

## Quintrex 490 CC

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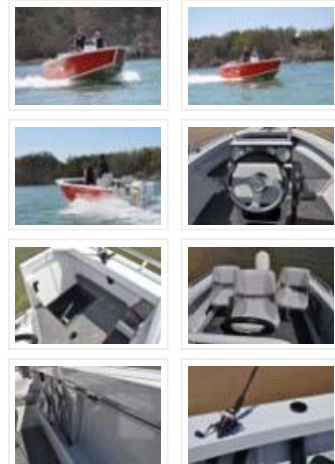


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The Renegade range has been extended to offer a wide variety of open fishing boats including this smart centre console

### LIKES

- Fishing-ready package
- Hull and engine match
- Stability and safety features
- Affordable BMT pricing

### NOT SO MUCH

- Engine cabling impedes access to the Starboard aft storage compartment
- No lid on the anchor well
- Seats seemed a bit light-on for the job

### OVERVIEW

- Back to basics

The Renegade name is not new to the Quintrex range. It's been around for a little while and recently Quintrex added to its range with the 420, 440 and 490 joining the 460 and 520.

The nomenclature denotes the size of the boat in metres with the 490 tested here measuring 4.90 metres overall.

When we were recently introduced to the new boats, Quintrex National Account Manager Tony Kokolis (himself an avid fisherman we were to find out later) said that the company wanted to go back to "quintessential fishing" with the new range developed to service the needs of no-fuss fishos after a practical boating option.

Most of the range is available in centre-console, side-console or tiller-steer configuration so there should be something for most anglers.

Kokolis said that these no-frills fishing machines have all the fishing essentials but also the flexibility and options up to create a boat for specific angling needs, be it casting soft-plastics in the estuary or fly fishing for sports fish.

## PRICE AND EQUIPMENT

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- *Value package with sensible inclusions*

Our test boat, a 490 Renegade CC (Centre Cockpit) comes with a base price for boat, motor and trailer for \$26,590.

Included in that price as standard equipment are front and rear casting platforms with the front having an 80-litre split livewell and the rear a fully-plumbed live-bait tank, built-in tackle tray, dual side pockets and your choice of transom -- either the splashwell type giving easier access over the transom and extra casting deck space or the full motorwell for a bit of added protection from waves.

The boat is also fully carpeted as standard and comes with navigation lights.

Our test boat was fitted a few extras including the two-tone paint, bow-mounted electric-motor plate and drink holders which brought the price up to \$28,280.

## LAYOUT

- *Roomy and versatile*

As mentioned, this boat comes standard with front and rear casting platforms which make for a stack of storage space. Adding to that are the side pockets which can take rods, gaffs or nets.

We're told that these new boats have increased beam and certainly there was a lot of cockpit area in this 490. The boat was fitted with three seats which are interchangeable around the mounting points in the boat or can be removed completely.

One thing we did like about the boat were the wide extruded decks that held the standard rod holders and could be used for mounting all manner of equipment... or even a couple more rod holders to supplement the four standard items.

The console is well placed, slightly forward, to give plenty of room for the angler(s) fishing aft. The gauges were neatly placed and easy to read and there's room on the top of the console to mount some electronics and more storage options inside the console.

There is some dry storage under the foredeck in front of the casting platform which we used for lifejackets and the like. Above are the anchor well and bow roller for the ground tackle as well as a horn cleat to tie off to. There is no lid on the anchor well. If I had one of these boats, I'd have a lid fitted to stop the anchor rode flying around and potentially getting caught around the prop.

## HULL AND MECHANICAL

- *Millennium hull and E-Tec combo works well*

All the Rengades get Quintrex's new Millennium Blade hull which has a concave shape to create a sharper entry and a variable deadrise. The boats also have a fairly generous freeboard and all this combines to give a pretty smooth and dry ride, we found.

Another factor of the hull was the scuppers on each side of the transom so water can easily exit if you take a bit on board. If some does get to the bilge, it'll be taken care of by the 1250gph pump.

The bilge pump is located in the battery locker under the aft casting platform. The fitment of the battery box, isolator switch and bilge pump was first class with everything easily accessed and neat and tidy.

Power is supplied by a 75hp Evinrude E-Tec which was a good match for the 490. With three people and gear on board it didn't struggle and got the boat up on the plane easily. It cruised happily at 4000rpm for 26 knots (30 mph). Top speed is around 35 knots (40 mph).

Fuel consumption of the Evinrudes is pretty good too. At the aforementioned 4000rpm you can expect consumption in the region of 19 litres per hour and at wide-open throttle you'll be using around 26.5 litres per hour.

Standard fuel load is 77 litres in an underfloor tank fed by a filler on the port-side gunwale.

Construction of the hull is of 3mm alloy for the bottom, topsides and transom.

## ON THE WATER

- *Smooth and stable*

As mentioned earlier, Quintrex's 'Big Tony' Kokolis is a keen fisherman, so we took the 490 Renegade out onto the Gold Coast Broadwater for a bit of a fish and to try out some of Tony's hand-made lures.

The 490 was certainly up to the task and carried the three crew effortlessly. Although it was a glorious day with only a light nor'easter brushing the surface, the Renegade loved it. It is an easily-driven hull and the 75hp Evinrude seemed quite up to the job. Maximum horsepower is 90 but for inshore work, lakes and the like the 75 would be ample.

The Renegade is a comfortable boat whether you're driving or a passenger. The three seats offer pleasant perches and I noted an ample selection of solid hand holds that are often missing from smaller fishing boats.

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I did wonder about the longevity of the seats but Tony assured me he had the same seats on a previous boat and they lasted OK...

Stability at rest was great. While fishing we were moving around a bit, while shooting some of the accompanying video. But the boat stayed nice and stable -- a credit to the designers.

#### VERDICT

- Mission accomplished

Parent company Telwater makes a top-class aluminium boat, there's no doubt, and with this Renegade range the brief was to get back to basics and offer a drive-away package that owners can hitch up and go fishing. Well, they've done it.

Our test boat was equipped with the all fishing gear we needed and we put it to the test. We had plenty of stowage areas for your fenders and safety equipment, plenty of rod stowage and even standard rod holders. There is a place for virtually everything including your tackle box tray.

The fitment of the fish and live wells was first class and it's clear that a lot of thought has gone into the layout.

Quintrex offers a long list of options that you can delve into to customise and/or personalise your boat. The value factor is there to be seen and as a BMT package the 490 Renegade represents a sound investment, as this is a boat that will last many years and should hold its value.

All round, we had a great day out on the Renegade. It's a ripper that is sure sell well and be found on many of Australia's lakes, bays and estuaries, even inshore grounds.

It's just a shame that Big Tony's lures didn't work as well as the boat.

#### SPECIFICATIONS:

Price as tested: \$28,280

Options fitted: Bow mount electric-motor plate, painted hull (two tone), drink holders

Priced from: \$26,590

LOA: 4.90m

Beam: 2.25m

Draft: 1.12m

Length on trailer: 6.60m

Height on trailer: 2.03m

Bottom: 3.0mm

Topsides: 3.0mm

Weight (boat only): 435kg

Total towing weight: 860kg

Engine: Evinrude E-Tec 75hp

Min HP: 60

Max HP: 90

Number of people: Five

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