

Chesapeake Bay

MAGAZINE

BOATING AT ITS BEST

NEW BOAT NEWS

Walker Bay 10

You've probably walked past one of the little injection-molded polypropylene Walker Bay dinghies on the floor of a boating store (or even a discount store). If you need a rugged, inexpensive, nice-handling dink, take a good look. I was pleasantly surprised by the sailing qualities of this 10-footer. It's not a bathtub toy at all. With its daggerboard, rudder and 43-square-foot Dacron sail, it moves along nicely, and the helm feels like a real sailboat. The two-piece mast conveniently stows inside the hull, and there's even a handy little wheel in the skeg, which allows you to roll the boat like a wheelbarrow.

The Walker Bay 10 weighs 115 pounds, is just under 10 feet long and has a beam of 57 inches. It can carry three people under oars or powered by a 3-hp outboard. It sails comfortably with two adults. Certified capacity is 451 pounds. Maintenance is nil, since the finish is part of the hull material and goes all the



way through it. Better yet, the hull is molded in a huge, 70-ton press that pops out a boat every five minutes—and that translates into low cost: \$549 (\$1,099 with the sailing kit). Walker Bay Boats Inc., 607 W. Ahtanum Rd., Union Gap, WA 98903; 888-449-2553; www.walkerbay.com.

—T.D.

