

Top tips from 40 years afloat

PBO reader Will Renilson shares some of his simple tweaks and innovations that make for easier single-handed motorboating

Our Jersey 36 semi-planing motorcruiser has superb offshore handling and manoeuvrability, with quite low air draught so she's the perfect package for a mix of river and sea work.

We keep her at St Olaves on the Norfolk Broads and have easy access to the sea.

All of these simple and very cheap fixes had the same basic aim: to allow this reasonably-sized boat to be handled single-handed in confined spaces. Some of them might work for your boat too.

Will Renilson's boat *Jersey Lass* at sea



Feeler gauge

I cut a collapsible fishing pole to slot into a plywood-bushed fishing rod holder on the bulkhead in the chain locker.

This bendy height indicator means we don't wipe out our radar under bridges.



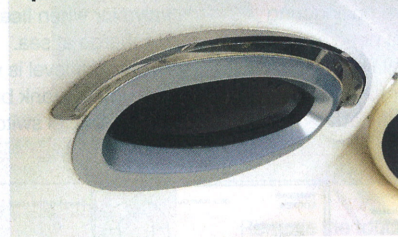
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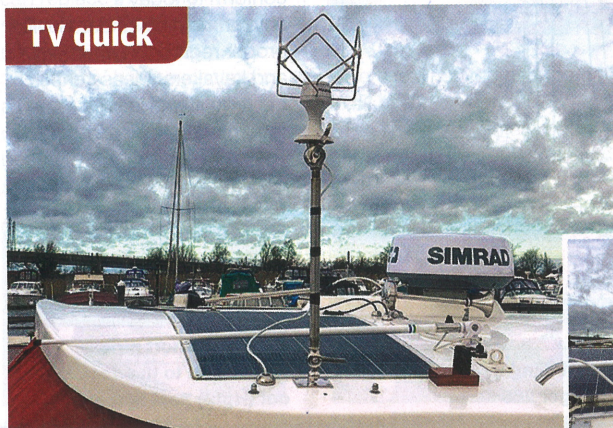
We have arranged this simple non slip pontoon gangplank that has a permanent galvanised steel handrail so the very young or old can be helped aboard.

Eyebrows raised

Polished stainless steel channel screwed and siliconed above opening ports stops ingress of water if they're left open in the rain. These act like guttering on a house and since they follow the curves of the port hole are aesthetically pleasing.



TV quick



For sneaking under bridges or when at sea, we can lower our TV aerial on this stainless steel pole with VHF aerial universal joints on both ends.



Mooring post



Our permanent dock mooring lines use this lifter post that has hooks on it and is easily accessible from on board. There is a universal joint at deck level and some light gas struts that will give way if anyone walks into it. **PBO**