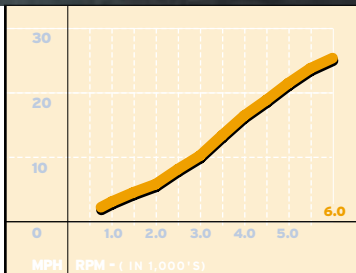


BILL DOSTER

DETAILS

LENGTH OVERALL: **24'**
 BEAM: **8'6"**
 DRY WEIGHT: **2,265 LB.**
 SEATING/WEIGHT CAPACITY: **15/2,310 LB.**
 FUEL CAPACITY: **24 GAL.**
 MAX HP: **140**
 MSRP (TEST BOAT): **\$26,490**

**PERFORMANCE**

TEST ENGINE:
**MERCURY 90-HP
 4-STROKE**

TEST PROP:
14 X 13, ALUMINUM

TEST LOAD:
**FUEL (6 GAL.);
 PEOPLE (410 LB.)**

TOP SPEED:
24.5 @ 6,000 RPM

TIME TO 20 MPH:
6.3 SEC.

NOISE AT IDLE:
53 DB

NOISE AT 20 MPH:
75 DB

CRUISE STATS:
67 DB; 18 MPH @ 4,500 RPM

CONTACT:
**888-463-3739
 BOATINGLIFEMAG.COM**

FINAL TAKE QUIET AND COZY, EVEN AT TOP SPEED

240 SE-3

Several times while sitting in neutral on the 240 SE-3, we had to stand up from the driver's seat, walk to the rear deck and make sure the engine was still running. Turned out the Mercury 90-hp four-stroke was humming under its breath.

Though we've tested the same engine on other boats, and it was just as peaceful, its murmur was better disguised on this rig. Credit goes to the design of the Aqua Patio, which, if it had a ceiling, would qualify as a Ritz Carlton suite.

We noticed the engine on the 240 SE-3 has been moved forward this year so it doesn't hang way off the transom. By also moving the helm up, noise for the captain has been reduced to one of the lowest decibel readings we've recorded in three years. Another process that helps is the mounting of 3-inch C-channels to 3-inch brackets on top of the tubes. The resulting 6 inches of lift off the already high-floating 25-inch tubes eliminates the effects of moving water: noise and spray. It's one

of the best-balanced twin-tubers we tested, and didn't lean heavily in tight turns.

Above deck, though, is where Aqua Patio is continually raising the bar on pontoon comfort. Upholstery is double- and triple-stitched, creating a rich appearance. The helm seat has a high back and flip-up arm rests, and it reclines. We like the Springfield Aluminum slider, which works far better than most. Plus, you don't find many driver's seats that can swivel back and still allow walking space to the stern.

Behind the driver is a movable filler seat and an optional entertainment center (worth the \$685 upcharge) with freshwater sink, courtesy light, hinged cooler and trash receptacle. It's all streamlined, leaving room for a stern companionway.

High marks for durability on the 240 too. Roto-molded seat bases won't rot, and the rails are secured to the furniture with 2.5-inch stainless-steel screws to keep the boat rattle-free. No noise, remember, no noise. — *R.S.*



The sturdy build of the 240 stretches to the ladder, which has wide steps in a fixed position.



AQUA PATIO

WE ALSO LIKE ... 1. Skins on the outside of the rails add graphic appeal and are kept solid with pressed-down flanges. 2. Battery under stern seat is easy to access. 3. Tilt steering is standard and makes helm access easy. 4. Pop-up changing room and short entry gate are out of the way. 5. Stern boarding ladder is in a fixed position, with wide steps. 6. Portable cup holders can be moved anywhere.

Go to boatinglifemag.com/aquapatio240se3 for Video Review / Photo Gallery / Boat Comparison



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