

**MOTOR BOATS TESTED**



## From fade to shine

### Collinite's No.920 fibreglass cleaner and No.855 leather and vinyl wax

The beauty of owning a twenty-year-old boat (if there is one) is that I always have a ready place to test new cleaning products. The faded gelcoat of my Bayliner is looking a bit like a patchwork quilt with each new cleaner getting its own six square inches to either impress or fall flat on its face. Over the last few years I have tested a few products, specifically designed to bring the shine back to old and faded gelcoats, and until now 3M's 'fibreglass cleaner and wax' has been the one to beat.

For the last few months I have had a range of products from Collinite sitting on my desk, so obviously I chose the wettest and windiest day in January to try them out. First up was Collinite's No 920 Fibreglass Boat Cleaner. It says on the bottle that it removes dirt, film, oxidation, oil, grease, rust and exhaust stains and restores the gelcoat to its original colour. And from the results, it does a pretty good job too.

In fact, I was impressed enough to dig out the 3M, and polish up another patch next to it as a comparison. The result was that there was little difference to be seen between the two, so No 920 gets a big thumbs up for its performance. Unlike the 3M product, Collinite's 920 doesn't have a built in wax, but Collinite also produces a range of waxes that are said to be used in the tough extremes of the aeronautical industry, so they should be more than adequate in doing the task.

While I had the polishing cloth out, I gave the No 855 Leather and Vinyl Wax a bash. No 855 is a cleaner, polisher and preserver in one, and although it didn't bring the grubby white vinyl back to 'as new', it did remove the worst of the grime with very little effort. Its preserving qualities alone are good enough reason to use the stuff, considering the salt and UV-laden environment to which we constantly expose our cockpit upholstery.

## Waterproof model boats

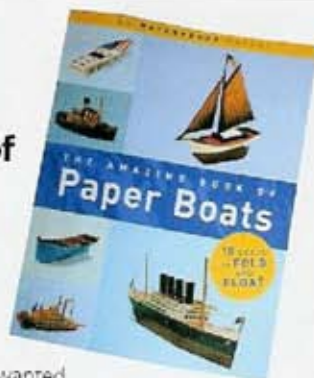
### 'The Amazing book of Paper Boats'

When 'The Amazing Book of Paper Boats' landed on my desk, I thought it looked like a fun way to while away a winter evening. The book contains 18 boats, from a canoe to an aircraft carrier, printed on waterproof paper. The idea sounds simple enough. Cut them out, fold them, fix the bits together and hey presto, your very own lifeboat that you can take in the bath.

Now I have never been into origami, and thinking back to my younger days, every model I ever tried to make ended up looking a poor reflection of the picture on the box. But not to be fazed, I grabbed my craft knife and got stuck in.

Trying not to be too clever, I chose to spend my two hours (according to the book), making a middle difficulty rating (again according to the book) 1950s Chris-Craft Capri.

The cutting out was fine; maturity has provided a steady hand and the patience that I lacked in my youth. Things were looking good. Then came the assembly. Suddenly I was 10 again. The instructions didn't make sense, the various bits didn't do what I



wanted them to, and my Chris-Craft started to take on the appearance of something entirely different. It is a tribute to my self-control that this particular model

ever reached anything near completion. All that kept me on the right side of sanity was a roll of sticky tape – something rarely seen on a classic, mahogany-built gentleman's day-boat.

If you're the type that likes to make intricate scale models of things out of matchsticks, this book will

be right up your street. If however the last thing you made was a poor excuse for an Airfix Spitfire, steer well clear.

Don't say I didn't warn you.

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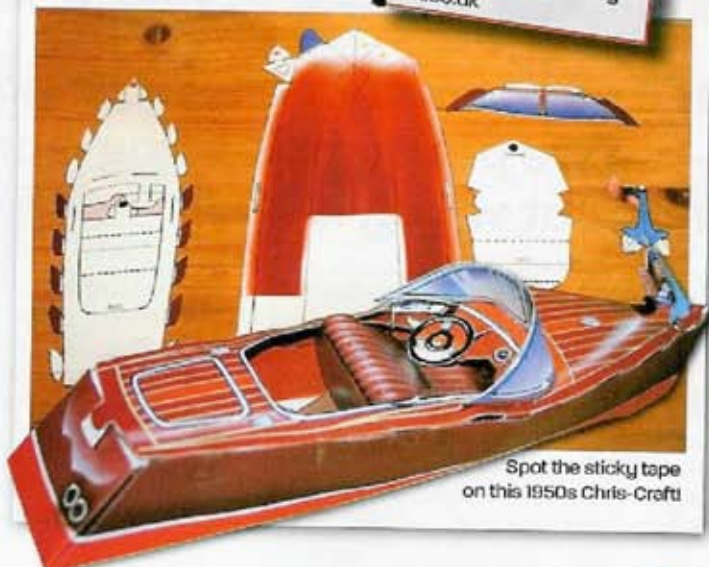


The cutting out was the easy bit!

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Spot the sticky tape on this 1950s Chris-Craft