



Quicksilver Activ 455

PRICE TESTED: With Mariner 60hp, trailer with sunbed extension and binneau, £19,250 **LOAD:** 4.5ton **POWER:** 60hp **CONTACT:** www.boatmart.co.uk

Simon Everett tests the Activ 455 from Quicksilver and uncovers a small family boat with plenty to shout about...



WE CAN ALL remember our first boat – the adventures it took us on, the fish we caught, the picnics we had and the sights we saw. Best of all, though, are the memories of our first solo adventures or family days etched on our brains that will go with us to our grave. Other boats come and go, but there is only ever one first boat.

The Activ 455 is a far cry from the grand dinghy, Avon Neostar, SportYak or Cadet; that so many of us cut our teeth on. Even if the Activ 455 isn't your first boat, there are some nice features to be found that make her suitable for so many things.

The Activ range from Quicksilver is aimed at the 'well... active water user. They are at the sportier end of the spectrum with a smart helm layout and optional stereo system. There is even a mobile device charging socket in the dash tray. The larger boats in the range won't be your first boat, but they are a good idea of how much boat you are getting for your outlay. The Activ 455 is a good bit smaller than her award-winning sister, but she comes from the same pedigree and has similar family values. One immediately noticeable trait across

the Activ range is the very full hull. The boat seems quite blocky in shape, because the design team chose to provide the maximum amount of internal space they could within the confines of the length. To do that, they extended the beam forwards to create an unusually spacious cockpit for such a small boat. Having provided the space to carry all of 'Rabbit's friends and relations', their safety had to be considered, so the freeboard is generous



SEAT: The seat lid is supported by a gas strut and houses the lighting mast.

As a family boat that you can take anywhere on the back of the car, the Activ 455 has a lot going for it ...

for the entire length. Recognising the limitation of the length, little is wasted at the stern either. There is the merest hint of a step either side of the engine, just enough to place a foot upon to haul yourself out of the water – or in the case of youngsters, stand on to dive off. It is smaller than on other craft, but it is there and is complete with a ladder to make that exit from the water even easier. At the bow there is a well-defined step between the pulpit rails for landing.

Within the extremities there is a variety of combinations on offer. The helm console is an integral part of the deck moulding and so determines the helm on the starboard side right above the planing point. The aft bench, with its three distinct seating places including that for the helm,

7 | SNAPSHOT Onboard the Quicksilver Activ 455



CONSOLE: The wheel is placed close to the centre line to keep the lateral weight distribution even.



POWER: Mariner 60hp is the maximum rated for the boat.



BOW: The split pulpit permits boarding over the bow using the proper boarding step over the chain locker.



ENGINE: The 60hp Mariner four stroke sits well on the transom and is the maximum for the boat.



STYLING: With the main seating astern the helm console there is a hint of retro about the boat.