

# Avalon Tropic 20

## Brief Summary

The Tropic is Playbuoy’s bestseller for fishing, pleasure and fun. She delivered a smooth ride and should be easy for anyone to handle.

## Price

### Base Price

Prices, features, designs, and equipment are subject to change. Please see your local dealer or visit the builder's website for the latest information available on this boat model.

## Key Features

Fuel test numbers are taken from a test with a 115-hp Johnson 4 stroke engine.

- Smooth ride
- Good lake boat
- Fully carpeted
- Solid aluminum framing for seats

## Test Results

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
900	2.1	1.8	0.43	7	4.25	228	92	66
1500	2.7	2.3	0.63	7.2	3.73	232	80	63
2000	4.2	3.7	1.11	5.7	3.29	185	71	63
2500	5.4	4.7	1.56	5	3.01	163	65	65
3000	6.9	6	2.03	5.6	2.96	182	64	66
3500	8	7	2.64	6	2.64	194	57	67

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
4000	11.5	10	3.83	5	2.61	161	56	74
4500	13.6	11.8	5.22	4.4	2.27	142	49	74
5000	15.7	13.7	7.15	3.6	1.91	116	41	74
5500	17.4	15.1	9.03	3.3	1.68	105	36	74
5900	19.3	16.8	9.75	3.2	1.72	105	37	77

[View the test results in metric units](#)

Playbuoy.jpg type unknown

# Specifications

Length Overall	20' 0"
BEAM	8' 0"
Dry Weight	1,170 lbs.
Tested Weight	
Draft	N/A
Draft Up	
Draft Down	
Air Draft	
Deadrise/Transom	N/A

<b>Max Headroom</b>	open
<b>Bridge Clearance</b>	N/A
<b>Weight Capacity</b>	
<b>Person Capacity</b>	
<b>Fuel Capacity</b>	24 gal.
<b>Water Capacity</b>	none
<b>Length on Trailer</b>	
<b>Height on Trailer</b>	
<b>Trailer Weight</b>	
<b>Total Weight</b>	
<b>Aft Deck</b>	
<b>Salon Inside Width</b>	
<b>Salon Fore &amp; Aft</b>	
<b>Salon Height</b>	
<b>Salon Volume</b>	
<b>Galley Volume</b>	
<b>Master SR Width</b>	

Master SR fore & Aft	
Master SR Overhead	
Master SR Volume	
Eng. Room Volume	

# Acceleration Times & Conditions

Time to Plane	3.5 sec.
0 to 20	
Ratio	2.59:1
Props	11.5 x 11
Load	2 persons, 1/2 fuel, no water, min. gear
Climate	85 deg., 80% humid.; wind: calm; seas: minimal chop

## Playbuoy Tropic 20 SE

Test by Capt. Robert E. Smith

Pontoon boats can be a lot of fun. I never really thought about seeing them here in Florida, but after working with Greg Knight from Playbuoy, I have noticed them in many of the “scenic shots” on the news and other places.

The Tropic is Playbuoy’s bestseller for fishing, pleasure and fun. They emphasize giving the customer more for their money and adding value to gain market share. Playbuoy believes the American Way includes having more choices so they pack this one with standard features and offer a handy list of options while still remaining one of the most affordable pontoon boats around.

### Standard Equipment

Standard features were determined from the customer’s requests and include a fiberglass helm, platinum gauges, CD Stereo, Pirhana Fishfinder/depth sounder, tilt wheel mooring cover, diamond textured carpet

bimini top, aluminum seat frames and docking lights. Sounds like a nice list of basic needs to me. Her main entry is from the bow, but you can enter from either side or from the swim ladder entry at the back. The carpeting makes the entire area look more finished as it extends up the fronts of the benches. The aluminum framing gives the benches a sturdy feel and the Captain's chair is comfortable, swivels and has flip-up armrests. The Platinum gauges include tach, volts and fuel gauges. They even have a handy flip out cup holder to the left of the fiberglass helm station. The fish/depth instrument is front and center of the helm and makes you feel in command with all the information needed to stay off the bottom and to find the fish for dinner.

### **Basic Specs**

The Playbuoy 20 has pontoons that are 20' in length and are 22 inches in diameter. Her deck is 20' long and 8' in the beam. She weighs 1,360 lbs dry and is rated to carry up to 2005 lbs or 8 persons with a maximum rated hp of 75.

She has a real smooth ride and should be easy for anyone to handle. I did get some spray aboard while running the boat for testing and video, but remember, it was a rough day. I was concerned with the placement of the battery in an exposed position ahead of the engine pod because we did seem to get a lot of back spray while running. The battery is in a battery box, so that also should not be a problem, I would just rather see it under the bench where there is little doubt it will be safe and dry, you just lose some storage space that way.

### **Rough Water Test**

By the time Greg and I got the chance to take the Playbuoy Tropic out for testing, conditions had really begun to deteriorate. Sarasota Bay had two-foot chop and very dark ominous clouds. The 50-hp Johnson Four Stroke with a "pontoon" prop performed admirably in the rough water. She starts out at an idle of 900 rpm but slips along at 2.1 mph even in the rough conditions. She seemed happy to ride along at 4000 rpm and 11.5 mph, which seems perfect for riding across the lake or bay to your favorite beaches with the family. She can run up to 5900 rpm when you push the throttles all the way up. At this rate she is moving along nicely at 19.3 mph.

Testing planing speed on a deck boat is hard enough, but in the foul weather and when it is getting dark, it gets harder yet she seems to be riding level in the water in only 3.5 seconds. With her Johnson four stroke 50-hp outboard, she easily kept the sound meter in the lower ranges and never exceeded 77 dBa. She is certainly going to be a quiet boat for entertaining.