

SHOCKWAVE

2 2 L e x i s

Shockwave Custom Boats has earned consistent owner kudos and strong critical notice for their line of stylish performance customs, which is marked by an obvious concern for detail and superior finish work. Shockwave has recently ventured into taller water with their 2500 and 29-foot step-bottoms, but more than three-fourths of their business remains grounded in the family bowrider.

Those shopping for a Shockwave bowrider are confronted with three very viable choices: the Lexis, the 21LS and the 21-foot Skier. The Lexis is a stylish, traditional lower-profile bid, and it features a Euro theme that surfaces in its soft, contoured topside lines and in its molded, integrated platform transom. Its low-slung stance makes it the most popular in this size class among jet-boat buyers, of which Shockwave has a considerable number; fully half of the Lexis buyers opt for pump propulsion.

Whether jet or stern-drive, the lower-profile Lexis enhances the performance-driving sensation, a factor we found particularly relevant, given the presence of the 375-horse, 496-inch 8.1L/Bravo that was anchored between our test boat's stringers. The \$33,900 base includes owner's choice of MerCruiser 250-horse 5.7L/Alpha or a big-block, 454 jet drive; a \$7,600 bump stood between them and the 8.1L 496/Bravo setup on our machine. That upward move was rewarded with a 68.2-mph top end and loads of acceleration through the midrange and beyond.

A set of trick Dana tabs (\$2,100) was the only other option on our very well-equipped base Lexis, which trailered out on a trick Extreme trailer for \$43,900.

WHAT YOU GET FOR YOUR MONEY

Look no further than the gelcoat work for the first sign that Shockwave is well-versed in the art of the performance custom. The color work on our test boat was clean, dramatic and vibrant, making the most of its fade-enhanced blues, reds and yellow in an apparently flawless execution. A mild checkerboard interior theme with some clean color accents dressed the interior, which is done in-house at Shockwave.

Our drivers gave Shockwave strong marks for interior quality, comfort and mounting. A spacious, comfortable bow area was well-suited to reclining or straight-up seating, and stainless railing (with Dana bezels) lined the perimeter. Embroidered front buckets mount securely to the floorboards and sides, with a lot of legroom on both sides. If there is an interior weak-

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