

Formula 350 Sun Sport (2017-)

Brief Summary

The Formula 350 Sun Sport equipped with the optional 480-hp Ilmor engine/drive systems is clearly aimed at the performance-minded buyer. But like all Formulas, she also features the famed high-luster finish, the result of automotive-grade paints plus three applications of clear coat applied in dust-free booths. The aft cabin includes a full-size memory-foam berth, and cabin fabric packages from Ralph Lauren and Tommy Bahama are available.

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

- Transferable 5-Year Formula Guard® Limited Protection Plan with 10-year Structural Warranty (USA only)
- Clarion® waterproof transom-mounted stereo control & two transom-mounted 61/2? speakers w/polished stainless grilles
- Polished stainless shorepower inlet & chrome-finished city water inlet
- Bimini top in color-coordinated non-fading Sunbrella® fabric with Seamark™ vinyl undercoating
- Entertainment center in high-gloss Bourbon Cherry, Ash or Wenge finish with Corian countertop, polished stainless 12V/120V refrigerator & 120V/12V electrical panels
- Cockpit/swim platform blue/white LED courtesy lights with remote control
- Aft cabin stateroom/full-size berth with Sensus® memory foam mattress, pillow shams & full width storage
- Twin engine installation with thru-bolted engine mounts

Test Results

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
600	4.2	3.7	3.6	1.2	1	170	147.9	69

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
1000	6.4	5.5	6.6	1	0.8	140	122	74
1500	8.8	7.7	10.2	0.9	0.8	126	109.4	75
2000	10.6	9.2	13.5	0.8	0.7	115	99.9	84
2500	16.6	14.4	19.6	0.8	0.7	123	107.1	83
3000	26.2	22.7	23.2	1.1	1	164	142.9	85
3500	34.8	30.2	30.3	1.1	1	167	145.6	87
4000	41.2	35.8	36	1.1	1	167	144.9	87
4500	47.3	41.1	49.8	1	0.8	139	120.5	90
5000	52.7	45.8	64.2	0.8	0.7	120	104.1	93
5200	57.7	50.1	73.9	0.8	0.7	114	98.9	94

[View the test results in metric units](#)
[Formula_350ss_chart_2017.jpg](#)

Specifications

Length Overall	37' 11" / 11.56 m
BEAM	10' 9" 3.28 m
Dry Weight	13,470 lbs. 6,109 kg
Tested Weight	15,279 lbs. 6,930 kg

Draft	39" 0.99 m
Draft Up	
Draft Down	
Air Draft	
Deadrise/Transom	21 deg.
Max Headroom	6' 2" 1.88 m
Bridge Clearance	9' 8" 2.95 m
Weight Capacity	
Person Capacity	N/A
Fuel Capacity	162 gal. 613 L
Water Capacity	29 gal. 110 L
Length on Trailer	
Height on Trailer	
Trailer Weight	
Total Weight	15,279 lbs. 6,930 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	4.7 sec.
0 to 20	
Ratio	N/A
Props	N/A
Load	3 persons, full fuel, full water, 50 lbs. of gear
Climate	78 deg., 65 humid.; wind: 15-20 mph; seas: light chop

Formula 350 Sun Sport running

The Formula 350 Sun Sport has an LOA of 37'11" (11.56 m) (including swim platform), a beam of 10'9" (3.28 m) and a draft of 39" (99 cm).

Mission Statement

The Formula 350 Sun Sport is a roomy day boat that can double as a weekender for overnighting, either as a transient cruiser or tucked away in a secluded cove. This boat was powered with twin Ilmor 480-hp engines and the Ilmor joystick system that provided close quarter control.

Formula 350 Sun Sport layout

The Formula 350 Sun Sport can accommodate a couple that wants to get away for the weekend or take a group of friends day boating.

Overview

The Formula 350 Sun Sport has a roomy layout for enjoying a day out on the water, but is also up to the task of some medium-range cruising. The ergonomics of the helm are laid out in a manner that the experienced captain and novice alike will feel confident at the controls. Abundant drink holders and a U-shaped lounge that converts to a table arrangement or an expansive sun pad are all complimented by the wet bar.

