



Bill Shaw's fairly high-aspect spade rudder (left), on the P32 diverged from the skeg-mounted rudders typical of many 1970s Pearsons. The saloon table folds up into the bulkhead, opening space in the main saloon (above.) Design ratios for three classic cruisers from the 1970s compare quite evenly (below). Designer Gary Mull's narrower, longer Ranger 33 has a performance edge, though it will have less initial stability than the Pearson. The Pearson's greater beam, draft, and ballast should make it stiffer in a blow than Bill Lapworth's Cal 31. All three deftly straddle the cruiser-racer line, with enough sail area to enjoy Mid-Atlantic summers, yet sufficient ballast and form stability to tuck in a reef and hold their own in windier venues like San Francisco Bay.

