

Test Report: Fjord 40 Open

Text by Lori Schüpbach, in: marina.ch – das nautische Magazin der Schweiz, October issue 2008, pictures by Fjord, translation by Krüger Werft AG

The other concept

She was the first new model after the acquisition of Fjord by Hanse Yachts. She immediately won the coveted title of "European Powerboat of the Year". She polarizes. The Fjord 40 is not your commonplace motor yacht.



There are many average motor yachts in the marketplace, probably more average ones than extraordinary ones. The Fjord 40 Open definitely belongs to a different class - in her looks, her concept, but also in her handling characteristics.

The appearance of the Fjord 40 is bold. The straight stern post, the high, vertical freeboard, the free-standing cockpit roof, and the open stern - a look that one needs to get used to. But Michael Schmidt, the CEO of Hanse, is well-known for his boldness.

"A motor yacht to get quickly from A to B - that was not enough motivation for me." Together with the British designer Patrick Banfield, who became famous when he created the "Wally Tender" for Luca Bassani in 2001, Schmidt created a specification profile - maximum speed of approx. 75 km/h, great handling characteristics at approx. 50 km/h, comfortable on-board living and the option to actually sleep on board. The latter was definitely not a main criterion, the Fjord 40 is designed as a day cruiser. With a length to beam ratio of 3:1, a moderate V in the bow that quickly becomes flatter towards the rear, and a long waterline, the Fjord quickly achieves smooth sailing thanks to her two

IPS engines by Volvo-Penta, without being off-balanced on smaller waves. Tests conducted by the shipyard in Greifswald, Germany, have proven that the handling characteristics even under rougher conditions are not diminished. Cruising speed is about 55 km/h, but the Fjord will easily glide over the water at about 30 km/h. The only criticism: when accelerating, the bow will raise despite a trim tab, so high in fact, that the forward view is limited for a short time.

Safety and outlook

In every other respect, the pilot has the boat under control at all times without problems. The IPS engines limit the steering angle in fast curves and thus prevent exaggerated manoeuvres. If a tight curve radius is to be travelled, the torque of the engine at the curve inner side must be reduced. Thus, the Fjord 50 Open runs smoothly and safely even dealing with abrupt steering movements. The arrangement of the helm station is unconventional: the pilot sits or stands practically in the midship axis, just slightly offset to the starboard. From this position, he has a great view over the entire



dimension of the boat, not only when offshore but also in the harbour.

To the right side of the pilot, the actual passenger seat is placed, on his left is the companion way and then another, identical passenger seat. All three moulded seats are equipped with sporty upholstery and a foldable seat. The tinted windshield protects against the airstream, the free-standing cockpit roof offers shelter from sun or rain. The latter is, however, somewhat limited, and during bad weather, staying below decks is surely cosier. Because, we are talking about the Fjord 40 Open, not about the 40 Cruiser...

Item by item

Interior

The Fjord 40 Open is designed mainly as a day cruiser and life on board is enjoyed mostly in fresh air. However, it is amazing what features the boat offers below decks: a large double berth in the bow, a settee that may be optionally ordered as an under-floor berth, a relatively small but elegantly furnished bathroom featuring head, sink and shower stall, and, last but not least, lots of storage space. Surprisingly and also very pleasingly, lots of light can enter the cabin, thanks to the windows integrated into the Fjord 40's bow. Mark Tucker of Design Unlimited was able to create a clean and straight-lined interior design that impresses in respect to its visual appearance and functionality. A rainy day on the Fjord 40 Open is not a lost day.



Special features

The attention to detail can be noticed in many tiny details of the Fjord 40 Open as can be the contribution of expertise of Hanse Yachts in the design and building of sailboats. Examples? The relatively high bulwark - an important safety feature - can be easily climbed over with two foldable steps when coming alongside (top). Beneath the two steps in the bow, the anchor gear is hidden - just like in a large sailboat (centre). The retractable cleats (bottom) are not only visually matching, but also match in their functionality.



Handling characteristics

The handling characteristics of the Fjord 40 Open is ruled by two factors chiefly: the shape of the underwater hull and the drive configuration. The boat can be equipped with engines of various sizes, but only IPS Diesel engines by Volvo-Penta. They have been selected for their simple

manoeuvrability in the harbour and excellent power transmission on open water. With a relatively small floor line slope angle in the bearing area of the hull, the Fjord 40 quickly reaches gliding position and runs ahead quietly.

Engines

From 2 x 300 PS (IPS 400) to 2 x 435 PS (IPS 600), the Fjord 40 Open engine system can be configured as required. The two IPS 500 engines (with 370 PS each) installed in the test boat proved to be an excellent choice. They displayed a satisfying acceleration and sufficient power reserves when gliding. Top marks for the engine room as well. The cover can be lifted with the push of a button and available space for a service technician is as exemplary as is the running of lines and hoses.



Speed measurements: Gliding threshold 1750 RPM / Rated speed 3500 RPM.

Idle: 600 RPM, Top speed: 65 km/h at 3500 RPM, measured with GPS, 2 persons on board, smooth water, no wind

Exterior

The most attractive feature of the Fjord 40 is the large cockpit which is open to the stern. Two benches that can be used both forward looking, opposite each other, or both facing the stern, offer seating for six people. With the lowering of the cockpit table, a comfortable sun bed becomes available. The galley section located towards the stern from the pilot and passenger seat is very smart. Cooker, sink, refrigerator - an adept ship's cook can easily put a full menu on the table. During the ride, the entire infrastructure disappears below the covers. Last, but not least, the bow area also provides a sun bed with comfortable pillows (optional).

Live The Experience.



SWITZERLAND SINCE 1934

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|---|-------------------------|
| Shipyard | Hanse Yachts AG (GER) |
| Design | Allseas Design (FRA) |
| Interior design | Design Unlimited (GBR) |
| L.O.A. | 11.99m |
| Width | 3.99m |
| Weight | 8200kg |
| Water tank | 300l |
| Fuel tank | 1000l |
| Capacity | 8 persons |
| CE Category | B |
| Engines | 2 x Volvo-Penta IPS 400 |
| Test boat | 2 x Volvo-Penta IPS 500 |
| Power | 2 x 221kW (300PS) |
| Test boat | 2 x 272kW (370PS) |
| Base price | EUR 299,200.00 |
| Test boat | EUR 310,200.00 |
| Excl. VAT from Shipyard Greifswald plus optional accessories | |
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