

It's not often you can use the term 'smart' to describe a narrow boat but it's the first thing that comes to mind when you see *Toddy II*. Phil Pickin explains



Toddy II

on
test

Above, *Toddy II* striking at her Pillings Lock mooring. **Right,** The unusual covered stern. **Below,** Seating and controls in the surprisingly spacious stern deck area.

it's the colour scheme that first catches your eye and gives the impression of being clean, smart and attractive. At least that's what we thought when we saw *Toddy II* at Pillings Lock. You may well have seen the boat at Crick as GWV (the builders) exhibited the boat at the 2008 show shortly after it was completed. It's not only the colours used, that help to make the boat easy on the eye, it's the fact that the boat looks tidy and well laid out which also helps.



The 57ft boat is the first one to be actually owned by a couple who've hired a lot of boats over the years, and who decided to take the plunge and own their own. The resulting boat has been built very much to their specifications and is based on a Soar Valley Steel Boat hull. *Toddy II* has a semi-trad stern with a rear pram cover as well as a rather distinctive extended roof to form a cratch which has also had a cover fitted. When you board the boat from the stern you notice



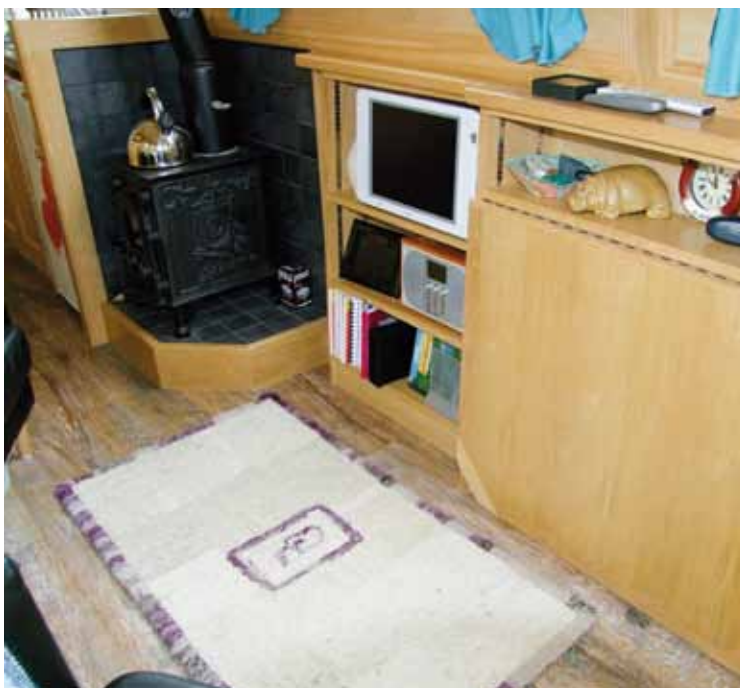
Toddy III

the floor has been fitted with Dek-King which, when you look at it in this situation, makes you ask the question, 'why don't more people use it?' It looks great and improves the grip on a steel deck no-end. In addition, it's also been used to cover the tops of the stern lockers etc, which is a nice touch and finishes off the area very well.

Below the deck plates is an

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...nators, a PRM150 gearbox and Python drive. Barden series 5000 batteries make up the battery bank and this is linked to a power system which utilises a Victron





Clockwise from top left, stylish galley with granite worktops; the cast iron solid fuel stove; nicely rounded washbasin and stand; full size domestic cooker; shelving, TV unit and folding dining table in the saloon; main saloon with free standing furniture; light and bull's eye trim detail on cabin headlining.

inverter which in turn delivers 240v throughout the boat. Victron also made the isolation transformer.

When you enter *Toddy II* you do so into the main saloon area which is light, due to the use of American white oak veneer and a pale coloured tongue and groove ceiling. This is nicely contrasted by the turquoise curtains and furnishings, all of which work well and make a nice change from more usual narrow boat colour schemes. Seating is provided using a couple of single chairs which have a handy storage facility beneath each of them. A unit, fitted to the starboard side, provides storage for books and nick-nacks, and the location for a flat screen TV. It's also the home for a foldout table. The other notable thing in this area is the multifuel stove.



Made by Evergreen, this stove, although not too ornate, does have some attractive patterning which makes a nice change.

The galley area on *Toddy II* is substantial with good-sized worktops to both sides of the boat. All the usual items are fitted here including a fridge, oven and hob together with a stainless steel sink and drainer. All of the units are built on solid oak frames, which is also used on the interior window trims throughout the boat. There is plenty of storage in the galley and all of the port side of the boat is taken up with cupboards below which are additional lights and cup hooks. Below the worktop are a number of large storage cupboards between which is a handy wine rack, making the most of the space on offer.

The most unusual point about the boat is a mid-section workroom. This 7ft room is ideal for a number of uses and is equipped with a fold-down desk and a free-standing sewing machine unit. The area can have a number of other uses and you could easily see this being used for temporary storage or as somewhere you can

stand a clothes airer. Having said that, there is a wet locker in the saloon but this room could double for a number of uses as and when needs arise. Nothing beats a spare room – even on a boat!

From this room you come into a walkthrough washroom fitted with a Techma toilet and a large shower cubicle. A stylish wash-basin and heated towel rail complete a well appointed area.

At the bow is a large double bedroom with a king-sized bed fitted towards the forward bulkhead. Below this is a significant amount of storage space and yet more areas to store clothing have been included in the wall between the bedroom and wash-room. The layout is a little unusual but pleasant none the less and to the port side of the boat are some steps leading to a steel, side access doorway.

As has been mentioned, there are one or two unconventional features to the boat but this is not a criticism of it or its layout. It's nice to see something different and to see people trying out new ways to utilise the space on offer. The clean and smart colour scheme of the boat is also good



Above, A comfortable, cost bedroom complete with quilt; Far left, Side hatchway; Left, Free standing leather saloon chair; Below, ladder and stern hatchway.

on test

PRINCIPAL SPECS *Toddy II*

- Boat Spec**
- Steel:** 10/6/5mm
- Length:** 57ft
- Windows:** Worcester Marine
- Decking:** Dek-King.
- Water tank:** 150 gallons (s/s)
- Holding tank:** 100 gallons.
- Fuel:** 40 gallons.
- Lining material:** American White Oak veneer.
- Heating:** Alde 2928 comfort balanced flue & Evergreen multifuel stove.
- Power:** 240v, shore power plug-in, Victron inverter and isolation transformer. LED lighting.
- Galley:** Caprice MK3 oven-hob, Shoreline RR47 fridge and General Ecology Ultrafine water purifier. Water system is pressurised using a Johnson pump rated at 13ltr/p/min @ 40psi.
- Washroom:** Techma flush toilet.
- Flooring:** Karndean.
- Engine:** Isuzu 42.

Builder information

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to see, although anyone who is keen on traditional colours etc are unlikely to agree. But, as my mum would say, "it wouldn't do for us all to like the same things". I, however, like *Toddy II* very much indeed.



Toddy II