



PRICE CHECK!

The test boat was supplied by David Rose at Burleigh Junction Marine, 16 Newcastle Street, West Burleigh Heads, QLD 4222. Note: This actual test boat package is for sale at the discounted price of \$23,500. For details ring David on (07) 5593 5511



AMM's 'Beat-The-Budget' 5.2 m Centre Console



Emerging as a serious threat to the established plate alloy boat builders is Brisbane newcomer, Australian Master Marine. AMM's new 5.2 Centre Console is a well designed and built craft, targeting the budget end of the plate boat market. Report and pics by Jeff Webster.

Plate alloy boats have always been popular with fishermen. Their good looking, smooth sided finish, coupled with great fishing layouts and near indestructible construction, has endeared them to anglers the length and breath of the country.

Early 1980s models, like the renown Yellowfin, Sportfish, Star and Trailcraft (WA) boats, along with the Stingray and Alufarm boats from the mid 1980's, are still highly sought after on the used boat market. Most early models are still in circulation too, such is their great strength and durability.

Plate boats are especially popular in our more remote regions; in FNQ and the far north west of Australia, a plate alloy rig is the boat of choice. It has to be too - given the dearth of good launching facilities and

enormous tidal movement.

But plate alloy boats also have a place in our more populated, better serviced areas. Good examples are almost as soft as 'glass boats, they are super tough in construction, and they require virtually no maintenance.

Take this month's test boat for example. The new 5.2 Centre Console from Australian Master Marine isn't even painted. Painted models are available, but the point is that a good alloy boat like this doesn't need to be painted.

Design: The new AMM 5.2 Centre Console is the second boat we have reviewed from Brisbane boat builder, Barton Thomas. In **F&B #25** we trialed Barton's Tournament 22 half cabin, and came away very impressed. This new boat, the 5.2 CC, is every bit as good, although it targets a slightly different market.

Unlike the big 22 Tournament model, the new 5.2 CC is an entry level plate boat. It's a well designed boat, albeit light on excess features. Of course it can be optioned up with all sorts of fishing accessories, but the basic boat comes as tested - without paint, and with relatively few add ons. The intention is to keep the cost of the boat down so it is more affordable for the average fisherman.

The interior of the AMM 5.2 is simple but practical. Up forward the bow is graced with a short bowsprit, adequate sized open anchor well, and bow rails which stretch back to amidships.

A large, elevated casting deck lies ahead of the centre console. It measures roughly 2.46 m long x 1.8 m at the widest point.

There are no seats up in this area, so anglers can fight a fish 180 degrees around the bow without