



Muted tones contrast with the more traditional boats.

## A very modern 'hideout' from Knights

Reviewer: Phil Pickin

THE latest boat from Knights Narrowboats won't be everyone's cup of tea. If you like a traditional look, then the *hideout* isn't for you, but if you like a clean-cut modern look then the builder's 19th boat will appeal to you.

From its two-tone grey and off-white exterior to the similarly coloured interior the *hideout* is muted in its appearance. Thankfully the owners, for whom the *hideout* is their first boat, have opted for off-white inside which has avoided a clinical look. What the colour scheme does is highlight the engineered oak flooring and the impressive solid walnut worktops and tabletops.

These worktops are striking when you walk into the boat from the stern. The L-shaped galley provides plenty of room with the appliances having been well placed to maximise the room on offer. A 12v fridge, domestic-sized oven/grill and a Thetford three-burner hob, together with what seems to be a good amount of storage, make this both a practical and an attractive space. Cashmere-coloured panelled doors to the cupboards contrast with the walnut worktops and splashbacks.

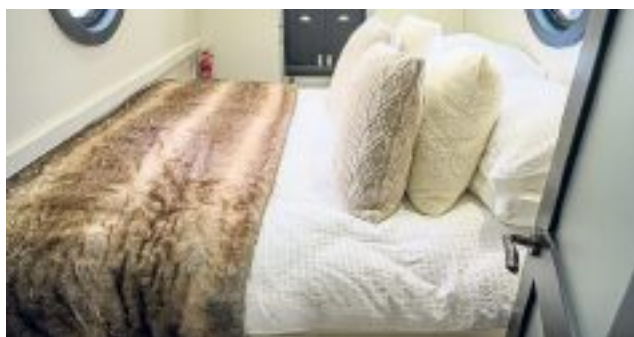
Many of the design features of this boat are subtle, like the use of the space beneath the dinette floor as a wine store. The rectangular washbasin in the

bathroom fits neatly behind the door from the main living area and the use of shadow joints on the edging and trim throughout the interior are subtle but work well.

The dinette provides room for four people to sit comfortably around a tabletop that matches the galley worktops. As mentioned before, a wine store for five bottles has been located below the floor in this area. This is in addition to a pull-out freezer beneath one of the seats, all of which makes full use of this otherwise spare space. The dinette also converts into an additional double berth when needed. With one of the large, black powder-coated windows at the end of the table and a side hatch to the other, this should provide the area with plenty of sunlight (unlike on the day of my visit!).

The main living area beyond the dining area is furnished with a large blue three-person sofa facing a TV a short distance from a particularly eye-catching white enamelled stove. With its black flue, hearth and tiled surround it's very much in keeping with the colour scheme of the interior and shows how much thought has been put into this aspect.

It would have been easy to buy a more conventional black stove, which would have matched the colours, but opting for a white stove makes this more of a focal point than the TV - no bad thing.



The large cross-bed makes full use of space.



Glad to see the grain all running the same way!



The comfortable and contemporary saloon.

The adjacent washroom has a walkthrough layout with a stylish shower enclosure (can't really call it a cubicle) tiled in black and grey small hexagon mosaics and with a square, black shower head. A sliding door provides access to this space which sits opposite the Vetus pump-out toilet and the rectangular washbasin mentioned earlier.

Forward of the washroom is the main bedroom which is fitted with a 5ft cross bed with a bedside cabinet on either side. At the head of the bed are fitted two small flexible LED reading lights and beneath it is a large plastic waste tank. The room is heated by one of a number of very modern-looking black tubular radiators. Full-height wardrobes are fitted to both port and starboard and, as usual, access is via a double door to the well-deck in which a folding table has been fitted covered by a cratch cover.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this item, this type of styling will not appeal to everyone, but as someone who prefers a more minimalist look, I liked it. I was also impressed with the level of detail that has been used during both the design and the build, which apparently took four months to complete.

### SPEC SHEET

**Length:** 58ft 6in  
**Style:** Semi-trad  
**Hull:** 10/6/5/4  
**Berths:** 4  
**Engine:** Beta Marine 43hp  
**Transmission:** PRM150 gearbox  
**Power:** 2500X combination inverter. 1 x 110amp starter + 4 x 110 amp leisure batteries.  
**Heating:** Eberspacher heating plus tubular style radiators. 55ltr twin coil calorifier, 1kW immersion heater. Bassington 5kW enamelled stove.

**Price:** From £125,000 for a boat of similar specification.



The light and minimalist interior.



Shower set to one side of the washroom.



Good use of space for a wine store.



The well laid out galley.



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