

Bass Boat Buying Checklist

Notes on Boat from first communication:

ITEM	NOTES
Seller Contact Info/Location	
Hull Year/Make/Model	
Colors of boat/carpet/seats	
Dual or Single Console	
Carpet/Seat Condition?	
Hotfoot?/ Trim Locations	
Hydraulic Steering?	
Cover included?	
Enging Year/Make/Model/HP	
Engine Hours	
Type of oil used	
Name of shop that services boat	
Jackplate Make/Depth	
Warranty	
Prop Make/Pitch	
Trailer Year/Make	
Trailer # axles	
Trailer brake type	
Trailer swing away tongue	
Trolling Motor Make/Power/Year	
Depth Finder Makes/Years	
Transducer Locations	
Battery Makes	
Battery Ages	

First Look and notes prior to lake test:

✓	ITEM	NOTES
	Hydraulic Steering tight?	
	Stress cracks	
	U bolt on Keel loose?	
	Check horn	
	Check bilge for fuel odors	
	Batteries safely mounted?	
	Is engine held by transom saver?	
	Inspect trailer tire wear pattern	
	Current registration: boat & trailer	
	Chips/repairs evident	
	Nav/anchor lights work	
	Look in bilge for water/oil/dirt/fuel	

	Are battery terminals clean?	
	Push on engine...mounted firmly?	
	Check trailer tires for grease	
	Hull condition (scrapes, etc)	
	Hand rails/cleats tight?	
	Compartment lids tight	
	Remove/reinstall bilge plug	
	Any loose/disconnected wires?	
	Any transom cracks?	
	Check all trailer lights	
	Verify features from what seller stated	

Lake Test: When boat is on the water:

✓	ITEM	NOTES
	Engine started on first turn?	
	Steering tight, loose, too tight?	
	Trolling motor turns smoothly	
	Test ease of shifting: fwd & rev	
	Note RPM at WOT	
	Acceleration (smooth at all rpm's)	
	Excessive smoke?	
	Cold idle quality	
	Check all gauges	
	Test depth finders/electronics	
	How easy does it get on plane?	
	Porpoising (midrange & WOT)?	
	Note steering torque: excessive?	
	Abnormal noise/vibration?	
	Hot idle quality	
	Check kill switch	
	Check all pumps (fill livewell)	
	Note water pressure at diff rpm's	
	Chine walk?	

Lake Test: When boat is back on trailer:

✓	ITEM	NOTES
	does boat center on trailer okay?	
	check bilge for fuel leaks/fumes	
	check splashwell for fuel/oil leaks	
	does winch work properly?	
	Livewells function?	
	check full livewell for leaking	
	Livewell pumpout function?	