



CLASSIC BOATS

with Jeff Webster



The 475 Freedom Sport is an excellent family all-rounder.

Free spirit

Looking for a bay and harbour runabout? Well then how about the Quintrex 475 Freedom Sport. Produced from 2002 to 2005, this light weight and easily handled aluminium bowrider remains a great family all-rounder, writes Jeff Webster.

Since the introduction of the Quintrex Freedom Sport range of bowriders, Aussie boat buyers have embraced the concept of an aluminium bowrider as an excellent all-rounder.

These craft continue to be among the best selling of the larger models in the Quintrex boat range.

Following the launch of the original 500 series Freedom Sport in 1999, Quintrex introduced several other models, including 475 and 530 models in 2002. The 475 Freedom Sport is ideal for those who may not quite have the budget for a larger boat, but still love the bowrider concept.

DESIGN

While at first glance the 475 appears virtually identical to the larger 500 and 530 series boats, it's actually smaller in volume. The beam of the original model 475 is much narrower (2.03m compared to 2.28m) and the topsides are also lower.

Like the larger Quintrex bowriders of the 2002-2003 era, the 475 has a curved, centre-opening windscreen leading forward to the bow seating-compartment. This area is great for family boating, but can also convert to a bow casting platform with the removal of the seat cushions, and the fitment of an infill-board between the front seats. Down aft, Freedom Sports

all have twin-pedestal helm chairs, a nicely moulded dash, a folding rear bench-seat, above-floor sidepockets, rear battery platforms, and the Quintrex Maxi-Transom.

Other features included a 65lt underfloor fuel tank (upgraded later to 95lt), bowrails, deluxe fibreglass dash inserts, a standard Lowrance fishfinder and a GME 27MHz radio.

RUNNING IMPROVEMENTS

Following the launch of the 475 in late 2001, a series of improvements were made to the model each year until it was replaced with the 480 series boat in mid 2005.

For the 2003 model year (commencing late 2002), the Freedom Sport received a new, more intricate moulded-dash and instrument panel. A half-size rear lounge and picnic table was also added to the already lengthy list of options.

Wholesale changes/upgrades were made to the 475 in late 2003. For the 2004 model year, it was widened to 2.2m, and the alloy in the topsides increased to 2.0mm. The boat was also fitted with the Quintrex Maxi-Transom 2 layout.

The new transom was more rounded compared to the earlier boats, with the centre part of the outboard-well extended further aft to provide improved rear buoyancy. This helped

y heavier outboards and to that end, the 2004 model boat is rated for a maximum of 80hp.

The biggest change to the Freedom Sport was the introduction of positive foam flotation. These later models can be identified by the foam filled, enclosed sidepanels stretching along the cockpit sides. With positive foam flotation, the 2004 model (and later) 475s would remain afloat in a level and upright position (fully laden) if swamped.

HANDLING AND PERFORMANCE

The original 475 was rated for a maximum of 75hp but I recall testing the rig with a 60hp four-stroke Yamaha combination that worked well. The top speed was only in the 26-27kts range, but the boat accelerated well from a stand-still.

On the water the Millennium Hull-equipped 475 is dry and there's plenty of stability at rest and underway. The flared bow and variable deadrise hull works a treat in short, sharp, choppy water and the boat's knife edge bow shape cuts cleanly through the chop to provide a smooth ride. In rough water, the boat will come down hard occasionally — but overall the ride is streets ahead of the competition.

There is not a lot of difference between the two versions of the 475, save for the fact that the heavier, slightly bigger boat (introduced in late 2003) outperforms the earlier boats by a small margin.

BUYING NOTES

On the used boat market, early model 475 Freedom Sports should be a fair bit cheaper than the boats produced from late 2003. These later boats will have the wider beam, upgraded transom design, better interior fitout — and most importantly, the positive foam flotation.

For family boating, positive or level flotation is an important and worthwhile safety feature. The downside is that having nearly the full length of the cockpit sides filled with foam reduces the amount of storage space.



There's seating for about six people but it's rated to carry five adults.



Two or three people can fish with ease thanks to the open deck areas at the bow and the stern.

With regard to wear and tear, check for cracks along the primary structural areas such as the keel, chines and stem. Also, keep a sharp eye out for alloy corrosion around fixtures and fittings.

As always, a mechanical inspection of the outboard engine is recommended, regardless of the number of hours on the motor. 🛠️



You can expect a top speed of about 27kts with a 60hp four-stroke.

QUINTREX 475 FREEDOM SPORT

Hull type:	Monohull
Configuration:	Bowrider
Material:	Aluminium
Length (overall):	4.93/5.07m
Hull length:	4.75/4.9m
Beam:	2.03/2.20m
Deadrise:	Variable
Hull weight:	425/468kg
Bottom alloy:	3.0/3.0 mm
Topsides alloy:	1.6/2.0 mm
Weight on trailer:	Approx 800/870kg
Fuel capacity:	65/95lt
Rec. max. HP:	60-70/75-80
Max. engine weight:	164/175kg
Price range:	\$18,000 to \$24,000