

McKee Craft Freedom 28

Brief Summary

The Freedom 28 is the flagship of the McKee Craft fleet. She's a center console designed for the serious angler who loves to compete on the tournament trail.

Price

Base Price \$74465.00

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

- Two 290-Quart Insulated Fishboxes
- Two 135-Quart Insulated Storage Boxes
- 50-Gallon Aerated Livewell
- Deluxe Tackle Center
- Leaning Post Back Rest
- Deluxe Center Console with Step Down Head Area
- Factory Installed T-Top with outriggers Standard
- Wrap Around Cockpit bolsters
- The Freedom 28 was also tested by McKee Craft with dual Yamaha outboards, registering a top decibel level of 97 DBa.

Test Results

| RPM | MPH | Knots | GPH | MPG | NMPG | STAT. MILE | NM | dBa |
|------|------|-------|-----|------|------|------------|-----|-----|
| 500 | 3 | 2.6 | 0.8 | 3.75 | 3.26 | 911 | 792 | 69 |
| 1000 | 6 | 5.2 | 2.6 | 2.31 | 2.01 | 561 | 488 | 75 |
| 1500 | 8.3 | 7.2 | 3.5 | 2.36 | 2.05 | 573 | 498 | 77 |
| 2000 | 10.7 | 9.3 | 7.9 | 1.35 | 1.18 | 329 | 286 | 78 |

| RPM | MPH | Knots | GPH | MPG | NMPG | STAT. MILE | NM | dBa |
|------|------|-------|------|------|------|------------|-----|-----|
| 2500 | 13.1 | 11.3 | 11.9 | 1.1 | 0.95 | 266 | 232 | 83 |
| 3000 | 20.1 | 17.4 | 13.8 | 1.45 | 1.26 | 353 | 307 | 89 |
| 3500 | 26.4 | 22.9 | 16.3 | 1.62 | 1.41 | 393 | 342 | 91 |
| 4000 | 31.6 | 27.4 | 21.6 | 1.46 | 1.27 | 355 | 309 | 93 |
| 4500 | 48.6 | 42.2 | 26.1 | 1.86 | 1.62 | 452 | 393 | 101 |
| 5000 | 52.8 | 45.9 | 29.2 | 1.81 | 1.57 | 439 | 382 | 105 |
| 5500 | 61.2 | 53.2 | 49.7 | 1.23 | 1.07 | 299 | 260 | 106 |
| 6000 | 62 | 53.9 | 49.1 | 1.26 | 1.1 | 307 | 267 | 107 |

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

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Specifications

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Length Overall | 28' 0" |
| BEAM | 10' 0" |
| Dry Weight | 5,500 lbs. |
| Tested Weight | |
| Draft | 1' 7" |
| Draft Up | |

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Draft Down | |
| Air Draft | |
| Deadrise/Transom | 24.5 deg. |
| Max Headroom | open |
| Bridge Clearance | ~ |
| Weight Capacity | |
| Person Capacity | |
| Fuel Capacity | 270 gal. |
| Water Capacity | 20 gal. |
| Length on Trailer | |
| Height on Trailer | |
| Trailer Weight | |
| Total Weight | |
| Aft Deck | |
| Salon Inside Width | |
| Salon Fore & Aft | |
| Salon Height | |

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Salon Volume | |
| Galley Volume | |
| Master SR Width | |
| Master SR fore & Aft | |
| Master SR Overhead | |
| Master SR Volume | |
| Eng. Room Volume | |

Acceleration Times & Conditions

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Time to Plane | 3.7 sec. |
| 0 to 20 | |
| Ratio | 1.85:1 |
| Props | 21 P - stainless steel - 4 blade |
| Load | 2 persons, 1/3 fuel, no water, min. gear |
| Climate | 65 deg., 70% humid., wind: 5 mph; seas: calm |

Serious boaters, or those who need to earn a living on the water, like offshore tournament anglers and charter fisherman, need a boat that is all business. And the experienced people at McKee Craft are now producing a 28-foot, wide beamed vessel for just such a customer. Incorporated into the boat is McKee's trademarked, pressure foamed hull manufacturing technology combined with a smart cockpit layout that is

totally functional.

My first impression of the newest McKee Craft was that of simplicity. Clean, straightforward lines that contain an array of equipment and features designed to get a job done in style. The bow gets the most notable design cue on the 28. A very high free board blends into large, wraparound side decks with excellent non-skid molded into the gel coat. At the beak, you'll find a casting platform for one, and a deep anchor locker for a big hook and lots of rode.

McKee paid special attention to the coaming pads that run the entire length of the high gunwale. They made them thick and comfortable, with heavy padding and quality vinyl so as to take on heavy abuse. The pads also provide a 4-inch toe kick, which results in a more natural stance while reeling. In order to keep the gunwale uncluttered with rod holders, McKee located them in removable holders that stow in the side fish boxes. Of course there is additional rod stowage in the t-tops rocket launchers, on the transom, and on the aft side decks.

The Freedom 28 has unsurpassed storage. Starting at the bow, she has a massive 500 qt. insulated fishbox that is equipped with a large hatch and assisted with gas struts. On both the starboard and port sides, you will find two more insulated boxes, one with 135 qt. capacity and the other at 290 qts. These boxes are all self-draining through a macerator or by-pass valves. To keep the bait happy, the 28 has a 52-gallon live well fed by twin 800 gph pumps. Other creature comforts include fresh and salt-water washdown with retractable coil hoses, and florescent all around lighting mounted to the t-top.

At the helm, the 28 is fitted with a heavy-duty aluminum T-Top that is secured with large backing plates and stout fasteners. Although the boats beam is almost 10 feet, the helm station and leaning post are narrow, but wide enough for two. Other guests will have to use the small jump seat located forward of the windshield.

I was impressed with McKee's electronic boxes that are located above and below the Plexiglas windshield. The upper box is wide and has a gas strut assisted door. While below, is even a larger box that is built into the console with a door that locks or slides out of the way when in use. All the instrumentation and switches are within easy reach on the flat dash panel. Completing the helm console is a portable head compartment within. This little cabin has plenty of room for us large folks to care of business matters, as well as gaining access to the helm's electrical loom, engine oil tanks and the batteries, which are located all the way forward in the compartment.

Equipped with a pair of Evinrude 250's the Freedom 28 has surprising performance all around. She was relatively quick out of the hole and had an excellent top speed. The two-stroke, fuel injected power plants have good low-end torque and enough horse power to push this 5,500 pound fish boat to a top speed of over 60 mph. The down side is the ear-curling whine of 107 dB at 6,000 rpm. Don't plan on talking to your buddy if the throttles are maxed!

Ride comfort is where this boat really shines. Thanks to her 24.5-degree deadrise hull and pressure foam-filled construction. Because this boat is structurally foamed after the hull and deck are bonded, the entire boat becomes unitized. This process results in unmatched rigidity and strength, in addition to outstanding

vibration dampening. My only complaint was the lack of power assisted steering. The Freedom 28 carved tight turns, but I found myself strong-arming the stainless steel wheel in order to get her to perform.

By Capt. Ron Svoboda

Test Captain