



With its wide bodied deep 'V' and high sheer bow, large buoyancy tubes, extra heavy duty hull and transom, the Humber 5m Assault is aimed squarely at the dive boat market.

Tubes are manufactured in house from hypalon/polyester/neoprene sandwich. Humber claim that the resistance of this material to expansion is five times greater than that of a nylon fabric of identical characteristics, giving a more rigid structure than the nylon based fabrics.

One of Humber's manufacturing advantages is being situated right on the water's edge. Boats can be craned into the water from their production facility to test different sets ups, winched out again for modifications, and then be back on the water over the space of the same high tide. An ideal situation for someone like proprietor Frank Roffe who designs and builds his own boats.

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We went to look at a single seat console version of the 5m Assault fitted with a 70 hp outboard. With tubes and hull both finished entirely in black this boat looked really special, as though it was destined for the SBS. The layout of the test boat was in keeping with its purpose in life; the console was set well forward to allow the maximum amount of room behind it for divers and kit. Swapping boats from the huge 6.5m Humber Destroyer it came as quite a surprise just how far forward it was - I seemed to be looking down directly over the bow of the boat.

Lightly loaded, with two persons on board, the 'Assault' achieved around 40mph on the GPS set, but a boatload of hairy divers and equipment would calm this down considerably. At full, lightly loaded, speed, the helmsman's sat so far forward he can feel every little twitch of the boat - and it did indeed

feel twitchy until I trimmed the engine in a little. Things then settled down nicely, but if I were to buy an Assault for family use I would consider having the console mounted a little further back. But when you buy a boat direct from a manufacturer like Humber minor changes like this are, of course, there for the asking.

The Assault took crash stops and hard turns in its stride and the helmsman found that the tube to deck joints were at just the right distance for him to stuff his feet under to counteract the G forces. A pair of footstraps would be a good investment just in case your legs are not exactly to specification length!

The Assault is a good boat for four or five divers and given a two seat console set a little further towards the stern, it would be an excellent option for a family, or for a powerboat school. In short it would suit me down to the ground - Father Christmas please note!

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VITAL STATISTICS		
HUMBER 5M ASSAULT		
LOA	5m	16'5"
Beam	2.1m	6'10"
Internal Length	3.8m	12'3"
Internal Beam	1.11m	3'4"
Max HP	20-90hp	
Build Details	Capacity 8 persons or 6 divers	

HUMBER

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