Formula 350 Sun Sport swim platform

The Formula 350 Sun Sport has an extended swim platform as well as an aft-facing sun pad.

Major Features

- • Well-appointed cabin
- • Ample storage for personal gear
- • Spacious helm seat
- • U-shaped aft lounge
- • Extended swim platform

- • Twin Ilmor 480-hp engines

- • Ilmor joystick control system

Formula 350 Sun Sport fit and finish

The Formula 350 Sun Sport'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 350 Sun Sport. The sleek styling stays true to Formula's heritage of building a quality watercraft. The cabinetry throughout the cabin has all the amenities of home. The cabin seating is upholstered in "Ultraleather" and is extremely soft.

Performance

The Formula 350 SS has an LOA of 37'11" (11.56m), a beam of 10'9" (3.28m) and a draft of 39" (99 cm). With an empty weight of 13,470 lbs. (6,110 kg), full fuel and three people onboard, we had an estimated test weight of 15,279 (6,930 kg).

Formula 350 Sun Sport engine access

The engines are accessed from an electric lift hatch and the cockpit is still accessible with the hatch opened.

Power

The pair of Ilmor 480-hp 7.4L engines are new for Formula. They give the 350 Sun Sport plenty of performance and fill a void in the market that runs 380, 430 and then jumps to 520 horsepower. The 7.4 L was first added to Ilmor's lineup as an inboard engine back in 2011. It's a catalyzed engine that burns clean and efficient.

With the twin 480-hp 7.4L Ilmor engines powering our test boat, we reached a top speed of 57.7 mph at 5250 rpm. That said, we had some significant options on this boat that detracted from our speed, including a hardtop and generator, not to mention a full tank of fuel. We could easily see those items taking 2.1 mph off our speed, making this a 60 mph category boat, easily. In fact, Formula reports that they have recorded those speeds.

Best cruise came in at 3500 rpm and 34.8 mph. At that speed, the 30.3 gph fuel burn translated into 1.1 mpg and a range of 167 statute miles while still holding back a 10% reserve of the boat's 162-gallon (613.2 L) total fuel capacity.

Please note that for the penalty of just 0.59 of a mile in range, the 350 can travel at 41.1 mph at 4000 rpm.

Formula 350 Sun Sport joystick control

Positioned just above the throttle, the joystick gives the captain ultimate control in close quarters.

Slow Maneuvers

Docking is where the Ilmor One Drive system really shines. For a confidence booster, the Ilmor one touch joystick docking system is a pleasure to work. The hydraulic shifting is silky smooth, and thanks to the muscle, this dual-power-level boat goes in virtually any direction the joystick is pointed. With the absence of clunking associated with some other joystick controls, it's hard to tell when the drives shift into gear.

Formula 350 Sun Sport display

The display shows which drive is in gear and the direction the boat will be traveling in.

A glance at the Ilmor display screen will verify what direction the boat is moving in conjunction with the joystick, rather than waiting for the boat to respond. The joystick is progressive, so small movements mean small reactions from the boat, and it isn't always obvious, especially with the noiseless shifting.

Formula 350 Sun Sport swim ladder

The extended swim platform has a built-in telescoping ladder and keeps swimmers further away from the drives while in the water. Always have the engines off when people are swimming.

Caution: There's no real sightline to the extended swim platform and it sticks out further than one might think. The stainless steel rail surrounding the platform will protect it in the event of any errant brushes with the dock.

Formula 350 Sun Sport turns

She digs in during performance maneuvers and that causes her to bleed off speed, so feel free to accelerate into the turns.

Handling

As for her handling, those twin 480s got the boat up on plane in 4.7 seconds. She accelerated to 20 mph in 7.6 seconds and passed through 30 mph in 11.7 seconds. She had the solid feel of a Formula, and maneuvering wise, everything happened at a sedate pace that guests will find particularly comfortable, and

this was so no matter how aggressively the boat was handled. There was no chop in sight during our test day, so we can't comment at this time on how she handles in rough conditions.

