

Pursuit 3480 Center Console

by Tom Thompson





And now for something completely different.

Pursuit's 3480 Center Console is a departure from the company's traditional use of the modified V-hull design. With a sharp 24.5-degree transom deadrise, this boat is made to slice through rough water. I got proof positive when we took it out for a sea trial. Winds were gusting 25 to 30 mph, churning the water with rollers up to 5 feet. I'll confess I wasn't too thrilled to be out on a day like this, but the boat cut through the slop as though it wasn't there.



The 3480 represents a new market for the Fort Pierce, Florida company: high-performance fishing boats. Powered by a pair of Yamaha 250 four-stroke outboards, our test boat took off like a rocket from a standing start and broke 30 mph in just over 10 seconds. Taking the boat over 40 mph, we were splashed a few times, but considering the wind and waves, it was nothing. The 3480 ran very dry at cruising speeds of 25 to 30 mph.

Although the boat is built for speed, it's not going to be the fastest one on the dock. Pursuit designers were more focused on providing a solid, stable ride. With a dry weight of about 9,000 pounds, the 3480 has a hull that's considerably heavier than other boats in its class. That's a plus for your knees and kidneys because the reentry from waves is exceptionally soft and smooth.

Another superb aspect of the 3480's hull was its handling. It tracked arrow-accurate at

cruising speed, regardless of which way the wind came at us. The boat held tight in turns, again because of the way it sliced through the chop. Most impressive of all was the fact that the 3480 could do a doughnut turn in less than two hull lengths.

Pursuit offers the 3480 factory-rigged with twin Yamaha 250-hp four-strokes, as well as 300-hp HDPI two-strokes. The factory numbers for 250s on our test boat showed a top speed of 47.7 mph. At a 30-mph cruising speed, the fuel burn is 1.47 mpg, giving the boat a nearly 500-mile range. Speaking of fuel, the 3480 has four separate tanks, any one of which can feed either engine. Transfer valves are located under a deck hatch forward of the center console. You can use tank capacity to trim the boat for load and sea conditions.

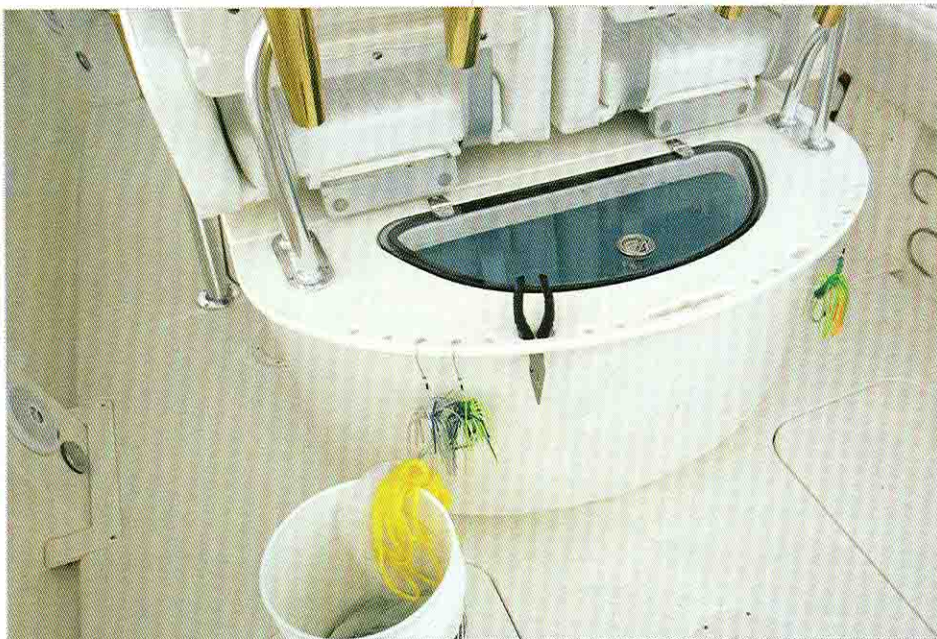
With its 34-foot, 5-inch length overall and 9-foot, 6-inch beam, the 3480 has plenty of

deck room. There's abundant storage, too. Four insulated fishboxes—two forward and two aft—are in the cockpit sole. All have standard macerator pumpouts and overboard drains. You can order the boat with optional cushioned bench seating in the bow. Pursuit offers two console cover options: a fiberglass "surfboard" hardtop or a canvas T-top. Both are available with spreader lights and rod holders as well as optional outriggers. The boat's helm has space for multiple large-screen electronics displays, and the optional hardtop includes an overhead electronics box.

The adjustable console leaning post has four rocket launchers, built-in tackle storage trays and a 52-gallon circular livewell. An optional 35-gallon second livewell can be fitted on the transom forward of the engines. There's a bait-prep station on the starboard side of the transom with additional tackle storage boxes underneath. A bi-fold transom door is located on the transom's port side.

A large storage compartment in the center console contains the boat's batteries and the main electrical panel as well as the standard Clarion AM/FM stereo CD deck, which is connected to four speakers and a remote at the helm. You can upgrade the unit to receive Sirius Satellite Radio as well as add a six-CD changer. The console compartment is also large enough to accommodate an electric head. This option includes a holding tank and macerator for overboard discharge.

The 3480 Center Console is an impressive combination of features and performance. Apparently, buyers are taking notice, as evidenced by the long waiting list for delivery. So if you want to get in on the action, you might want to place an order soon. ↓



Specs

LOA.....	34'5"
Beam	9'6"
Draft	2'6"
Bridge clearance.....	8'
Weight (w/o engines).....	9,000 lbs.
Fuel capacity.....	375 gals.
Power.....	T/Yamaha 250s
Base price	\$161,400

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