



Tested & Reviewed

Quintrex Apex Hull

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The new Apex Hull is a highly original design that is a major new development for Quintrex.



The Apex Hull offers 80mm of added freeboard which any angler will appreciate.

There is no denying that Quintrex is a household name in boating. It has been making boats since 1945 and is the market leader of aluminium boats in Australia. The name Quintrex is almost iconic as “tinny” is and the boats provided more hours of fishing fun on the water here than any brand.

Key to Quintrex's success has always been research and development, and great understanding of the market. It came up with the squared Bow in the 1960s, the Millennium in the 90s and the Blade Hull in 2011. In 2017, Quintrex has released the all-new Apex Hull and Hooked Up recently moved to the Gold Coast to take a ride in this design.

— The Apex Hull —

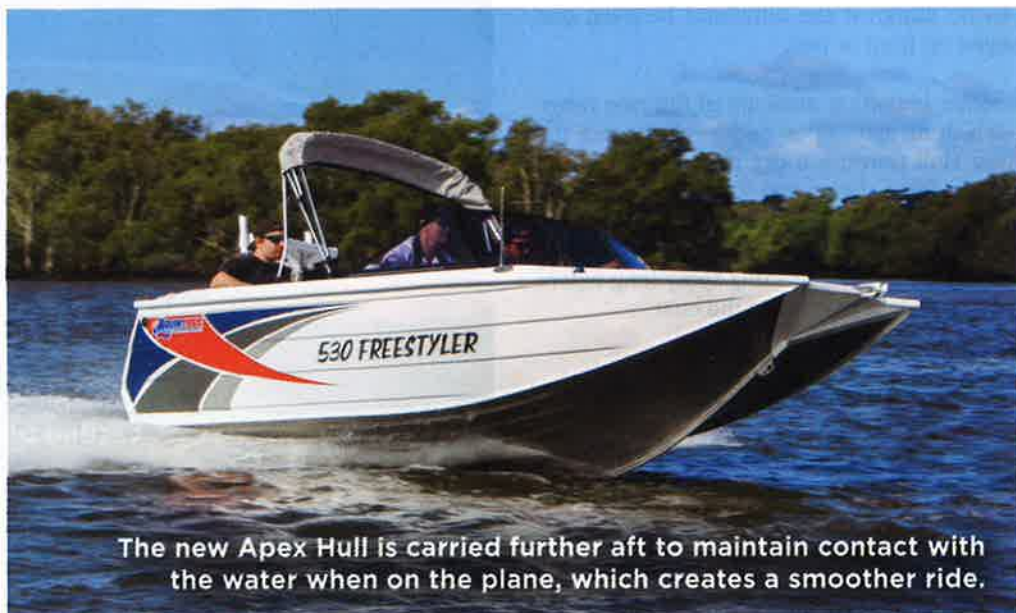
The Apex Hull is instantly recognisable and hard to notice. It's an original-looking design that goes against the standard tapered finish or squared-off bow that pretty much all boats have. The nose is finished in a fork design, which provides great floor space up at the bow. This is a real advantage for models fitted with casting arms as two anglers have more room to what is prime lure-casting territory. So the new hull design is actually advantageous on deck and floor, an intelligent design that should be commended.

Quintrex claims “the new Apex Hull is carried further aft to maintain contact with the water when on the plane, which creates a smoother ride. Its wider sweeping chine design opens up the front of the hull to allow the flaring to carry further forward up the stem line, thus improving rough water performance.”

Hard to attest to these claims without a side-by-side comparison with the Blade Hull.

What we could do was drive the boats and judge for ourselves. The ride was indeed soft, as a softer smoother ride was one of the main objectives of this new design, as it should be for any new hull. The answer is yes. This is a winning hull for what is, after all, a tinny. In as far as tinnies go you'll be hard pressed to find many boats that can compete in this range.

It was clearly apparent about the new hull how well it was handling. I found all the vessels I rode to be responsive with excellent stability both at rest and while under way. They weren't in any way sluggish or unpredictable and were all powered well by the Evinrude E-TEC engines.



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The Apex Hull is available in the Freestyler range (bowriders) and Frontier (dedicated fishing models).



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the other features I really liked and any angler will appreciate is higher freeboard (by 80mm) and an excellent design of floor and deck space that makes the best use of space. Fishermen always have too much gear and not enough space. These boats are a lot more fishing-friendly and the added room allowed by the piccolo design is the difference between one angler up front or two.

