



BOAT UPGRADES

Rainman Watermaker

We suffered over the decision to buy a watermaker. Did we really need one? Was it worth the expense? Should we get a built in version? Can't we just get water at docks or jerry jug water in? In the end, we decided to add a watermaker. We are hoping to do a lot of cruising in the out islands of the Bahamas this winter and want to be as self sufficient as possible.

Not having a generator onboard we were limited to systems that use 12 VDC or can function off of our little 2000W Honda generator.

The Rainman is made specifically for the Honda generator and is completely portable. It, like our portable A/C, takes some lugging around (it's heavy!) and setting up, but it definitely beats the complexity of a built in system. It makes 32 gallons an hour, which is enough for us for 4 or 5 days. The Honda uses about a quart of gas an hour while operating the watermaker.

One accessory we opted for that has completely paid off this summer in the Chesapeake was the brackish water flow gauge. This allows the unit to be used in pretty much any type of water.

Rainman watermakers can also be mounted inside the boat, in lockers and to through-hulls if you are so inclined. We toyed with this idea, but in the end we have put the membranes in the aft stateroom, the pressure pump assembly in the forward v-berth and run the hoses between. The raw water pick up goes out the porthole. So far the unit has worked great! We have even used it while underway.

ABOUT US



The adventures of the S/V Independence & her crew Matt, Lucy & Hastings. Living life at full throttle (6 knots on a good day, depends on the wind but I don't know sometimes the current is going the wrong way and it's more like 2 knots.)



The Rainman's pressure pump assembly and our Honda genny on the swim step.



Hastings monitoring water creation!



Now I leave the membranes in the aft cabin. Tucked in their case, they fit perfectly on the shelf by the bed.



Brine goes overboard through the drain in the head.



The pressure unit sits on a shelf in the forward v-berth. The raw water pick up goes out the portlight. It even works when making way (you just have to be careful not to get air in the line).



Obviously we don't run the Honda genny down below, because we don't want to die. So it still gets lugged out from it's storage locker.



Filling the tanks!

On another note, we have diesel and gas containers that we use to fill our tanks with. Even in the Chesapeake, we have come across marinas that are too shallow or sketchy for us; we have been able to use our dinghy and containers to fill up on diesel for our engines and gas for our dinghy engine and generator.

We purchased the Rainman from SeaTask in Ft. Lauderdale. Chris has been wonderful showing us how to use the unit and answering follow-up questions. We have no affiliation, just happy customers!



THE LARKS OF THE INDEPENDENCE

This is the story of Matt, Lucy and Hastings, the crew of the sailing catamaran "Independence". "Inde", as her friends call her, is a 2005 Lagoon 380 S2, a 38 foot long French-built beauty.