

The new Hunter 49 is one of nine models built using modular technique. In this system, as much as 80 percent of the interior, including bulkheads, plumbing, and electrical systems, is assembled on a structural grid, and that entire unit is then lifted by a gantry and placed inside a new hull. The grid is bonded to the hull using Plexus.

HULL: Hand-laid in a female mold, the 49's hull has a solid fiberglass laminate (alternating layers of chopped strand mat and woven roving) below the waterline and end-grain balsa-cored laminate above. Epoxy resins are used in the skin coat (between the gelcoat and the build laminate) to prevent blistering. Kevlar reinforces the hull skin from the keel forward, beneath the waterline.

DECK: The deck (also hand-laid) is cored with small blocks of marine plywood individually set in a slurry of chopped strand mat and polyester resin, sandwiched between layers of fiberglass cloth and polyester resin. To rein-



To minimize through-hulls, all raw-water intakes are led through a sea chest in the sump.

force the deck for hardware, Hunter adds aluminum plates to the laminate. Supports for the cockpit arch mount through large, beefy areas of solid fiberglass.

HULL-DECK JOINT: Both components have outward-turning flanges adhered with 3M 5200 and affixed first with sheet metal screws and then with No. 10 bolts on 10-inch centers. The joint is capped by a tough rubber rail held in place by a central strip of stainless steel screwed to the junction.

KEEL/RUDDER: The keel is cast using antimonial lead around a stainless frame with stout bolts. Those bolts insert through holes in the keel stub and are secured with plates and nuts as well as an ample bead of 3M's 5200. The spade rudder is fashioned using a solid stainless steel rod with a skeletal steel frame welded to it. That frame supports the foam coring that is sandwiched between layers of fiberglass.

To prevent corrosion and provide some protection from lightning, 8 AWG wires tie the chainplates into the bonding system.

