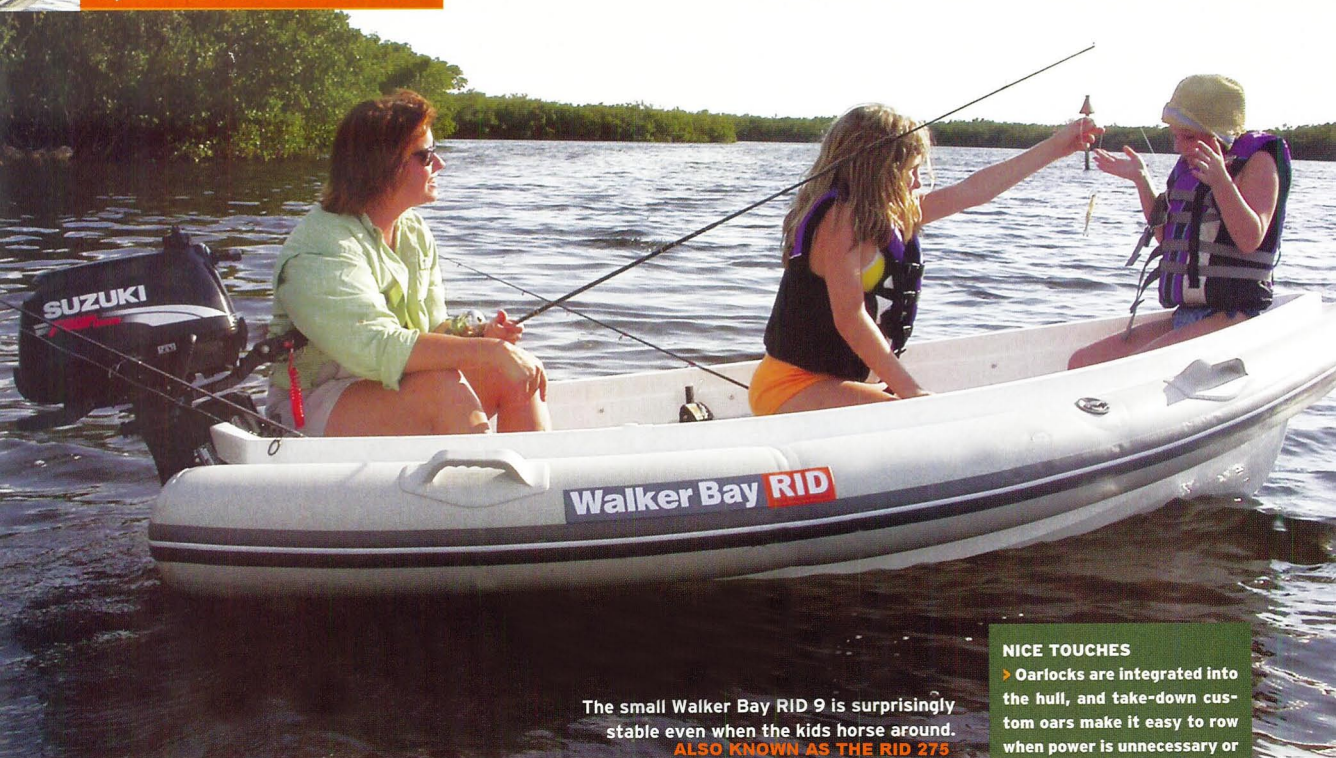


BoatingLife

The Authority On Recreational Boating

QUICK LOOKS



The small Walker Bay RID 9 is surprisingly stable even when the kids horse around. **ALSO KNOWN AS THE RID 275**

Walker Bay RID 9

ALSO KNOWN AS THE RID 275

How much fun can you have with a car-top boat and an outboard that nestles between suitcases in the trunk? What if it's the Walker Bay RID 9 and a four-horse Suzuki outboard – how much fun could that be? Tons, we soon learned.

According to Walker Bay, this dingy is made of specially formulated injection-molded resins. We appreciated the traditional look of the lap-strake mold pattern, and found that the molded-in finish easily sloughs off dirt. The lap-strake pattern also adds strength to the rigid hull and channels water underneath it, making it row or motor straighter, even in windy weather.

The 4 hp Suzuki four-stroke outboard is a great match for it. It ran quietly and smoke-free, which was especially nice with the wind from behind. We filled the built-in fuel tank with a quart and a half of gas on Saturday morning, fished and explored all weekend and had most of the

gas left over Sunday night. The Suzuki does have an external fuel-tank connector, though, and for use in light boats there's a strong advantage to putting the weight of a two-gallon tank forward to keep the bow down.

With one adult and two children on board, the boat was stable, nimble and balanced. While hauling in a tiny jack crevalle, the kids lunged to port. The four-chamber tube bore the additional weight and kept the boat comfortably positioned. While it doesn't match the stability of a full inflatable, the RID 9 had nearly twice as much interior space as a comparable inflatable. So much space, three anglers could



manage the bait bucket, rods and hooks without causing too much interference with the others.

The rig makes a perfect tender for a larger mother ship, or it's a fun boat in itself. Tons of accessories are available, including a sailing kit. The boat comes shipped in a bag and requires some assembly. It took us about two hours to screw in the seats, oarlocks and fittings using the tools provided. We could've done it in 15 minutes with an electric screwdriver and a three-eighths-inch socket and gotten to the fun even faster. — R.V.

NICE TOUCHES

► Oarlocks are integrated into the hull, and take-down custom oars make it easy to row when power is unnecessary or to stow ► A transport wheel in the keel makes it easy to move the boat on dry land ► Standard stainless-steel lift rings are ideal for hoisting aboard a mother ship ► One-way drain plug lets water out, but won't leak ► The RID 9 can be used with or without the inflatable tube

PERFORMANCE

TEST ENGINE: SUZUKI 4-HP
FOUR-STROKE
TEST PROP: ALUMINUM
TEST LOAD: FUEL (4 GAL.);
PEOPLE (250 LB.)
TOP SPEED: 7 MPH
CRUISE STATS: 5 MPH

DETAILS

LENGTH OVERALL: 9'
BEAM: 5'8"
DRY WEIGHT: 89 LB (BOAT)
49 LB (ENGINE)
PASSENGER CAPACITY: 3 PEOPLE/450 LB
FUEL CAPACITY: .5 GAL.
MAX HP: 4
MSRP (TEST BOAT): \$1,199

CONTACT

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