

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser (2017-)

Brief Summary

The Formula 40 Performance Cruiser is a high-speed weekender able to go from mainland to destination for a beach party or overnighter without worrying about a small craft advisory. The company's level of fit and finish is legendary: The cleats are cast in the Formula logo, and all graphics are applied with specially-formulated paint over Ashland Maxguard gelcoat, then covered with a clear coat. The end result is a mirror-like finish that can last for years, much like an automotive finish.

Price

Base Price

Prices, features, designs, and equipment are subject to change. Please see your local dealer or visit the builder's website for the latest information available on this boat model.

Key Features

- Molded fiberglass dash in Gray or Morning Sand with high-gloss Dark Woodgrain or Charcoal Woodgrain panels, including Ritchie compass, Raymarine e7D widescreen color chartplotter with digital depth sounder and Volvo Penta EVC system
- Aft U-shaped lounge seating with fiberglass-lined storage, 2 dual-height cockpit tables with Corian tops and sun pad inserts
- Cockpit/swim platform blue/white LED courtesy lights with remote control
- Molded wet bar with integrated sink, Corian countertop, pullout refrigerator, and trash container
- Sliding/locking cabin door
- Light Cherry or Baltic Birch woodgrain-finish flooring throughout cabin
- Private forward stateroom with double high-gloss Walnut, Driftwood, Ash or Wenge finished doors, centerline bed with Sensus memory foam mattress

Test Results

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
600	5.2	4.5	0.7	7.4	6.4	1655	1439.4	71

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
1000	7.7	6.7	2.2	3.6	3.1	806	700.7	76
1250	9.3	8	3.7	2.5	2.2	563	489.1	76
1500	10.1	8.7	6.1	1.7	1.4	374	325	78
1750	10.7	9.3	10	1.1	0.9	241	209.4	79
2000	12.7	11	15	0.8	0.7	190	165	83
2250	17.7	15.3	17.5	1	0.9	227	197.3	83
2500	22.6	19.6	20	1.1	1	254	220.6	85
2750	27.8	24.1	23.5	1.2	1	266	231	84
3000	32.6	28.3	27.5	1.2	1	267	231.9	85
3250	3250	31.9	32.5	1.1	1	254	220.6	86
3500	40.9	35.5	41	1	0.9	224	194.9	88

[View the test results in metric units](#)

[formula_40pc_chart_15.jpg](#)

Specifications

Length Overall	42´ 7" / 12.98 m
BEAM	12´ 8" 3.86 m
Dry Weight	22,750 lbs. 10,319 kg

Tested Weight	24,108 lbs. 10,935 kg
Draft	44" 1.12 m
Draft Up	
Draft Down	
Air Draft	
Deadrise/Transom	18-deg.
Max Headroom	6´ 9" 2.06 m
Bridge Clearance	16´ 8" 5.07 m (max)
Weight Capacity	
Person Capacity	
Fuel Capacity	248 gal. 939 L
Water Capacity	57 gal. 216 L
Length on Trailer	
Height on Trailer	
Trailer Weight	
Total Weight	24,108 lbs. 10,935 kg
Aft Deck	

Salon Inside Width	
Salon Fore & Aft	
Salon Height	
Salon Volume	
Galley Volume	
Master SR Width	
Master SR fore & Aft	
Master SR Overhead	
Master SR Volume	
Eng. Room Volume	

Acceleration Times & Conditions

Time to Plane	6.2 sec.
0 to 20	
Ratio	N/A
Props	N/A
Load	3 persons, 3/4 fuel, 1/2 water, 50 lbs. of gear
Climate	82 deg., 78 humid.; wind: 0-0 mph; seas: calm

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser running

The Formula 40 Performance Cruiser has an LOA of 42'7", a beam of 12'8", and a draft of 44".

Mission Statement

The Formula 40 Performance Cruiser was designed with three goals in mind. First, to serve as an entertainment platform for its owner and guests both on deck and below. Second, to provide cruising comfort with convertible accommodations for owner and five additional guests. In this regard, the "Performance Cruiser" name is apt. Finally, to be a high-speed weekender, able to go from mainland to destination for beach party or overnighter without worrying about a small craft advisory; the 40 Performance Cruiser can handle most conditions short of a named storm.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser accommodation

The Formula 40 Performance Cruiser can accommodate six comfortably with one stateroom and one head.

Overview

Formula's 40 Performance Cruiser makes for an ideal "Performance Cruiser" due to a number of factors -- how well she's designed and laid out, accommodating either guests for a party lasting into the night or going on overnight excursions. As a luxury boat, the Formula 40 is on the premium range, showing in the attention spent ensuring a luxury level of comfort living up to its pedigree. Many options are available at purchase to upgrade even those comforts that come standard, from grilling on the transom to the hydraulic swim platform that can create a private "beach" on the stern.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser

The Formula 40 Performance Cruiser is a well-suited vessel for entertaining and weekend cruising.

