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TODAY'S FUTURE

Sunsation has gone high-tech with its slippery-fast 32 Innovator.

ASSUMING JAMES BOND EVER GETS ANOTHER BOAT to abuse—and you just know he will—it probably will be a lot like the 32 Innovator from Sunsation. Heck, it might just be one of the Michael Peters-bottom-designed 32-footers, thanks to all its high-tech gadgetry. Touch-pad accessories hooked into a computer and a push-button cabin-door system—we picture Agent 007 eyeing a lovely lass as it opens—takes easy entry to the next level. Pure James Bond.

With 90-plus-mph top end and the ability to get there fast, the 32 Innovator also would be useful to anyone seeking escape. The model we tested in Fort Myers, Fla., did that on a pair of Mercury Racing HP525EFI engines with warranties—good things to have even if danger isn't your middle name.

PERFORMANCE

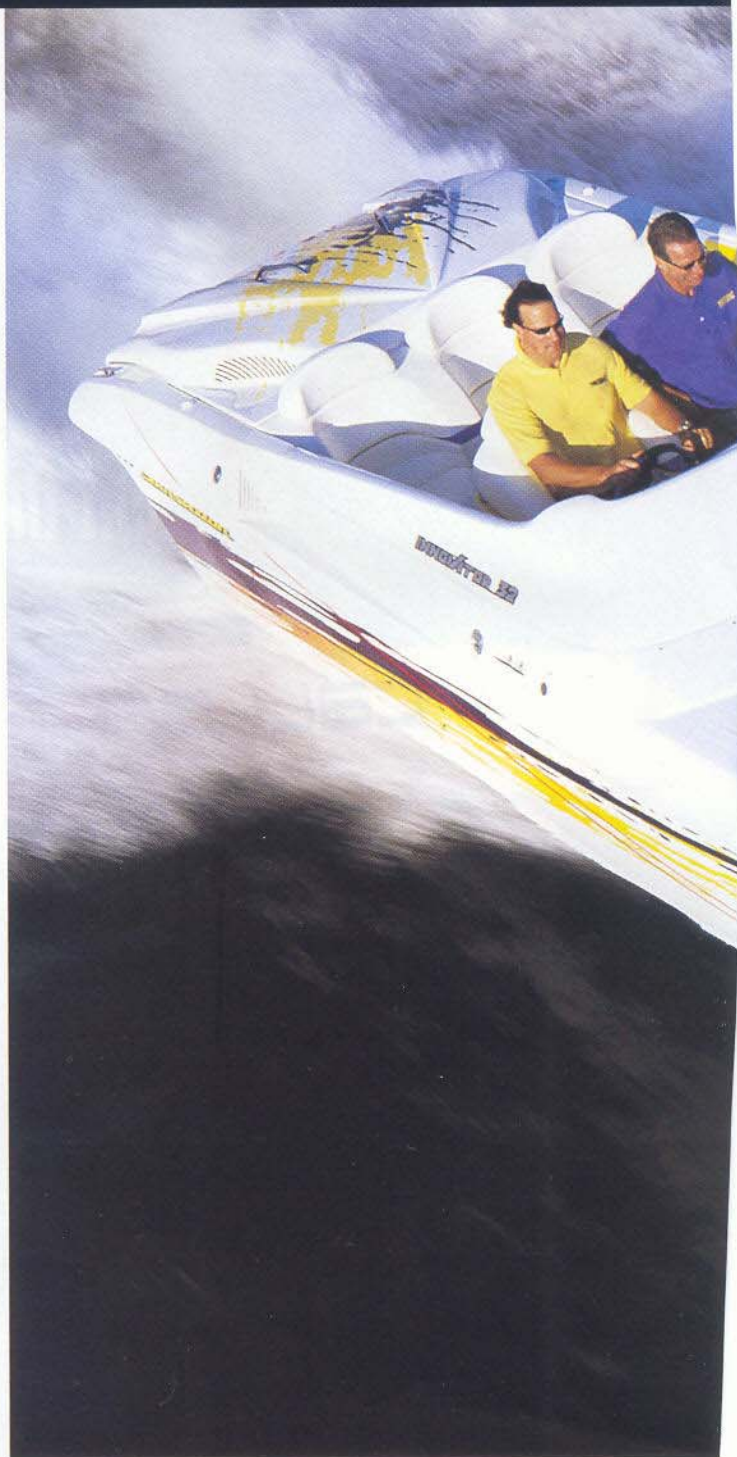
Peters designed the 32 Innovator's 24-degree hull with a pair of full-width steps and a delta pad in the aft running surface. There also were smaller offset steps between the inner and outer strakes, and between the outer strake and the chines.

The fuel-injected engines delivered a combined 1,000 hp, which was handled by a pair of Bravo One XR drives with 1.5:1 ratios and lab-finished Bravo One 15 1/4" x 32" four-blade stainless-steel propellers. Connecting the drives was a stainless-steel tiebar for the IMCO full-hydraulic steering system.

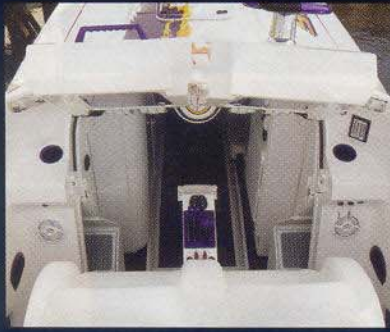
With the engines turning 5,400 rpm, the 32 Innovator topped out at 92.4 mph, a couple of miles an hour faster than the manufacturer estimated it would run. The hull-and-propulsion-package combo proved equally efficient and invigorating in acceleration tests. From a standing start, the boat reached 84 mph in 20 seconds. It took the same amount of time—3.7 seconds—to run from 30 to 50 mph as it did to run from 40 to 60 mph, and it went from 40 to 70 in an equally impressive 6.4 seconds. The 525s were a great choice for the boat.

Company principal Wayne Schaldenbrand described the 32 as a "driver's boat," and we agree. Not that the 32-footer was ill-behaved, but its tendency to ride high on the keel and oscillate at middle to high speeds made frequent trim and steering adjustments a must. The 280S K-Planes settled down the boat when necessary.

The 32-footer turned well in both directions, leaned nicely and did not roll to the outside of the keel. Like many stepped-bottom models, it turned best with positive trim. For a boat its size, it acquitted itself well in rough water, though quartering seas, where it tended to get bounced around, presented the biggest challenge.



SUNSATION 32 INNOVATOR



From left: The 32 Innovator came with power gull-wing doors, which powered up as the footrests slid outward to provide good access to the cabin. Amenities included a V-berth, microwave, stainless-steel sink and twin facing lounges with an optional dinette. Under the hatch, a pair of HP525EFLs.

