



WHAT DO YOU CALL A BOAT THAT CRUISES AT 61 MPH AND tops out at 73.7 mph on an engine with a five-year warranty? If you're lucky, you call it yours. If you're us, give it an Award for Outstanding Sport Boat Performance.

That didn't surprise us because the boat is derived from Howard's 28 Bullet, which won our Sport Boat of the Year Award in 2001 and 2003.

The hull design of the 25 Bullet is just as slippery yet sure-footed as its larger sibling. We never saw a need to add trim tabs—and we like that extra measure of control, a lot—which was a testament to the stability of the hull itself. It carved slalom turn

after slalom turn at speeds approaching 60 mph without skipping, hopping or sliding. It inspired confidence in everyone who drove it and that confidence was rewarded with poised handling and a predictable ride.

What's more, the boat felt solid, with nary a squeak or rattle uttered during our tests.

A quote from our lead test driver Bob Teague perhaps says it best: "Everyone once in a while you get into a boat and it reminds you of a really fine automobile. This boat kind of reminds me of that. It's got a sophistication about it that exudes quality."

Enough said. ●

Howard 25 Bullet | Performance Test Results

Centerline	25'2"
Beam	8'2"
Weight as tested	4,100 pounds
Price as tested	\$79,990
Engine, cubic inch/horsepower	MerCruiser 496 Mag HO, 496/425
Propeller	Mercury Bravo One 15 1/4" x 26"
Acceleration zero to 15 seconds	63 mph
Top speed at rpm	73.7 mph at 4,900
Manufacturer contact	661-257-9275, www.howardboats.com

For the Performance Report on the Howard 25 Bullet, see "Tight Package," February 2004, Page 108.



From left: Simple and straight-forward, the helm came with a tilt wheel, Livorsi levers, full instrumentation set in pewter-tone bezels and all switchgear set on similar etched plates. Inside, the forward V-berth was long enough for 6-plus footers to nap in comfort.