

BOAT BUYERS GUIDE

WATERSPORTS • PONTOON • FISHING
RUNABOUT • FISHING • PONTOON • FISHING

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BOATS REVIEWED
PRICES, SPECS AND
PERFORMANCE STATS!



**FORWARD
DRIVE FUN**
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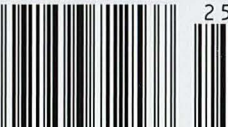
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The runabout is synonymous with summertime on countless lakes and rivers across America. Whether towed to the ramp via a trailer or untied from the dock, as soon as the key turns the ignition, everyone on board knows they're in for a great day. That is why so many people who grew up with this style of boat return to it in adulthood: It delivers a lot of happiness in a small package. Good for tubing and skiing, cruising, rafting up, beaching, or taking a trip to the local dockside restaurant, the runabout can do it all. Take a look at some of the best new runabouts of the year.



STARCRAFT SVX 210 IO With sterndrive power under the swim platform, this popular deck boat has even more space.

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STARCRAFT

SVX 210 IO

2022

BOATING

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HIGH POINTS

- ▶ Standard MarineMat flooring in the cockpit and fore and aft decks.
- ▶ Aft family-fun seat features ratcheted flip-up backrests.
- ▶ JL Bluetooth audio, Bimini, sink, ski-tow eye, extended swim platform and telescoping ladders are standard.

C

BOATING
CERTIFIED
TEST
RESULTS



SEE THE VIDEO

To see our video review of the Starcraft SVX 210 IO, scan this tag or visit boatingmag.com/bbg22/starcraftsvx210io.



SPECS: LOA: 23'10" BEAM: 9'6" DRAFT (MAX): NA DRY WEIGHT: 3,378 lb. SEAT/WEIGHT CAPACITY: 12/1,600 lb. FUEL CAPACITY: 44 gal.

HOW WE TESTED: ENGINE: Mercury MerCruiser 4.5L. DRIVE/PROP: Sterndrive/Mercury Black Max 14½" x 19" 3-blade stainless steel GEAR RATIO: 1.85:1 FUEL LOAD: 33 gal. CREW WEIGHT: 400 lb.

If Starcraft's SVX 210 IO looks familiar, it's because a similar boat already resides in the manufacturer's lineup. The difference here is that the boat is now available with sterndrive power rather than the previous outboard-only option, meaning owners can enjoy a full, unencumbered swim platform and a clear view aft. That makes the SVX 210 IO a favorite for watersports, as well as those who love to pull into their favorite cove or sandbar, turn off the engine, and gather at the swim platform. The latter now spans the boat's entire beam, extends nearly 3 feet in depth,

and even briefly wraps around the port and starboard sides to facilitate boarding. Sterndrive power also means a sun pad is added atop the engine compartment. Raise the forward cushions to reveal a ratcheting, aft-facing backrest with multiple incline positions. It's a great spot to prep for watersports or just to chill when the boat is at anchor.

Like other models in the SVX line, the 210 IO blends bowrider style with deck-boat function and capacity. It's most noticeable in the bow, where a generous, EVA-covered platform leads into a deep, squared-off cockpit that puts an emphasis on passenger comfort, with 3-foot-6-inch lounges accommodating multiple crew or a pair of stretched-out sunbathers. Parents will appreciate the deep, secure feel and beefy stainless-steel grab handles in an area that's favored by kids. Step through the windshield walk-through into the main cockpit and twin helm and passenger seats await, along with a social-friendly L-shaped bench spanning the port side and beam.

Though designed to be an affordable,

rpm	SPEED			EFFICIENCY					OPERATION	
	knots	mph	gph	neut. mpg	stat. mpg	n. mi. range	s. mi. range	angle	level	sound
1000	3.82	4.40	1.20	3.19	3.67	129	149	1	74	
1500	5.65	6.50	2.10	2.69	3.10	109	125	3	76	
2000	7.13	8.20	3.40	2.10	2.41	85	98	6	77	
2500	15.12	17.40	5.00	3.02	3.48	122	141	7	83	
3000	23.90	27.50	6.20	3.85	4.44	156	180	3	85	
3500	28.24	32.50	8.10	3.49	4.01	141	163	2	88	
4000	35.19	40.50	10.90	3.23	3.72	131	150	2	89	
4500	38.32	44.10	13.80	2.78	3.20	112	129	3	90	
4700	41.19	47.40	16.30	2.53	2.91	102	118	3	94	

MOST ECONOMICAL CRUISING SPEED

STARCRRAFT MARINE

New Paris, Indiana; 574-831-2950; starcraftmarine.com

family-friendly deck-boat option, the SVX displays fun, aggressive handling. Starcraft's dihedral V-hull design features a trio of forward sponsons, transitioning to a more traditional V aft and a flat pad to deliver faster times to plane and hole shot. At speed, it allows the boat to dive into corners and hook with tenacity. Our test boat, powered by a fuel-efficient 200 hp variation of Mercury's 4.5-liter MerCruiser engine, topped out at 48 mph. At a 27 mph cruising speed, it burned a mere 6 gph. So it's fast, sporty and efficient—a win-win situation.



