

Engine To Boat Size

The following information is offered as a guide, there are many other considerations that have to be taken into account when deciding what size engine to put into what size boat. A lot of the time it seems to be trial and error. The best way is to speak to your local model shop or find a local club and speak to the club members and find out what size engines they are using and in what size hull. Judge for yourself, see how there boats perform and handle. Then consider all the information before rushing out and buying the components.

Materials:

Plastics and Acrylics
Wood
Fiberglass
Kevlar

Intended sailing:

Lake
River
Sea
Swimming Pool

Type of Boat:

Fun
Multi hulls
Sports
Offshore
Scale
Hydro's

There are of course other factors to consider, all which play an important part to the overall performance of a boat.

Propellers:

Plastic
Glass Filled Plastic
Aluminum
Beryllium Copper

Drive Type:

Submerged
Semi-Surface
Surface Piercing

A note on propellers, it's not necessarily true that larger propellers make boats faster, this is probably the hardest bit to get right. When building a boat give consideration to the amount of clearance to the underside of the boat. If you leave too little a gap you will not be able to increase the size of the propeller, leaving too much and you have probably got the shaft descending at too acute an angle.

There are generally two styles of propellers 3blades and two blades. The majority of the time two-blade propellers are the ones to use.

Weight will also play a part, I worked on a rule as light as possible when building the boats and then if necessary the addition of ballast later. It would be considerably difficult to remove the additional weight once the boat was completed (Not to mention the damage I would have had to have done), but the addition of some lead strips was easy once I saw how the boats handle on the water.

I cannot say the following chart is 100% accurate and the chart I have prepared below is probably biased towards sports boats. If any one has additional information or reason to believe the information provided is wholly inaccurate and can provide me with a more accurate means of calculating this information I would be happy to hear from them. (<mailto:paul@dengate.co.uk>).

Engine To Boat Size Chart

