

Choosing an Outboard Motor For your Dinghy

30 years ago American manufacturers completely outclassed the outboard motor market. Names such as Mercury, Johnson, Evinrude and Chrysler, led the field competing with each other to produce bigger and better outboard search engines. However, while this has been going on we were holding failing the littlest of the outboards. These are the outboard power generators that sell in the greatest of numbers and are usually the first outboard many of us, buy. This being the case many of us stick to the same brand (brand loyalty) as we buy other bigger outboards over the years. The Japanese seized on this fact and gradually Honda, Yamaha, Suzuki and Tohatsu specializing in small outboards began to control as market leaders. They achieved this domination by improving efficiency and reliability. As well as adding features to these small outboards previously only entirely on larger search engines.

Having achieved success in the small outboard market, these Western manufacturers expanded the power range. [inflatable boat motor](#) They again visited dominate the outboard engine market up to at least 20 hp. The American manufacturers instead of competing with the Western, gave up and decided to buy these search engines from the Western and badge them as their own. Now the Chinese have entered the market. Basically doing what the Japanese did previously, copying the best features of the present search engines and at the same time keeping costs down.

So let us compare the outboards that are on offer for those looking for an outboard motor for their dinghy. If we take a fairly larger dinghy say, a Pioneer 12, so that each outboard has to push a reasonably heavy weight through the water. If we then take the following outboard power generators:

Mercury 2. 5hp; Mercury 3. 5hp; Mariner 2. 5hp; Tohatsu 3. 5hp; Yamaha 2. 5hp; Suzuki 2. 5hp; Honda 2. 3hp; and a Parsun 2. 6hp. All these outboards are 4 stroke search engines. This is due to an E. U. Directive that prevents 2 strokes from being sold in the E. U. These outboards will provide a fairly wide range of search engines available, for energizing dinghies.

To guage one engine up against the several tests were completed. A Bollard pull test showed that the Mercury 3. 5hp and Tohatsu 3. 5hp were the most powerful at 90lbs of press (These two search engines along with the Mariner are virtually identical). The least effective was the Honda 2. 3hp at 66lbs of press. In between were the Suzuki 2. 5hp at 83lbs of press, the Yamaha 2. 5hp at 78lbs of press and the Parsun 2. 6hp at 75 fat of press.

Next test was Fuel Consumption. At full speed : 5. 75 knots, the best outboards were the Yamaha 2. 5hp and the Suzuki 2. 5hp by at least 20%. The worst was the Parsun 2. 6hp. When the throttles were eased and the dinghy was cruising the Fuel Consumption comparison was less evident, necessarily about 10% difference. All these figures are for 4 stroke search engines. However, based on figures previously recorded for 2 strokes under similar circumstances, the older search engines were up to 50% less fuel efficient at full speed. Very thirsty! Remember 2 stroke outboards are still available second-hand.