Major Features

The Volvo Penta Twin IPS Standard. Formula made the Volvo Penta Twin IPS standard on the 40 Performance Cruiser with no other propulsion/power options offered. This speaks to the harmony of design and drive system -- the hull is so well matched that the efficiency of the yacht changes very little from 2500 rpm on up to her top speed. This allows for more attention in handling to prevailing conditions and less concern over nautical miles per gallon and efficiencies.

The Joystick Control. Likewise a standard on the 40 Performance Cruiser, the joystick control is not just a precise tool for a seasoned "cruiser" navigator -- it is a bridge for those new to operating a boat of the 40 Performance Cruiser's size and unsure of their ability to master it. The joystick is intuitive and easy to learn, making docking and any similarly tight situation much simpler.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser profile

The Formula 40's fit-and-finish is one of its strong suits, including the graphics and hull paint options.

Overall Fit-and-Finish. Attention to detail is key to the Formula 40 Performance Cruiser. The storage is both ample and well designed with molded fiberglass finish. The finish on the decking throughout the cabin is wood grain. The cabin seating is "Ultraleather" and extremely soft.

The cleats are cast in the Formula logo, and no matter what color-design scheme you choose at purchase, all graphics are applied with specially-formulate paint over Ashland Maxguard gelcoat, then covered with a clear coat. The end result is a mirror-like finish.

Performance

The Formula 40 Performance Cruiser has a LOA of 42'7" (12.98 m), a beam of 12'8" (3.86 m), and a draft of 44" (104 cm). With an empty weight of 22,150 lbs. (10,047 kg), 3/4 fuel, and three people onboard, we had an estimated test weight of 24,108 lbs. (10,935 kg).

With twin 370-hp IPS500 pod drive engines powering our test boat, we reached a top speed of 35.5 knots at 3500 rpm. At that speed, we were burning 41 gph, giving us a range of 194.9 nm. Her best economy was found to be at 3000 rpm and 28.3 knots. That speed brought the fuel burn down to 27.5 gph for a 231.9 nm range. See the "Test Results" table for complete details.

Of course, as is characteristic with IPS driven boats, this one has a close range of performance throughout her speed range once she's up on plane. Her nautical miles per gallon readings are consistent from 2500 rpm and 19.6 kts on up to 32 kts, and then only drop 1/10 NM/PG when pushed to the maximum speed.

This means that if cruising, there's really no need to worry about the speed setting for fuel savings as the boat gets the same economy per mile regardless. Just set the speed according to how she handles prevailing conditions. If seas are calm, let her run. If the winds pick up, pull her back so she rides along with the frequency of the waves best. If guests are onboard for a cocktail party, idle along without spilling the drinks.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser running

The Formula 40 Performance Cruiser reached a top speed of 35.5 knots at 3500 rpm.

Handling

As for how she handles those conditions, well, sadly we were saddled with a fairly flat calm test day, so we can't report on specifics. But generally speaking, we've tested our fair share of Formula boats, from "go-fast" to runabouts to cruisers, and we haven't come across one that's not able to perform well when the going gets rough.

Upon advancing the throttles, the bow only comes up marginally, and we had no loss of visibility beyond the bow from the seated position, and certainly won't from a position on top of the flip-up bolster. In turns, she rolls 16-degrees while keeping the ride comfortable. Allowed to continue with the turn, she'll come around 360-degrees in 40 seconds at cruise speed while bleeding off roughly a 1/2 knot in speed, but otherwise, she'll maintain her pace well.

Of course, one thing to be aware of is the hardtop coming down into the line of sight when turning to port. This is the case with every hardtop and not limited to the 40 Performance Cruiser. However, Formula not only added opening hatches to the hardtop, it positioned them so that the operator can see through them during the turn allowing a steady sightline throughout. Of course, this is a non-issue when turning to starboard.

While we didn't have seas to contend with, we did play with the wake of the camera boat, and the 40 Performance Cruiser slices cleanly through the waves with no pounding or jarring effect, and the spray was kept low enough to not come back into the windshield. Presumably, with a strong with it certainly wind, but not during our heavy-handed operational tests.

Features Inspection

Clearly the 40 Performance Cruiser is a features-heavy boat, and this is likely one area where those in the market will be doing comparisons across different models. She is a single stateroom, single head boat ideal as a weekender with the versatility to sleep up to six with seating areas in the salon convertible to berths if needed.

On deck continues the guest accommodation theme with U-shaped seating, refreshment center, bow sun pads, and a hydraulic swim platform that can act as a lounging area or PWC launching spot.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser

The helm of the 40 Performance Cruiser with the captain's seat bolster up, aiding in a lean-and-watch vantage point.