Features Inspection

Overview

Clearly this Formula 350 Sun Sport has a lot of features when compared to a typical day boat, and this is likely one area where those in the market will be doing comparisons across different models.

Entertaining guests is the main focus of the U-shaped seating, wet bar, aft sun pad and extended swim platform, which becomes a private beach when the boat is at rest.

Formula 350 Sun Sport functional and attractive

Carbon fiber and brushed stainless steel make this helm as attractive as it is functional.

Helm

At the helm, two critical pieces of information, the fuel and trim, are at the top and to either side of a basic compass. The left side of the panel houses a large speedometer and twin tachometers that are easy to monitor with a quick glance. In the center is the navigation screen, and adjacent to that is the selectable and customizable Ilmor display showing the engines' information.

To the left of the panel are rocker switches that are lighted when activated. The brushed stainless steering wheel is mounted to a fixed base, which may be easier to conform to the driver if it could tilt. The Clarion stereo and VHF are below and to the left.

Formula 350 Sun Sport controls

The controls are in a line which includes the dual throttle, trim tabs and joystick.

Joystick Control

The carbon fiber of the upper panel is repeated to the right side of the helm station where the joystick control and trim tab rocker switches are mounted. Below that are the Ilmor digital engine controls, which feature control buttons for the collective outdrive trims, the individual trims, the station select button, neutral select and single-lever engine sync.

Formula 350 Sun Sport helm seat

Contrasting bead welting and carbon fiber in the upholstery are some of the FX model treatments.

Helm Seat

The spacious helm seat is two-person, with individual flip-up bolsters and curved sides allowing the captain and companion to stand or sit independently. This would allow for a conversation while underway and perhaps let the first mate lend a hand with navigating.

Bow

The bow is accessed from center-mounted molded steps, with a stainless grab rail adding to the safety of the transition. This is really just for accessing the ground tackle and tying off bow cleats, since this bow is not designed for riding while underway.

Formula 350 Sun Sport wind shelter

Behind the protection of the wrap-around windshield, captain and passengers can seek shelter from the wind.

Formula 350 Sun Sport anchor

The hatch is mounted with a through-bolted piano hinge and held open by a stainless steel gas shock. Beneath a molded fiberglass hatch is the windlass with the rode leading to a thru-the-stem anchor roller. A chain stopper is just abaft the roller, and control switches are ahead and to starboard. An additional set of controls are at the helm.

Formula 350 Sun Sport windshield

The center section of the windshield can be opened while underway to allow cooling airflow. The stainless framed windshield closes off at the walkthrough and the dual latches are interconnected. Since the boat has no gunwales, this is the only access forward.

Formula 350 Sun Sport drink holders

The boat has flush-mounted drink holders throughout the interior, along with USB connectivity. To the left of the helm is a doublewide seat that can allow two people to join the captain or one person to recline either forward or aft facing. Naturally, storage is underneath.

Formula 350 Sun Sport cockpit seating

Cockpit seating is the focal point of any day boat.

Cockpit

The cockpit features versatile U-shaped seating to starboard finished with the same premium upholstery. Upscale snap-in carpeting adds a touch of class to the deck and is removable for cleaning. Below the seating, there's plenty of storage, including dedicated storage for the cockpit table.

Formula 350 Sun Sport wet bar

No boat set up for entertaining would be complete without a wet bar.

To the port side, there's more of the carbon fiber treatments of the FX series at the refreshment center. It features a trash receptacle and sink under separate hatches held open with assist struts. Below is a cockpit refrigerated drawer and freezer. To the left are the battery switches, fire extinguisher and room for storage.

Formula 350 Sun Sport hardtop

A fiberglass hardtop will outlast any canvas top. It adds to the look of the boat and becomes a secure place for mounting antennas and radar domes.

Covering the helm and U-shaped seating is the massive hardtop, adding significantly to the comfort level of the cockpit. It's supported by a beefy stainless steel framework.

