

## REFIT GUIDE

**QUICK TIP** When buying a used boat, get a full survey by a reputable marine surveyor, preferably one recommended by your insurance company.

nett of Nautical Lumber ([www.nauticallumber.com](http://www.nauticallumber.com)) in Michigan did what he calls a “mild refit.”

The interior was gutted and Stennett—who has built a reputation as the largest source for Boston Whaler restoration woodwork—updated the saloon to the owner’s tastes. This included new cabinetry facades to perfectly match the original bulkheads, a cleverly designed swing-out flatscreen TV that conceals the yacht’s electrical panel, and an electric fireplace. The galley was refreshed with rearranged cabinets, matching locker doors, and Corian counters. The three heads were also renewed to give a newer look with matched ribbon-stripped mahogany and Corian counters. New dining tables (with metal Bertram logos inlaid), teak-and-holly soles in the galley and dinette area, and new carpet finished the project. Accomplished for “well under \$50,000,” says Stennett. The owner finished the refit with a new couch and upholstery. Done while the boat was hauled for the winter at Jefferson Beach Marina, the project took less than four months from start to finish.

So there you have the essence of good refits, as seen by the experts. Plan it carefully, establish a realistic budget, and don’t be lured by all the opportunities that present themselves along the way.

As one of our experts noted, you’ll fall in love with your boat all over again! □

## Boat In A Box

HINCKLEY YACHTS RESCUES A SAVANNAH 54 FROM A FORGOTTEN FACTORY FLOOR.



**Parts of a Whole:** Clockwise from top left, unpacking the parts made for a daunting scene, she’s going together nicely, helm “after” and “before,” the galley begins to gleam—it’s come a long way.

Remember when you were a kid and you saved your allowance until you could go to the local hobby shop? You came home with a box marked Revell or Monogram, opened it, and then had to assemble all the itty-bitty parts?

Well, that’s exactly what one owner presented to the Hinckley service yard in Savannah, Georgia. But it wasn’t for a little toy-sized model.

It was a 54-foot motoryacht. In pieces. Lots of them.

Local builder, Savannah Yachts, had launched just before the economic crunch, built a few yachts, and closed its doors. At the end, several 54s remained in various states of completion, including hull number six.

According to Dustin Hartley, general manager of the Hinckley yard, the hull and deck arrived along with truckloads of pieces: bulkheads, molded

sections, and “just stuff.” The owner’s request: put it all together.

And they did, but it wasn’t as easy as a Revell model. First, says Hartley, they had to undo some of the hasty work done as Savannah Yachts neared the end. They removed the entire deck, realigned it, and reattached it. They removed bulkheads that weren’t square and straightened them, and went over the existing mechanical installations with a fine-tooth comb, fixing and improving as they went.

The project took 18 months, and involved everyone at the Hinckley yard from the electricians who installed and wired the electronics to the expert woodworkers who found that few supplied parts fitted properly, so they had to be duplicated. The entire yacht was then flawlessly painted in the Hinckley paint shed with

Alexseal ([www.alexseal.com](http://www.alexseal.com)).

“I was really proud of our crew,” says Hartley, who says they talked to everyone they could find from the closed Savannah company to learn which pieces went where because the “kit” arrived with no instructions. “I have a great crew of specialists, but none had ever built an entire boat before. They came together as a team and built a yacht to Hinckley standards.”

Which brings us to hull number seven, which is presently at this Hinckley yard looking for an owner. It is a hull only, plus some stray parts, which offers a blank canvas for an owner to create a yacht to his desires, using the craftsmen at Hinckley.

Anyone out there miss those Revell days? □

Hinckley Yachts,  
[www.hinckleyyachts.com](http://www.hinckleyyachts.com)