Helm. The seating at the helm has two positions -- a well-supported seating position, as well as an adjustable position for leaning back while standing. Much of the helm is ergonomically designed with

monitoring gauges and on-board systems easy and intuitive. The helm seat is wide enough for two passengers in addition to the captain.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser helm

The 40 Performance Cruiser's dash, with the joystick on the starboard side and GPS screen installed. **Joystick and Dashboard.** The star of the helm is the to the starboard side of the layout, where the IPS joystick and digital engine controls lay. The joystick makes for effortless docking maneuvers and really opens up the 40 Performance Cruiser for many consumers who may rule themselves out of being able to operate it.

The fly by wire throttle controls are just behind, and both these and the joystick offer a range of options. Chiefly the Dynamic Positioning System that holds the vessel position and heading at the touch of a button. The engine is controlled via single lever, engine sync, throttle only, and cruise assist.

Formula offers an array of GPS systems from Raymarine as options at purchase, as well as a thermal night vision camera.

Engine Room. The engine room can be accessed either by day hatch on the cockpit deck or by lifting the electrically actuated hatch for full access. The day hatch leads to a ladder between the two engines.

Since the 40 Performance Cruiser comes with but the one power option -- the twin 370-hp Volvo Penta IPS 500 engines and pods -- the engine room is more spacious, making it easier for entry and working around. An 8.5 kW/120V diesel generator with sound shield and battery comes standard on the 40 Performance Cruiser as well.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser

The cockpit seating area, with removable cocktail tables installed.

Cockpit. The center of gravity in the cockpit is surely the U-shaped lounge. The Ultraleather seating wraps around an open space that can be filled with one or both of the removable cocktail tables. These tables can then be lowered to convert to a sun pad -- essentially expanding the U-shaped lounge out across the tops of the tables with cushions. Both the cushions and removable cocktail tables have dedicated storage in the aft storage bunker, accessed via the swim platform.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser cockpit seating

With the cocktail tables stowed it leaves a lot of open room in the cockpit.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser

The wet bar refreshment center. Note the refrigerator door, Corian countertops, and outlets just above the sink.

To port is the wet bar/refreshment center. It has Corian countertop standard with molded fiberglass sink and ample storage below and the option to add a combination refrigerator/icemaker as well as a pedestal TV/DVD combo. Just forward the wet bar is an additional seating lounge that can accommodate up to three guests.

Both the port side lounge and U-shaped lounge have generous fiberglass-lined storage areas.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser cockpit

The cockpit seating area with tables lowered and converted to king-sized sun pad lounge.

Helm Deck/Bow. The helm deck is a step up from the cockpit deck with the overhead clearance moving from 7'10" to 6'11" as you step up. Ventilation can be had via the side curtain vents, overhead hatches, and center windshield walkthrough. However, there is an additional option for a 16,000 BTU cockpit air conditioner as well.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser walk through

The helm deck with walkthrough to the bow seen just through the windshield latch.

10" wide decks run up each side of the boat to the bow with grab rails to guide you, but the primary access point is via the helm deck through the center walkthrough windshield. The steps up are molded-in.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser sun pads

The bow sun pads in recline and "up" position. Note the windshield walkthrough and guardrails on either side.

The grab rails come up 24" each side on the bow sunning area, which features two sun pads that can be adjusted to multiple chaise lounge positions. The sun pads are made of DriFast foam, keeping them in use without having to let them dry out.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser windlass

The anchor and windlass, which has a 200' chain.

Fully forward is a flush mounted hatch concealing an electric windlass with 200' chain, remote control, and freshwater anchor washdown system. Just ahead is a standard remote spotlight.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser aft swim platform

The aft swim platform, acting as a "tender storage." The hydraulic lift launches the PWC and acts as a private beach when partially submerged.

Aft Swim Platform. The 40 Performance Cruiser can be optionally equipped with a swim platform personal watercraft lift system that is designed to move on a hydraulic ram cylinder attached to the transom. This lift system can be operated by two remote controls -- one in the cockpit and another just near the lift itself. The lift is capable of holding a personal watercraft or dinghy.

The swim platform can also be outfitted with an optional stainless steel grill, seen here installed and operating.

