

Gear On Test

Two of our long term gear and equipment testers, **Ralph Morris** and **Colin Jarman**, report this month on a nifty outboard grip, an electronic charge regulator, Imray's digital charts, Meridian's tidal program, invisible gloves and some special hand cleaners and moisturisers.

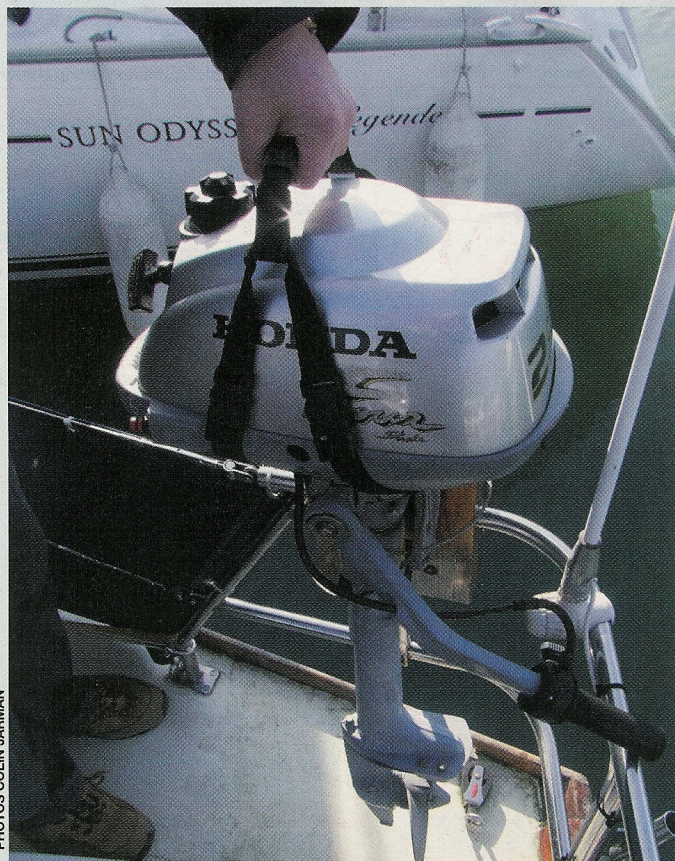
MOTOR GRIP £19.95

Whether you're lifting an outboard into or out of a well, onto or off the stern of a dinghy, on and off a storage bracket on the pushpit, or passing it between boat and tender, you need two hands and a firm grip, which leaves you unable to hold on safely and, probably, with greasy hands. Enter the Motor Grip, which fastens around the engine and provides a lifting handle that's useable with one hand, enabling you to hold on securely with the other.

The Motor Grip is a simple, but well thought out, arrangement of adjustable webbing straps secured with 'squeeze and click' buckles and joined on top of the outboard cover by a flexible plastic handle. This gives a good grip and is quite comfortable.

To fit the Motor Grip, lie the handle across the top of the cover so that the buckles are on one side and the long straps on the other. These are passed underneath the motor, one ahead of and one behind the drive shaft, and are clicked into their respective buckles. The straps are then tightened down and the excess webbing slipped into neat little clip holders provided on the straps. When adjusting the straps, it's best to lift the handle to ensure you can get your hand in and out. The first time we fitted the Motor Grip we just tightened the straps down and then discovered we couldn't slip our fingers under the handle.

Once the Motor Grip is secured in place it can be



PHOTOS COLIN JARMAN

Above: The Motor Grip on a 2hp Honda. Above right: The Grip on a 6hp Mariner. Below left: The o/b is much easier to handle with the Grip in place. Below right: Clip to tidy excess webbing.



Grip can only really be used for lifting or lowering the outboard vertically – in other words between boat and tender or out of a well – it cannot be used for carrying the motor while walking along a pontoon or the drive leg will drag on the pontoon or ground.

In our trials so far, we have found that the handle provides a good grip and that the webbing doesn't interfere with operation of the outboard. All in all the Motor Grip has shown itself to be a practical and convenient lifting system.

Colin Jarman



left there permanently or the buckles can be undone for quick removal and replacement without further



adjustment of the straps. It is designed for loads of up to about 25kg, which equates to engines of up to about 6hp. In our trials we have used it on a 2hp Honda and a 6hp Mariner – it fitted easily on both and both could be lifted with it.

Because the handle is on top of the engine, the Motor

Contact Salty John Boat Products
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WE LIKE

Simple and effective
 Easy to fit and remove

WE DON'T LIKE

Temptation to over load

VERDICT ★★★★★

A carefully thought out, but essentially simple piece of kit that makes life with an outboard considerably easier and a good bit safer.