

The Engine Room

A Fuel Catalyst To Help Fuel Burn Cleaner

After three years of testing on its boats, the Packard Boat Company has begun distributing a product that Packard president Bud Finkl calls amazing: a proven catalyst in cartridge form for treating fuel, either diesel or gasoline, prior to combustion. It is installed in the main fuel line after the primary filter, or simply inserted in a fuel tank.

According to Finkl, who has been around boats and motors longer than Noah, the Fitch Fuel Catalyst has been proven effective in major laboratory tests and aboard his boats.

In Finkl's words, "All manufacturers of internal combustion engines have long known the pollution problems generated from incompletely combusted fuel as evidenced by exhaust-gas read-outs.

"The partial solution to this problem was close electrical management of the engine's fuel characteristics and the addition of a catalytic converter in the exhaust system for the automotive field. This was not inexpensive."

He continues, "More recently, the addition of fuel injection further improved undesirable exhaust pollutants. A by-product of this system was a sizeable increase in fuel economy, particularly in the mid-range of operation."

Bud points out that fuel injection offered now on marine engines is certainly a help but not the complete answer.

"But the addition of a Fitch Fuel Catalyst to any marine engine — 2-cycle or 4-cycle, gas or diesel — is a giant step ahead for clean engine technology at low cost," he observes.

Bud says he has seen proof that emissions of carbon monoxide can be reduced by as much



The Fitch Fuel Catalyst.

as 65 to 90 percent, and unburned hydrocarbons are reduced by the same amount. Nitrous oxides have a reduction of about 30 percent.

But there is an additional bonus. According to Finkl, his lovely Packard runabouts show a five to 10 percent reduction in fuel consumption.

Finkl notes that after a few months of operation, the apparent octane rating for gas engines is increased by about two to three points. With new engines this occurs in a much shorter time.

Besides a seven-percent reduction in fuel consumption, diesel engines have a similar bonus. The apparent fuel octane rating is increased about two points, plus an 80 to 90 percent reduction in exhaust smoke.

We haven't tried one of these yet, but we have a lot confidence in Bud because of his long history as a boat builder and racer and his knowledge of both inboard and outboard engines.

by Rick Eyerdam

Finkl says, "There is no question as to the catalyst's ability to meet these claims.

"But in spite of the facts, it is damn hard to believe unless you have tried it for yourself. We read of these wild claims almost every week, but here is a product that delivers, probably for the first time in the history of internal combustion engines."

How does it work? It does not add anything to the fuel. It just provides further refinement.

According to the manufacturer, both gasoline and diesel fuel possess elements that cause ignition problems.

Some burn too fast, causing pre-ignition, and some burn too slowly, causing delayed ignition, smoke, and carbon build-up. It is these troublemakers on which the Fitch Fuel Catalyst works.

The company says none of the materials that make up the catalyst can be found in the fuel or in the exhaust during testing. They affect the structure of the fuel through an electro-chemical reaction but do not become a part of it.

In fact, using a fuel additive in conjunction with the device may inhibit its performance because the additive can coat the catalyst and prevent it from treating the fuel. According to the company, all Fitch units meet or exceed Coast Guard standards, last 5,000 hours and are guaranteed not to harm your engine.

Check out Bud's classy Packard runabouts at the show, and ask him to tell you more about this product. (Fitch is not to be confused with FICHT; the latter is a part of Outboard Marine Corporation and makes fuel injectors.)

For full documentation contact Advanced Power Systems at: www.fitchfuelcatalyst.com