-->

The platform itself is fiberglass and has a concealed stainless steel ladder and pull-up cleats. Prominent is the molded fiberglass storage trunk with pneumatic lifts, which has storage for four large fenders and dedicated space for the removable cockpit lounge tables and sun pads. There is also a hot and cold shower, as well as waterproof stereo controls and the option for a mountable stainless steel propane grill. With all these features and its size, it forms a sort of “teak beach” lounging area.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser ladder

A fiberglass hatch, built into the platform, opens to a three-step telescoping swim ladder.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser sun lounge

With the backrest tilted forward the stern sun pad becomes an aft-facing sun lounge.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser stereo

Drink holders are built into both port and starboard sides of the sun lounge along with a remote control for the stereo.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser stern seating

With the backrest tilted back, a portion of the sun pad becomes additional stern seating.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser sun pad storage

The sun pad lifts up on gas shocks to access a storage compartment below.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser sun pad

The area under the stern sun pad is specifically designed for the cockpit tables and sun pad cushions, as well as four custom fenders.

Lower Deck Features

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser lower deck

The lower deck cabin, seen here from aft, set up for dining and entertaining with the table and pedestal stools installed. Note galley to port.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser cabin

The lower cabin from the forward stateroom. Note the lounge area to starboard just behind the stairs. The lower deck is accessed through a sliding one-piece curved acrylic door in the cockpit area. The cabin is spacious -- it has 6'9" of headroom, a full galley and stateroom with dining space and head.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser main cabin

The main cabin dining area converted to a berth. Note the rear lounge area converted to berth setting as well.

Accommodations. The cabin can sleep six people -- two in the stateroom, two in the aft lounge area, and two in the main salon. Much like the removable cocktail tables and surrounding seating converting to one king-sized sunpad, the main dining area in the salon and aft lounge have removable tables that can lower to expand the seating into berths with additional cushions. These can also be divided via thin privacy curtains.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser lounge area

The lounge area, set up for entertaining with the removable table in place.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser

The same lounge space, converted to a berth.

The main cabin has a 32" HDTV with Blu-ray and DVD capability and a Wi-Fi connection (that can display all the helm controls if needed) and dockside access cord for cable hookup. For music, it features a Clarion AM/FM/CD stereo with iPod hookup, Bluetooth, four 6.5" speakers and an 8" subwoofer. Formula offers a complimentary six-month Sirius Satellite subscription as well, all controlled via a hub in the main salon or in the forward stateroom.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser galley

The galley as seen from the dining area. Note the stainless steel microwave and refrigerator, both standard.

Galley. The galley is to port on entry, and has Corian countertops, a stainless steel sink, refrigerator just below the counter and a concealed range just off the sink. The microwave, coffeemaker, and in-counter trash receptacle come standard and are surrounded by high-gloss Wenge cabinetry (which is offered, like all the wood finishes in the Formula 40 Performance Cruiser, in Walnut, Driftwood, Ash, or Wenge) -- the lower of which are lit when opened. The galley works off a demand water system with 57-gallon (216 L) capacity that can hook up to a freshwater or city water source.

Dining. The dining area is upholstered in Ultraleather just like the rest of her seating, and comes with the high-glass wood table that is removable/convertible to a berth as mentioned. Additionally, two removable pedestal stools with Ultraleather upholstery sit on the other side of the table.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser berth

The stateroom with queen-sized bed and memory foam mattress. Note the sunroof; this can, of course, be shaded with a pull-cover.

The Stateroom. The stateroom has a centerline, queen-sized memory foam mattress bed comfortably accommodating two with drawer storage below. Two hanging lockers for storage with automatic lights sit port and starboard, as well as a 19" HDTV with DVD player. Two portlights on either side and an overhead hatch provide ample sunlight as well. The stateroom also has privacy doors.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser head

The full-sized head with Corian countertops and enclosed shower.

Head. There is but one head to share among all the passengers, but it does have a walk-in shower that has a curved, hinged acrylic door and molded-in fiberglass seat with Corian top.

The molded vanity has Corian counter and a single basin stainless steel sink. Cabinetry matches the lower galley cabinets and is available like all the wood finishes, in Walnut, Driftwood, Ash, or Wenge.

The VacuFlush head feeds into a 55-gallon (208 L) holding tank that includes dockside pump-out. There is an exhaust fan in the head, and Formula includes custom woven towels.

Customize

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser decor option

The Gulf Sand Décor option.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser cabinetry

The FX/Midnight Treasure Décor option -- note the options in cabinetry finishing as well.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser option

The Pebble Beach Décor option.

Formula 40 Performance Cruiser decor

The Silver Surf Décor option.

The Formula 40 Performance Cruiser comes with plenty of luxury as standard, but part of that luxury is the room to make choices. The engine decision has been made for you as part of the design, but between wood finish color, deck materials, amenities, and décor, much of the design is left to the consumer's tastes. The purchase phase of the Formula 40, however, is part of the fun -- the space afforded to get things exactly how you want is included in the experience.

Observations

Formula has a solid reputation for building quality boats with a premium level of fit-and-finish, and the Formula 40 PC does not disappoint. What you see is what you get. And what you don't see has been done right. Formula is a world-class builder and its boats are at the tip of the pyramid.