

LEVANT 880

BFM Ed, Dave Barham reveals another fantastic new boat that is built and designed in Portugal, which is set to turn the UK boat market on its head!

During a recent trip to Portugal to visit Facebook friend, Mark Shreeve, in order to test his new pride and joy, a custom-built 700 Sport Fishing from Levant, I also stumbled upon this superb hull – the Levant 880, a 28ft beauty that has a wealth of uses here in the UK.

Hull Construction

The 880 comes in various guises, but they're all based around the same hull design. The 880 features a 'V' hull, designed for cutting through waves and giving a smooth ride for less power. It's laminated with woven glass and isophthalic resin, with a thickness of 25mm in the keel, 15mm deep and 9mm on the side.

The internal structure comes from a one-piece mould, which is attached to the helmet with flexible structural adhesive. This gives unrivalled robustness and strength, yet allows a small degree of flex that absorbs the energy and vibrations transmitted to the hull by waves.

The LESS System

Levant's 'LESS' system (Levant Energy Saving System) centres around the bracket mounted at the stern of the vessel, and it's this bracket where the outboard engines are mounted – giving increased fuel economy and better performance.

The benefits are two-fold. Firstly, the props run cleaner

with less cavitation. Secondly, the engines can be raised to reduce hydrodynamic drag because less of the engine shaft is in the water.

There is, of course, a much greater benefit to this system too – the engines are mounted outside the hull, which means the available space on board is significantly improved.

The only downside as far as we're concerned, is that this type of set up can get in way when fishing at anchor.

880 Sport Fishing

Levant 880 Sport Fishing it is a boat designed for the leisure

market – in particular the charter and private boat sector. Its enormous hull stability makes this boat an ideal platform for fishing and diving, as well as a passenger ferry.

Speed, robustness and economy are characteristics that equally define this model and a huge number of customisable equipment choices are available to the user, allowing the more suitable configuration for the proposed activity.

It can be fitted with the Levant LESS system, or you can have an inboard engine, or even stern drives – the choice is yours.

I've not actually had the

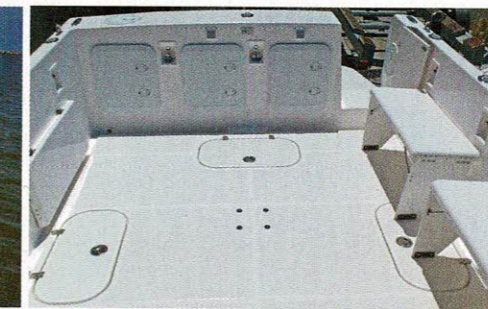
About Francisco

It turns out that Francisco is one of only three Naval Architects in the whole of Portugal. After serving his time designing and repairing various hulls such as fast patrol boats, he decided to start up his own business building pleasure craft. So, the 560 Open, as with all of the Levant boats, is designed from scratch – not re-shaped from moulds already in circulation. And, what's more, they're designed by a Naval Architect! You can't really have better credentials than that for a boat-building company.

I was blown away by the hospitality extended to us by Francisco, who is by all accounts a very modest and kind gentleman. He invited us to his house on the second and third nights of our stay, and fed us like kings! He's also a mad keen fisherman, and that passion shines through to his boat building.



There's plenty of fishing room here.



The 'LESS' system gives a fully open deck area.



This would make a mean bass boat!

pleasure of going to sea on this model, but if the smaller 770 and 560 hulls are anything to go by, then I'm in no doubt that this boat is going to be a sure fire winner over here in the UK.

880 Sea Pro Cabin

The Levant 880 Sea Pro Cabin has a smaller cabin than the Sport Fishing model, and it's designed purely to give the crew shelter in rough weather conditions. This model can also be customized at the factory for a specific activity such as fishing, diving, whale-watching, sea taxi, touristic tours, passenger transportation etc.

880 Sea Pro Console

The Levant 880 Sea Pro Console's versatility allows it to adapt itself to a leisure use. The boat can be equipped with outboard engines,

interior engine with shaft or even stern drive.

The outboard engine version is equipped with the amazing LESS system (Levant Energy Saving System). This system increases the performance of the engines by a 25 to 30 per cent in speed and

decreases the fuel consumption by a 20 to 25 per cent.

880 Sea Pro Passenger

The Levant 880 Sea Pro Passenger is a boat intended for the transportation of passengers, exactly like the ferries they have

up in some of the Scottish Lochs and islands. The great stability of the hull makes this boat the ideal platform for passenger transportation.

Speed, robustness and economy are characteristics that equally define this model.

The 880 Sea Pro with the 'LESS' system.



The 880 hull can be transformed into a ferry.



The perfect passenger vessel!

BOAT SPECIFICATIONS:

LENGTH OVERALL	8.82m
HULL LENGTH	7.99m
BEAM	2.75m
WEIGHT	1,500kg
DRAFT	0.44m
MAXIMUM POWER	315HP
FUEL CAPACITY	220 440lt
CE RATING	C3
MAXIMUM CAPACITY	12 persons

PRICES

880 Sea Pro with 2x Selva Killer Whale 150 XSRs	£36,170
880 Sea Pro Cabin with 2x Selva Killer Whale 150 XSRs	£38,885
880 Sport Fishing with 2x Selva Killer Whale 150 XSRs	£47,570

INFO

For more details on the 880 and other boats in the Levant range, visit: www.levantboats.wix.com/levant-eng
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The helm is compact and very functional.



There's seating inside the wheelhouse too.