John Harries machined bracket

Origo 6000

Force 10

Tasco

Seaward Princess

Three of the four stoves tested were fitted with tab-style mounting brackets. *Practical Sailor* testers found this system far from ideal. To make use of the gimbal, the installer slips a flat-headed bolt (the pivot point) fixed on the stove body into U-shaped brackets mounted vertically into furniture on each side of the stove. He then bends a tab (using pliers or screwdriver) on the bracket outward to keep the stove from leaping out during a knockdown. Although the tabs on each of the brackets we tested supported the stove in static loading during testing, *PS* is concerned that repeated bending of the metal to remove the stove for cleaning or servicing will weaken the tabs. New boat owners should always check that these tabs are engaged.

The Origo 6000 used a different system. A through-bolt connects each stove to the bracket. This is more secure than the tab design, in our opinion. However, both arrangements leave much room for improvement: All the test stoves came with stainless-steel, self-tapping screws. We suggest tossing these and through-bolting the brackets when possible. Our least favorite was the Seaward Princess bracket, with a tab that is attached to the U-mount via three welds, which are prone to failure and corrosion.

Because the tab-style brackets have been used for decades with few reports of problems, makers feel the design is sufficient. However, we'd like to see a safer, more rugged, bulletproof bracket made.

PS contributor and high-latitude cruiser John Harries has come up with a bracket design we prefer, and he had a set machined for his new Force 10 range. Made of half-inch aluminum plate, Harries' brackets are beefy, easy to mount, and can be unscrewed without jeopardizing the metal's integrity. Although Harries' $200 custom-machined brackets are expensive, if they were to be mass-produced, the cost would drop significantly. For more details, visit Harries' website, *www.morganscloud.com*.