Another important attribute of the new range which all sport open decks – is the fact the Apex Hull provides a dry ride. We tested the boat in some sloppy and very dirty water just after Cyclone Debbie hit Queensland and the new hull, with its long and aggressive chine, did a good job of deflecting spray long before we had a chance to come in the boat.

We Care Only About The Fishing Boats!

Two models are getting the new Apex Hull to start off with; the Freestyler, a bow rider, and the Frontier, which is a dedicated open fishing boat. Obviously we'll just focus on the Frontier models. If you'd like to read about the Freestyler model, we suggest you carefully put this magazine down and go and read something else. This is a fishing magazine, and we don't care about family fun!

Quintrex has done an excellent job of the Frontier range. Boats come in sizes 510, 530, 550, 590 and 630 and are all centre or side console configuration. They are dedicated fishing models that have been designed around versatility rather than creating a dedicated platform for any specific style of fishing, and I think this suits the market as this is the style of boat many anglers will want. Rather than them being a dedicated "bass boat" configuration, where the casting platform has zero freeboard and runs all the way to the gunwale, there is a little freeboard and room for an anchor locker. Therefore you can still work your estuary all day long, comfortably casting lures for bream and flaties with the electric motor down, then when you've had enough, you can punch out to your favourite reef, drop anchor and bottom-bounce.

Clearly fishermen have played a large role in the design of the Frontier range as they offer a lot of floor space, well-designed consoles that can house large 12-inch units, and room to fit ice-boxes from 47 litres through to 85 litres.

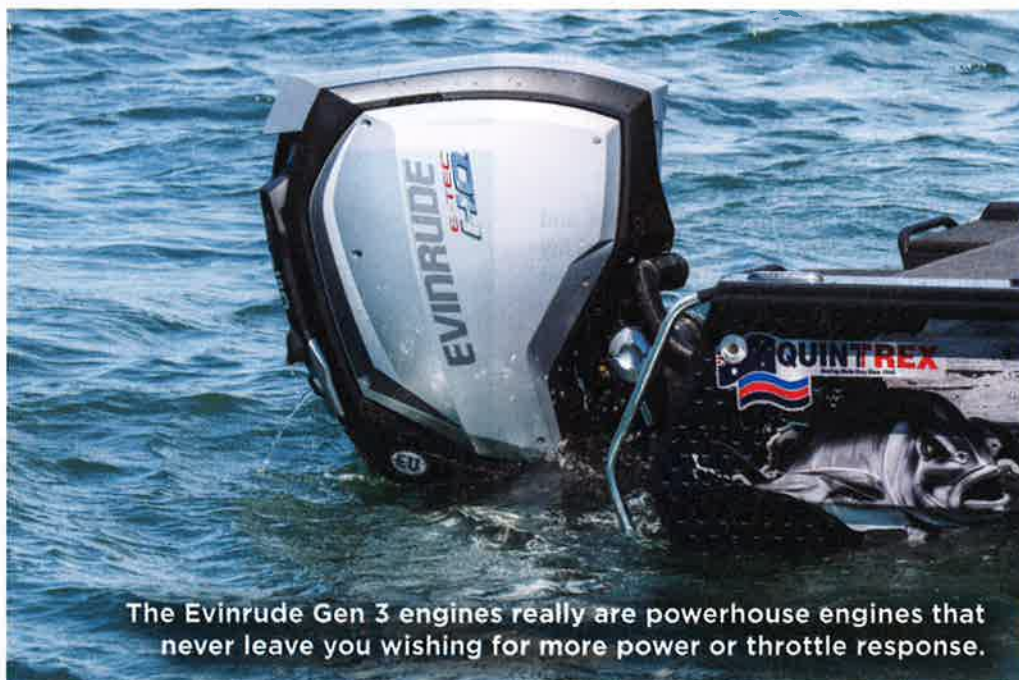
atings have also been lifted and the Frontier range has been optimised for power with the smallest in the range, the 510, now rated to 115hp.

— To Conclude —

If you're after a tinny that is soft, dry, built well and decked out specifically for fishing, you really can't go wrong with the Apex Hull and the new Frontier range. They're versatile, have a great layout and look good, too.



The piccolo fork bow provides more room for casting platforms which is an excellent design.



The Evinrude Gen 3 engines really are powerhouse engines that never leave you wishing for more power or throttle response.



The Apex Hull deflects water well providing a dry ride.