



Capt. Steve Lamp, a fishing guide from Key West, runs a 2.5XS on his 20-foot Lake & Bay flats boat. Equipped with a Mercury Racing ET propeller, the boat runs in excess of 80 mph.

2.5XS Unveiled For 2005

By Rick Mackie, Mercury Racing Senior Marketing Manager

Mercury Racing announces the release of the all-new OptiMax 2.5XS outboard. Designed for smaller, lightweight boats (flats, bass, and vee bottom and catamaran sport-boats), the custom-built engine features a compact 2.5-liter, V-6 OptiMax powerhead mounted on the 20-inch center section and gearcase developed for Mercury's 3.0-liter line-up. It replaces the legendary 2.5 EFI Series which will be discontinued at the end of the 2005 model year in accordance with the Mercury emissions compliance master plan.

Unlike other direct-fuel-injection (DFI) systems, OptiMax uses an exclusive two-stage process. A 90-psi burst of air shoots through the fuel, breaking it into an ultra-fine mist. This mist creates more surface area for combustion and stays suspended in the cylinder longer, resulting in a more consistent and complete burn. The 2.5XS features a higher air/fuel pressure differential than production engines, which enhances running quality.

The high-revving powerhead is packed with Mercury Racing exclusive features including custom cylinder liner and hand-ground porting. Mercury Racing designed the

piston and cylinder head configuration to fit hand-in-glove for maximum horsepower and engine running quality. The Mercury Racing air intake system features carbon fiber reeds.

The OptiMax 2.5XS comes equipped with a digital SmartCraft Control Area Network (CAN). The CAN electronic control computer processor optimizes fuel, spark timing and knock control for each cylinder independently, enhancing engine running quality and performance. The processor also operates an electronic multipoint lubrication system. The reliable system delivers precise amounts of oil where and when it's needed. The Engine Guardian™ System monitors engine functions to forewarn of possible problems that could lead to engine damage. The CAN computer processor also drives the SmartCraft System Monitor and accessory System Gauges.

The 2.5XS features an exhaust adapter plate with built-in appendages for mounting aftermarket steering wing plates. It also comes with the new Mercury Racing rigging tube kit. The kit features a 2.5-inch tube, which shield all electronics cables, steering cables and fuel lines. The durable tube threads into the one-piece couplers, providing a complete seal at both ends.

Models are available with a 20-inch (508 mm) center section and either a 1.87:1 Sport Master gearcase or 2:1 Torque Master gearcase. The OptiMax 2.5XS comes with a two-year warranty and carries a two-star CARB emissions rating.



OPTIMAX 2.5XS SPECIFICATIONS:

Propshaft Rated Horsepower	225 (168 kW)
Full-Throttle RPM Range	6100-6800
Cylinders	V-6 (60° vee)
Displacement	153 cu. in. (2507 cc)
Bore	3.50" (89 mm)
Stroke	2.65" (67 mm)
Induction System	Direct Fuel Injection
Ignition	Digital Inductive
Charging System	60-amp (846 watt) w/Voltage Regulator
Gear Ratio	1.87:1 Sport Master, 2:1 Torque Master
Fuel/Oil Ratio	Electronic Multipoint
Recommended Oil	Mercury Premium Plus TC-W3
Required Fuel	91 Octane (R+M)/2 Unleaded or 96 RON
Rotation	Right Hand (SM) (TM)
Shaft Length	20" (508 mm)
Weight	(L) 450 lbs. (203 kg)
Warranty:	*

* Two-year limited warranty for recreational boating and three-year limited corrosion warranty. One-year limited Mercury Product Protection Plan available.