Formula 350 Sun Sport additional shade

A push of a button extends the telescoping top for additional shade.

To extend the comfort further back to the aft lounge, there's an extendable awning that is electrically actuated from the trailing edge of the fiberglass hardtop.

Cabin

The cabin is accessed through a center-mounted sliding door and a screen is also integrated into the door assembly. Curved stainless rails assist with going below.

Formula 350 Sun Sport sliding hatch

The companionway hatch slides completely out of the way when retracted.

Straight ahead, when entering the cabin, there's a settee wrapping around a solid wood table on a stainless pedestal. The backrests are padded bolsters curving all the way around. For entertainment, speakers with backlit grilles are flush-mounted into the forward bulkhead.

Formula 350 Sun Sport settee

The settee down below is a feature that allows this boat to be a true weekender.

To port is a galley that includes a microwave, storage, a single-burner stovetop recessed into the Corian counter, a trash receptacle and a single basin stainless steel sink with contemporary fixture. Additionally,

there's a bottle and condiment storage area just behind. Below is a grab rail with more storage. The drawers are on stainless sliders with dovetail joinery.

Formula 350 Sun Sport compact sized galley

The compact size of the galley doesn't take up too much cabin space, yet has all of the features necessary for weekend cruising.

Just across from the galley is a TV, with a stereo and climate control just below. Open counter space includes stainless beverage holders, and a refrigerator is built into the cabinet below that.

Formula 350 Sun Sport breaker panel

Behind the TV is the main breaker panel. The 12V is at the top, the 120V is at the bottom and in the center is the generator transfer control panel.

To starboard is the head. It's a wet head and features a pull out sprayer with a hanger just above, all separate from the sink and faucet. There is storage below the sink and above. The forward bulkhead is mirrored, as is the door just outside the head leading to a cedar closet.

Formula 350 Sun Sport wet head

Wet heads typically give you more room in the head on a boat in this size range when compared to ones with a separate shower stall.

Aft, there's a berth tucked under the cockpit that facilitates overnighting on the 350 Sun Sport. It measures 6'2" (1.88 m) long and 4'7" (1.40 m) wide. It also has 23" (58.42 cm) of headroom. Included is lighting, storage and a mirrored headboard.

Formula 350 Sun Sport aft berth

Access to the aft berth is just to the port side of the steps leading down into the cabin.

Stern

Non-skid Amtico decking takes us out to the stern. A hot and cold shower, with engine flush connections alongside, and a stereo remote are at the port bulkhead.

Formula 350 Sun Sport seating

Seating does not block access to the stern swim platform. A stainless steel gate swings shut for safety. The main focal point of the aft deck is the 4' x 5' (1.22 m x 1.52 m) double wide aft-facing lounge seat. It's created by flipping the aft seat back forward, making this lounge safe to use only when not underway. Drink holders are to both sides and, as expected, there's plenty of storage underneath.

Formula 350 Sun Sport lounge

The seat back has two positions to face forward or aft.

New Extended Swim Platform

The non-skid decking continues out to the swim platform. Our test boat had the extended platform that really adds to the versatility of the 350. Drink holders are to both sides and the pull up cleats are mounted well out of the way. An additional pair of cleats is even higher, and ahead and to the center is a tow point. To the starboard side are the shore power, TV and city water connections.

Formula 350 Sun Sport stainless steel rail

The extended swim platform serves as a private beach or additional room to lay out. Note the stainless steel rail around the platform for swimmers to hang on to. It also acts as a fender when docking stern-to.

Formula 350 Sun Sport runstar

The Formula 350 Sun Sport FX series.

Observations

Formula has a solid reputation for building quality boats with a premium level of fit-and-finish. There are really no other boats quite like them in class. The 350 SS is a comfortable boat that crosses over from roomy day boat to a casual overnighter. On top of that, we found that the handling characteristics of the Ilmor engines and One Drive outdrive systems make for a match befitting this premium-level boat.