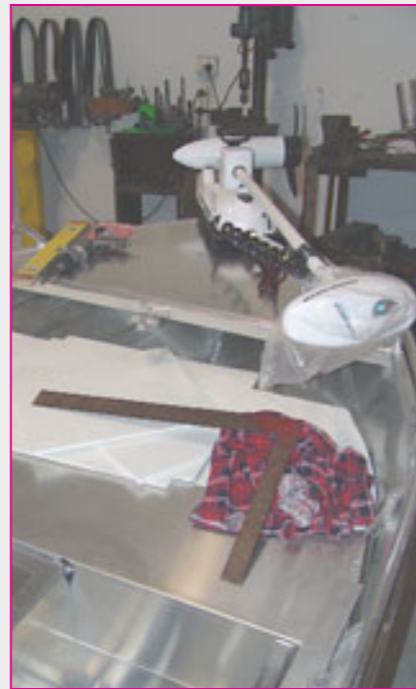


Installing The Minn Kota Riptide 55AP Electric Outboard

with Mick Stewart from ADM Marine, in Coomera, Queensland



One of the very first things to establish with the Minn Kota is which 'side' of the boat you want the head to land. Having it land in the middle is a 'orrible waste of precious space . . .



. . . so it is much better to bias the head to one side or the other; having it drop down and stow to a point where it will be least intrusive on the casting platform. Whether the main



operator left or right handed is also significant, as the front 'jock' spends a lot of time bringing it up or dropping it down during the fishing sessions. Next, it is vital to determine where and



how the prop leg is going to go down, bearing in mind the bracket supporting the leg is actually inboard of what appears to be the end of the Minn Kota. Here, Mick is making sure



the leg will clear the gunwale safely when it is lowered over and down into position. Now, before you drill the base plate holes, have a coldie and spend another 10-15 minutes just



checking what you have planned. Note he has text-marked the base plate's position first. Next, Mick pushes the base plate washers onto the screws, noting that these washers



allows you to make sure the plate is nice and level - important as the Minn Kota needs to swing up and down through it's operation arc nicely plumbed, so it enters the water, and runs perfectly 'square' for maximum



efficiency. Note too, before you check the 'square' here on the bow, make sure you have chocked the boat and set up your boat's level (off the transom, usually) otherwise this exercise on the bow is useless. When



installing the base plate, keep an eye on the bolts supplied - we replaced ours on with dinki-di Aussie stainless steel threads, laid them onto nylon washers we cut out ourselves - and set the washers in a bed of Durolac.



Not necessary for GRP, but a good idea if the MK is being installed on a tinnie. Otherwise the MK packaging is terrific, and complete with all electrical fittings, ends and connectors. We still like to have a circuit breaker in the line



between the battery and the Minn Kota motor, but that's an option of ours, not theirs. This is the new hand held control - see how it compares to the usual foot control in the previous pic. It looks good - and we'll come up



with a full report once we've had a chance to use it in the field. So there it is - a long, skinny odd looking object that has just about revolutionised our world of fishing. F&B