

INFANTA 4.7

Dynamite in a small package

Words and pictures by Dean Castle.



Inflatable boats have always had huge appeal. They're ideal as the family runabout, cruising, fishing, or that bit of skiing and tubing. The Infanta 4.7 is a craft that's perfectly suited for providing endless hours of family fun no matter your choice of water activity. The Editor travels to Knysna to check her out.

leisure
boating



Honda Knysna believes in safe and affordable family fun. They cater for the skipper who wants to spend his winnings from the Lotto, as well as for the cost-conscious family who just want to spend time on the water. This is why the Infanta 4.7 comes with plenty of features without being too heavy on the pocket.

Deck layout

There isn't a lot that you can squeeze into 4.7 metres of length without the deck becoming too chaotic. However, Infanta has designed the craft with the essentials in mind, maximizing the onboard space capacity for not only storage, but for moving around, as well.

Up front in the bow, there's a stainless steel rail flanking the bow seat for one passenger. Below the seating, there's storage for your anchor, with an anchor roller on the nose of the bow to ensure the rope and chain don't chafe the pontoon. Further seating for one passenger is built onto the centre console, giving a forward view and allowing the wind to whistle through your hair. And, there's storage for towels, fuel and more under this seating too!

Situated just behind the helm, there's enough space to comfortably seat three passengers. Below is where your covers,



It's a different kind of feeling having the skipper stand while he does what he does best. However, great placement of the controls means that time behind the wheel is actually pretty comfortable.



There's plenty of storage around the craft for all items; be it safety equipment, or necessities for the day on the water.

fuel tanks, battery and more is stored. Everything is easy accessible as the cushioning opens up 'bomb-bay door' style. This seating too has a stainless rail running around it (and incorporates a ski bar), meaning that passengers can feel as safe as houses, no matter how rough the conditions might get.

I've never really believed in not having seating for the skipper, but I must say that I was pleasantly surprised with this Infanta. This has been done to allow for the generous seating at the stern. Although the skipper stands, it's actually relatively comfortable and has the added benefit of always having a clear, unobstructed view of what's going on around the craft. The wheel and throttle sits comfortably in your hands, and I found that standing actually wasn't as bad as I thought it would be.

At the binnacle, there are gauges for speed, rpm, trim and volts, as well as a 12 volt outlet and switch panel.

A hatch in the floor behind the helm lets you keep oars and other safety equipment ready – should you need it.

Performance

This Infanta 4.7 is fitted with a single mount 75 HP Honda outboard. This 4-Stroke motor, with its 1 496 cc displacement, produces 75 HP @ 5 500 rpm at the propshaft. Since it's a Honda, you can rest assured that reliability and fuel efficiency is built in, allowing you to ride around all day to your heart's content.



With the 75 HP at the stern, the Infanta rockets onto the plane in just over three seconds, and gives you enough top end speed to pull a skier.

At a decent cruising speed of around 25 km/h, her rpm sit nice and low, letting the mighty little Honda be as frugal as can be.

The Infanta holds the water well, leaving the ride pretty much predictable. She turns neatly in sharp corners, and exits with perfect tracking and very little loss of speed when at maximum power.

There's no cavitation to be found, and no matter the size of chop I could put her through, she didn't seem to have any ominous sounds emanating from the hull.

Conclusion

For reliability, practicality, affordability and family fun, the Infanta 4.7 scores a solid ten out of ten in my books. She's not only safe for the newly certified skipper, but also offers plenty for the experienced boater as well.

For more information contact Honda Marine Knysna on (044) 382 4090, or email hondamarine@knysna.sa.com ■

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY	
Top speed:	80 km/h
Acceleration (0-plane):	3.2 seconds



TEST CONDITIONS	
Water conditions:	Light chop
Wind Velocity:	5 knots
Air temperature:	18 C
Fuel load:	50 litres
Weight:	3 crew, fuel (50 kg)

ENGINE	
2009 Honda 75 HP	
Engine type:	4-Stroke, 4 cylinder
Horsepower:	75 HP
Displacement:	1 496 cc
Induction:	SOHC
Operating range:	5 000 - 6 000 rpm
Weight:	N.A.
Gear ratio:	2.33:1
Single/Dual mount:	Single

PROPELLER	
Honda stock	
Material:	Stainless
Diameter/Pitch:	17 pitch
No. of blades:	3
Part number:	N/A
MOUNTING HEIGHT	
Hole position:	N.A.
Jack plate:	no
AV mounting:	no

BOAT	
2009 Infanta 4.7	
Buoyancy:	60 % Foam
Length:	4.7
Beam:	2.2 m
Weight w/o engine:	210 kg
Maximum HP:	75 HP
Fuel capacity:	3 x 25 litre
Max passengers:	6
Steering:	hydraulic

*The manufacturer has verified that all specifications are correct prior to print