designated the 'M3' gives more usable space in the boat.



forward casting platform, the most forward accommodates the anchor and ropes

Looking down the boat, all decks are carpeted, all hatches now have the added strength of piano hinges and the whole package is very professionally finished.

There are dual fold down skipper seats on pedestals, set at a perfect height for fishing and travelling.

Looking at the rear casting platform you will see the new curved lines of the M3 transom. At the rear there are three inbuilt hatches that are all rotor moulded. The middle is a fully plumbed 60 litre live fish well and to either side are storage hatches of which one is used for the battery and the other for general storage.

Overall

This is a very good fishing boat that an angler can use in a wide variety of applications. It has carpets, decks, front and rear casting platforms and two live fish wells if you want! 🔏

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