

## ➤ JC TRITOON 226 OB



COURTESY, JC PONTOONS (2)

JC Pontoons, which added a third tube to their boats 25 years ago and trademarked the “TriToon” name, has never been reluctant to try something new. The center tube on the 226 OB, for instance, is 36 inches wide and is flanked by asymmetrical tubes that abut it. With a deep center entry and near-planing capability, it is essentially a deck boat made of aluminum. But it never relinquishes the friendly features of a pontoon.

On our test boat, we sat in Visionaire seats. They’re unique in the marine market, with mesh backs (great for hot days) and a very thin profile. We found

them as comfortable as any helm seat in the pontoon category. Rails are powder-coated aluminum instead of anodized. The helm seat, by the way, is a novel cut-out design with a much roomier feel. It’s also more firm than most, thanks to a tubular aluminum frame.

During our test, the bigger and longer center tube seemed to rise over wakes in the middle of a sizable Midwestern lake. Stoutly made of .125-inch aluminum and backed with a beefy transom, the boat did not so much absorb punishment as deflect it. Some of JC’s biggest markets, after all, are on Lake Havasu and Lake Geneva

— bodies that many people consider boat-beaters. We could maneuver the 226 like we would some deck boats. It helps to have the 55-gallon fuel tank housed within the center tube, resulting in a better balance and a lower center of gravity.

A quiet 150 hp Suzuki four-stroke powered our test boat, though buyers can opt for an outboard to 275 hp or an I/O to 320 hp. We’d prefer the boat as rigged. It was easy to converse with a passenger throughout the rpm range, and if JC wants to be known for just one thing it is this: Running at any speed is oh-so-smooth. — *Steve Griffin*

### At a Glance

#### JC TRITOON 226 OB

The 226 could be called something besides a pontoon, since it’s more like an aluminum deck boat, albeit with the space of a pontoon.



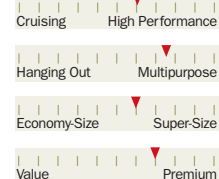
##### VITAL STATS

■ **LENGTH OVERALL:** 22' ■ **BEAM:** 8'6" ■ **DRY WEIGHT:** 2,900 LB.  
 ■ **SEATING/WEIGHT CAPACITY:** 14/3,500 LB. ■ **FUEL CAPACITY:** 55 GAL. ■ **MAXIMUM HP:** 275  
 ■ **MSRP (W/ 150 SUZUKI):** \$38,401

##### TEST DRIVE

■ **TEST ENGINE:** SUZUKI 150 HP FOUR-STROKE ■ **TEST PROP:** 15.5 X 17, STAINLESS ■ **TEST LOAD:** PEOPLE (400 LB.); FUEL (25 GAL.)  
 ■ **TOP SPEED:** 35.4 MPH AT 6,000 RPM ■ **TIME TO 20 MPH:** 6.0 SEC.

##### PROFILE



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