



ROLCO PHOENIX

ROLCO BOAT'S MOST POPULAR MODEL, **THE PHOENIX**, HAS UNDERGONE A NUMBER OF CHANGES TO MAKE IT EVEN BETTER VALUE FOR MONEY THIS SUMMER.

First introduced to the Australian market in 2006, the Phoenix was an instant hit with families who were after a price-point boat with all the features they have come to expect from higher-end manufacturers.

While the original hull was more than adequate, Rolco owner Lloyd Brewer (who is more than a little ski-obsessed) wasn't 100 per cent happy, so he went back to the drawing board last winter to make it smoother.

Rolco altered the hull shape and added two turn-fins to help the boat track better.

We took an updated Phoenix up to Echuca to test its renewed capabilities. Despite a pretty chilly day, we were able to give the Phoenix a good test-drive.

The verdict: super smooth!



THE COMPANY

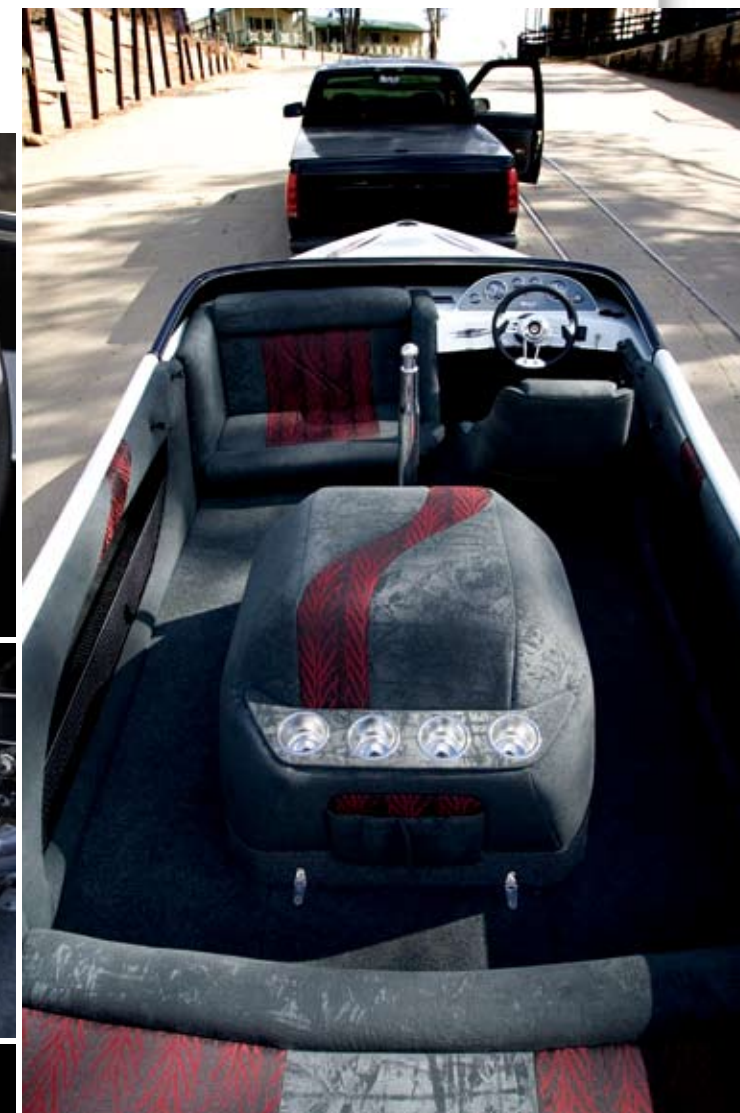
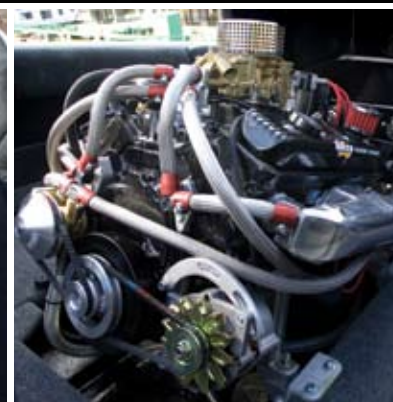
If you haven't become aware of Rolco Boats in the last 18 months, then you must have been living under a rock! They swarmed the market in 2006 and have since been working around the clock to get over a hundred orders out to their customers around Australia.

With one season comfortably under their belt, they spent last winter coming up with innovative ways to improve their fleet. So, this season (their second) they introduced new colours, interiors, windscreens and enhanced graphics on all their models, to really make their presence felt on the water.

The Phoenix's new hull shape was the first big change and is just another example of Rolco's constant search for quality. They re-designed the bottom half to make the whole hull float higher in the water, thus making a better wake and easier handling for the driver.



"THE TEST-BOAT WAS FITTED WITH A RE-MANUFACTURED 350 CHEV, WHICH PERFORMED FLAWLESSLY!"



THE SKIER'S PERSPECTIVE

Waterski Assistant Editor, Ben Wilson, who has skied behind the entire Rolco range, came along to have a slash behind the re-designed hull.

He was immediately impressed and praised Rolco for dedicating so much time to making an affordable ski boat that offered a quality slalom wake.

"It's made the wash substantially flatter," he said.

"The new base has made it softer and smaller. The wake is particularly flat further out (on a longer line) and a lot less turbulent."

MECHANICS

Rolco boats grew out of Kincaid Marine Rolco, a Melbourne-based inboard mechanic and parts centre (and Rolco Gen 3 engine supplier).

Their mechanical background was put to good use when they designed their range of boats, with mufflers, nitrile rubber skeg bushes, battery isolators, water-separating fuel filters and bilge pumps standard on all Rolco models. All Rolco carburetted engines are equipped with four-barrel Holley carburetors, calibrated specifically for ski boats and are also fitted with J-tubes, which are a US Coastguard requirement for added safety.

The test-boat was fitted with a re-manufactured 350 Chev, which performed flawlessly. In this market segment the re-manned 350 still have considerable popularity, balancing performance and reliability with a lower price.

Another upgrade for this season was a bigger fuel tank – the Phoenix now holds 140L, which should be ample for a full weekend of skiing (eliminating the need to re-fuel in small towns, where petrol prices can be much higher).

THE INSIDE

With seating for seven, the Phoenix has plenty of room for your whole family. The spacious ski locker behind the observer seat will fit most of your gear and the optional wakeboard tower with racks will allow you to put anything else out of the way.

The stainless steel cup holders (with enough room to fit your stubby holder and can) will make the party animals in your crew happy and the carbon fibre dash adds a bit more tech style to the interior.

The Phoenix has a drop floor between the driver and observer seat (to the front of the engine) to create more legroom. This simple design feature means tall observers won't have to have their knees around their neck trying to fit in.

The seats are available in a range of colours, with Ford XR trimmings so you can customise your interior to suit your exterior paint job.

SPECIFICATIONS

Starting Price: \$29,990

Price (as tested): \$33,540 (with forward/neutral/reverse transmission, centre ski pole, boat cover)

Fuel: 140L

Seating: 7

Length: 6.1m (20ft)

Width: 2.1m

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