

HOW WE TESTED



Paint by Stripe

Four large fiberglass panels were taped into sections and primed. To evaluate ease of application, each of the 29 topside test paints was applied to a clean, prepped section of the fiberglass panels. Testers followed each manufacturer's directions for

Testers found that Z-Spar's Grand Banks Beige alkyd enamel was the most brushing-friendly product in the mix.

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surface preparation and application.

Two coats of each paint were evenly spread with a foam brush, and testers observed the paint flow, self leveling, and coverage attributes of each color.

Following this side-by-side panel evaluation, testers selected a few top picks from the two-parters lineup and carried out real-world applications as part of the long-term evaluation. Testers applied a variety of paints to an 18-foot Cape Dory Typhoon, an Ericson 41, a Catalina 22, two dinghies, one kayak, and three windsurf boards.

The panel testing included application to both horizontal and vertical surfaces, and the real-world applications offered a true feel for the product's ease of application. With the applications complete, the panels will be mounted outdoors, exposed to the elements, for an extended period of time. Stay tuned for updates on each product's durability, gloss retention, and scratch resistance.