HIGH POINTS

- ▶ HMX PR25 Performance Package provides a third pontoon, Performance Shield underdeck skin, hydraulic steering and more.
- ▶ Black anodized rails and trim look great.
- ▶ Teak weave flooring looks good and makes for easier cleanup.

SEE THE VIDEO

To see our video review of the Starcraft EXS-5, scan this tag or visit boatingmag.com/bbg22/starcraftexs5.



Price: \$74,828



C
BOATING
CERTIFIED
TEST
RESULTS

PONTOON

SPECS: LOA: 25'8" BEAM: 8'6" DRAFT: 1'6" DRY WEIGHT: 3,150 lb. SEAT/WEIGHT CAPACITY: 13/1,835 lb. FUEL CAPACITY: 60 gal.
HOW WE TESTED: ENGINE: Yamaha F250 four-stroke 250 hp DRIVE/PROP: Outboard/Yamaha Saltwater Series II 15 1/4" x 15" 3-blade stainless steel GEAR RATIO: 1.75:1 FUEL LOAD: 53 gal. CREW WEIGHT: 250 lb.

Starcraft's EXS-5 gave us 43-plus mph performance with its Yamaha 250 outboard spinning a 15-inch-pitch stainless-steel Yamaha propeller at 6,000 rpm. It's a quiet package; at our best recorded cruise speed, our decibel meter read just 76 dB(A), perfect for normal conversation levels. At 2,500 rpm and 14.5 mph, the big Yamaha sipped just 4.2 gph for 3.5 mpg. Using 90 percent of the 60-gallon fuel capacity, that's a range of just over 186 miles of slow-speed cruising.

And cruise you can, especially with

a group; the deck layout features two distinct conversation pits, one in the bow and a near-mirror image one abaft. Upfront, twin facing loungers can carry four or five in comfort, and another four in the stern. Add twin captain's chairs amidships—one each for the pilot and co-pilot—and you have the makings of a great party aboard. The captain's console features a custom-molded dash panel with windscreen and a full complement of electronic analog gauges. The deep-recessed footwell underneath provides a comfortable driving position, even for the tallest captain. Even with that recess, there's ample storage underneath the console, accessed through a plastic side door.

Starcraft uses high-quality vinyl atop roto-molded plastic seat bases, with plenty of storage underneath. Out back, there's a substantial extended deck geared especially for swimming and watersports, with a wide-handled, stainless-steel telescoping boarding ladder standard and an optional ski tow. A standard pop-up changing room hides

rpm	SPEED			EFFICIENCY				OPERATION	
	knots	mph	gph	naut. mpg	stat. mpg	n. mi. range	s. mi. range	angle	sound level
1000	3.5	4.0	0.7	5.0	5.7	268.1	308.6	0	52
1500	6.0	6.9	1.9	3.2	3.6	170.4	196.1	1	59
2000	8.1	9.3	3.1	2.6	3.0	140.8	162.0	1	66
2500	12.6	14.5	4.2	3.0	3.5	162.0	186.4	2	76
3000	16.7	19.2	5.7	2.9	3.4	158.1	181.9	1	75
3500	20.2	23.2	7.4	2.7	3.1	147.1	169.3	1	77
4000	24.5	28.2	9.6	2.6	2.9	137.8	158.6	1	77
4500	27.7	31.9	12.5	2.2	2.6	119.8	137.8	1	82
5000	31.0	35.7	15.8	2.0	2.3	106.0	122.0	1	87
5500	34.6	39.8	19.5	1.8	2.0	95.8	110.2	1	87
6000	37.6	43.3	24.5	1.5	1.8	82.9	95.4	1	88

MOST ECONOMICAL CRUISING SPEED

STARCRRAFT MARINE
New Paris, Indiana; 574-831-2103; starcraftmarine.com

discreetly inside a housing at the rear of the forward portside forward lounge.

Decking underneath is 3/4-inch treated marine plywood, bolted to a hat-channel superstructure with triple 25-inch-diameter pontoons underneath. With the standard HMX PR25 Performance Package, there's a wind-cheating Performance Shield affixed to the underside, along with underfloor storage. Starcraft offers a lifetime limited warranty on the deck, structure, transom and tubes.

