

F&B's Small Craft Section

The Quintrex 385 Explorer was a good test for the little 6hp Suzuki. It proved to be entirely satisfactory for one-up planing performance (13.2 knots) in what is quite a large solo fishin' boat - but when PW stepped aboard, the speed dropped to 8.6 kn.



Trialling The Suzuki 6hp & 15hp Portable 4-stroke Outboards

Over the last month or so, F&B has had the opportunity of testing quite a few of the new small outboards being released. We start this month with a look at two of them from the Suzuki family.

The Suzuki 6hp

This is an engine whose reputation had preceded it arriving in Australia, as it has received glowing reports from the media overseas.

We were quite keen to try it too, because at 25kg, it's one of the lighter of the 4-stroke portables on the market and this is becoming something of an issue with many boatowners - ourselves included.

The Suzuki 6 is a compact little unit, but of old fashioned style of design - if you look at the leg arrangement, for instance, you'll observe it looks very much like the way outboards were made quite a few years ago - nothing wrong with that either, and no doubt this is part of the way Suzuki has been able to shave some weight off this outboard.

A single cylinder 138cc OHV single carburettor engine, it has a common heritage with the DF 4 (4hp) the DF5,

whilst it is officially known as the DF6. All three share the same engine block and outboard structure.

Obviously, the power to weight ratio thus favours the 6hp engine.

The Suzuki 6 features all of the modern characteristics we've come to look for in a 2003 outboard including:

- Over rev limiter
- Digital CDI
- Integral 1.5 litre fuel tank
- Decompression system
- Tilt-up handle
- Large clutch lever
- Large carrying handle
- Emergency stop switch
- Full shifting F-N-R
- Shallow water drive
- Anti corrosion system
- Fresh water flushing system
- Steering attention adjuster
- Throttle tension adjuster
- 90 degree steering both left and right

It can be fitted with an optional 12

volt 6 amp alternator, and significantly can use a remote Suzuki fuel tank if the 1.5 litre tank is too small. The standard Suzuki plug-in fuel fitting is located on the side of the engine for that purpose - they reckon it will run for about 45 minutes on a full 1.5L tank suggesting a full usage of about 2 Lp/h and that is consistent with engines of this size.

Using The Outboard

It's a very simple outboard to use with a number of good ideas built-in to ensure it is easy to operate.

The lift-up handle built into the back side of the engine cover offers easy tilting of the outboard to either of the two shallow water drive positions, or right up in one single lift. Going down is the usual; release the tilt lever and drop it all the way back down - or you can go down to the shallow water position if you prefer - or if you're coming off the beach or working in a shallow stream.

Suzuki are deservedly proud of their modified tiller handle. The 6hp tiller stands out from the steering bracket to help the operator sit further forward in the boat for better weight distribution - important in some small craft in helping you get onto the plane quicker. As well, because the outboard's designed to turn 90 degrees left and



The Suzi 6hp 4-stroke outboard is a very well packaged unit, with good, man-sized handles, grab holds and gear shift lever. This model, has a rr of \$1,989 which is pretty good value for a very useful 25kg 4-stroke package. By the way - apart from the inbuilt 1.5L fuel tank - you can just plug in a regular Suzi plastic tub.

