

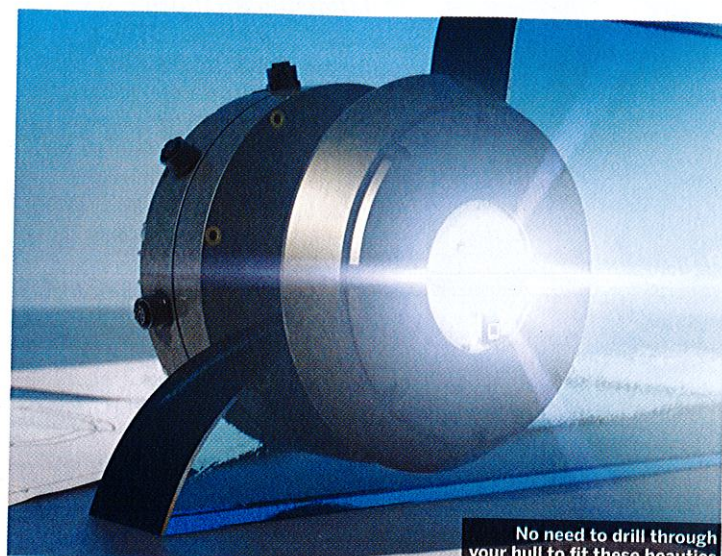
Hole-free underwater lights

Boost your cool credentials

There are various reasons for fitting underwater lights – attracting marine wildlife, safety when swimming after dark, assisting in night-time man-overboard situations. But let's cut to the chase: we want them because they look so very cool. That's it – that's the real, and indeed only, reason. And, provided you can convince yourself that they aren't the nautical equivalent of neons under boy-racer cars of a decade ago, they do indeed look extremely cool.

But are they cool enough to warrant drilling a load of holes through your boat beneath the waterline? Of course, done properly, through-hull underwater lights are perfectly safe – little different to having underwater skin fittings for seacocks, for example. But still... why can't someone invent ones that stick on the outside and get their power beamed through the GRP rather than having to create holes? Crazy as that might sound, that is precisely what you see right here.

Using electromagnetic induction (a system of wireless transmission of electrical energy between two coils tuned to resonate at the same frequency), a company going by the catchy title of Submersible Inductive Lighting System has developed a



No need to drill through your hull to fit these beauties

system comprising two units. A primary unit housing all the inverter electronics and communication control goes on the inside of the transom, and a secondary unit housing the luminaries and drive circuitry goes on the outside. Both are attached using marine-grade adhesive so there aren't even any screw holes, let alone the usual larger bore holes required. The user simply taps into the surrounding SILS Wi-Fi zone with an app-enabled phone or tablet to activate and control the RGB LED

lights, creating whatever colour is required (green, for instance, is apparently best for attracting marine wildlife. You won't care though, just pick whatever looks coolest).

The system is in the final stages of testing and SILS reckon to have the product on the market for late summer this year. The price is yet to be fixed, but we're told to expect a figure "competitive with the higher-end through-hull lights currently on the market".

Contact www.bgsils.com

AND YOU THOUGHT YOUR BOAT WAS SPECIAL

I have a small Caribbean island and am fed up with getting my feet wet every time we land – any suggestions?

Only a small one? Poor you. Still, we all have to start somewhere. Have you considered one of these fine amphibious craft from Iguana?

That looks pretty cool – how does it work?

In normal seagoing trim it's a pretty conventional planing boat – albeit a rather funky-looking one. Powered by a 400hp Mercury Verado outboard, it'll pull over 40 knots.

Yes yes, but what about the amphibious bit?

Ah, well that's where it gets clever. A 75hp petrol engine powers

three hydraulic pumps. One swings the two caterpillar tracks through 90 degrees until they're deployed vertically beneath the boat, the other two drive it. Those tracks spread the load – it exerts the same downward pressure as an 80kg human so if you can walk over it, you can drive over it.

It looks pretty complicated – won't all that engineering rust and fall off eventually?

Built out of carbon fibre, marine-grade aluminium and stainless steel, we're assured of longevity. The tracks themselves are reinforced with Kevlar and guaranteed for two years.

So it'll amble over beach okay – will it get a bit hilly?

How hilly are we? a 30-degree direct degree lateral slope planning to go m should be fine.

Is it as fast on land?

Sadly not – 40 knots would be exciting. It has a two-speed 'fast mode' that increases speed across the ground up to 7kmh.

It's a 'must-have' much is it?

Iguana won't tell you costs, discreetly call as 'sensible'. If you island, that might you might beg to c

Contact www.iguana.com

Retractable caterpillar tracks save all that nonsense with trailers



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