

## Test Report: Frauscher 717 GT

Text by Lori Schüpbach, in: marina.ch – das nautische Magazin der Schweiz, October issue 2009, pictures by Frauscher, translation by Krüger Werft AG

### Gentlemen, start your engines...

There are motor boats that are breathtakingly beautiful. There are motor boats that are extremely fast. And then there are, in rare cases, motor boats that are beautiful and fast. The "Frauscher 717 GT" – in the style of the legendary Gentlemen's Racers at the beginning of the last century – is one of them.



"Originally, we had not intended to introduce a new boat type during this autumn," says Michael Frauscher of the genesis of the youngest model of the Austrian premier shipyard. "But then this idea appeared and it just did not want to go away." At the test run some time later, the happy grin on the face of Stefan Rauscher shows how pleased he still is with the result of this idea, the "717 G T".

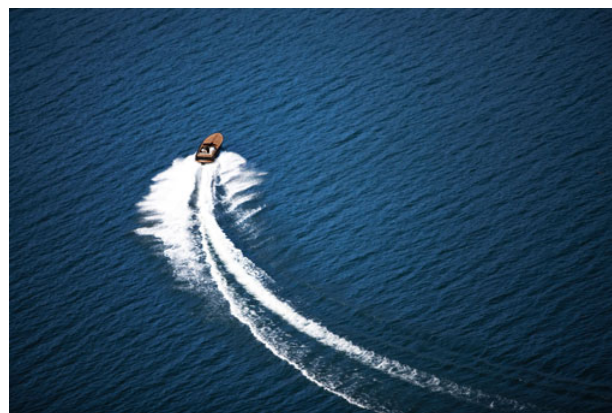
Not surprisingly: this newly-developed elegant Frauscher product belongs to the type of boat where you "get on, push the pedal and enjoy". Just like the Gentlemen's racer of the '20s of

the last century, she too dispenses with any unnecessary ballast. Minimalistic but fully equipped. Pilot and passengers are nicely protected from the airstream thanks to the stylishly-designed windshield, both chairs provide good seating and can be adjusted individually. Another three people can sit comfortably on the stern bench. The bathing platform is relatively small but still practical, a bathing ladder is nicely mounted at the starboard side.

Live The Experience.

The concept of a centre engine with shaft drive ensures excellent gliding properties and enables the classic division: a long drawn bow (with surprisingly large stowing space), and far to aft positioned seating position for pilot and passenger, and a relatively short stern section characterize the visual appearance. The two-stepped hull contributes to the handling fun. In a first phase, the 717 GT achieves gliding "normally", and as soon as approx. 50 km/h are reached, there is another thrust and the boat "floats" on an air cushion that forms below the rear third of the hull.

The top speed reached in this manner is impressive: nearly 90 km/h. Worthy of mention, but typical for this type of boat, is the handling behaviour in curves. When the pilot reduces the speed immediately before the planned curve, and only then turns the steering wheel, nothing will happen right away.



The 717 GT will still run straight. The relative small rudder blade will come into effect only when the boat is no longer gliding. The situation is different if you reduce the speed a little before the curve, turn the steering wheel and simultaneously accelerate. The rudder blade then will immediately react as it is optimally streamed by the propeller and the boat will run the curve as if on tracks. Waves, too, are no obstacle for the 717 GT. On the contrary: to skip over the wakes of other ships at 80 km /h is just pure fun. Suddenly, staid gentlemen become little boys with a new toy.

Shipyard	Frauscher Bootswerft GmbH & Co KG (AUT)
Design	Frauscher/arge ateliers
L.O.A.	7.17m
Width	2.25m
Weight	From 1500kg
Engines	Volvo Penta 5.7 GXi
Power	239kW (320PS)
Base price	from EUR 75,000.00

Excl. VAT from Shipyard Gmunden AUT)  
Krüger Werft AG, CH-8274 Gottlieben  
Tel.: 0041 (0)71 669 12 69 [www.krueger-werft.ch](http://www.krueger-werft.ch)

## Item by item

### Tradition

A good hull, a powerful engine and sufficient space - the '20s of the last century were the high time of the gentlemen racers. Pure fun, no regulations, only style and honour counted. With the objective off building boats suitable for a family outing but also for sport, the hull length was specified and the engine power limited. With this in mind, the 717 GT was designed.



## Styling

First, there was an idea and some old pictures from the early days of the Frauscher shipyard. Then, Wolfgang Gebetsroither, from Arge Ateliers, created a pencil sketch of how such a boat would look today. The PC eventually provided design plans which resulted in a prototype that "exceeded all expectations," according to Stefan Frauscher. Appearance and running characteristics are everything one could ask for.

## Engines

The prototype of the Frauscher 717 GT is equipped with a 5.7l engine manufactured by Volvo. "We believe that such a boat must have a certain power," says Stefan Frauscher. "However, other variants may be requested, petrol, Diesel or even hybrid." Access to the engine is unusual: the entire dashboard together with the windshield folds backwards.

Idle: 800 RPM, Top speed: 87.2 km/h at 4700 RPM

Measured with GPS, 2 persons on board, smooth water, no wind