



Passport Vista 545

Aft Cockpit

A true couple's voyaging boat, the Passport 545 Aft Cockpit combines elegance and classic styling in a thoroughly modern passagemaker

For more than 30 years, Passport Yachts has been building elegant cruising yachts for families who are looking for great designs, true passagemaking capabilities and the classic elegance that transforms a boat into a yacht. Passports have crossed every ocean and many have made fast and safe circumnavigations. And they have always done so with style.

The 545 AC is a member of Passport's Vista family of cruisers and joins the Vista 515 AC and 515 Center Cockpit,

the 545 Center cockpit, the 585 Twin Cockpit and the 615 Twin Cockpit. The Vista brand was created by Passport to highlight the evolution and development of their designs and the increasingly modern approach they take to construction, systems and finish. The company also still builds its Classic 456 and 470 models.

The 545 AC has a hull and deck designed by Passport's Thom Wagner and Graham Bowes for the 545 Center Cockpit that was introduced in 2011. The design has proven to be very sea kindly, fast and easy on the crew. A

true passagemaking yacht should deliver its crew to a new landfall at the end of a passage more rested and happier than when they set off to sea. That is a hallmark of Passports and of the 545.

The aft cockpit design offers a true sailing cockpit with plenty of space for both sail handling and for comfortable outdoor living. The idea is to provide those sailing the boat with the easiest and most efficient ways to handle sails without having to leave the cockpit. The in-mast furling mainsail's outhaul, reefing control lines and mainsheet

run to an electric winch beside the companionway where the sail can be deployed, trimmed, reefed and furled by one person.

The 545, like the other Vista designs, comes with a Solent rig that uses a small jib for upwind work on an inner forestay and a larger genoa or Code Zero for reaching and running on an outer forestay. The jib can be set up to be self tacking with the jib sheet running to a traveler forward of the mast and then back to the cockpit. Or, owners can opt for a slightly larger jib that trims through adjustable sheet cars on the side decks. This larger sail offers better performance in a wider range of wind speeds and the sheets for it can be easily managed with the large, electric primary winches in the cockpit. For off-the-wind sailing or in light breezes up wind, you can furl the jib and roll out the larger genoa, all from the safety and comfort of the cockpit.

Since cruisers tend to spend most of their time in the cockpit while at anchor or in a marina, the size of the aft cockpit will be appreciated by all. The bench seats are long enough for a person to recline or you can sit up to six adults around the folding cockpit table for al fresco lunches.

The 545 has a reverse transom with stairs down to a platform where there is a large fold-down ladder and a hot and cold shower. The stern design allows easy access in and out of a dinghy and is a great swimming platform. Having a hot and cold shower allows you to cleanup in comfort after a swim and is really useful if you cruise with a dog that enjoys swimming and beach combing.

HOME SWEET HOME

The 545, like all Passports, is a semi-custom cruising yacht that can be configured below decks to fit an owner's special requirements within the confines of the major bulkheads



and compartments.

The basic boat has the large master cabin forward with a king-size double berth on the centerline. This configuration makes the bed easy to make up and allows you to climb in and out of bed without disturbing your bed mate. The master head is large and has a big separate shower stall.

The guest cabin lies aft to starboard and has a queen-size double berth and plenty of storage space. The aft head is both the day head and the head for the guest cabin. The plan shows that the head itself is in the shower stall and has a folding seat that covers the WC when the shower is in use. This is an inventive use of space.

The saloon has the galley to port, the

chart table to starboard, a large dinette and a settee across from it. The galley is huge and very well equipped with a three-burner propane stove, separate fridge and freezer compartments and double sinks that are positioned on the boat's centerline where they will drain on both tacks—a feature you will appreciate when sailing offshore.

The U-shaped dinette will seat six for dinner and can be configured with an adjustable table that lowers to be a cocktail table or even to form a large double berth. The settee across from the table can be left as a bench that doubles as a good sea berth or you can insert a removable center table that converts the settee into two easy chairs with the table between.





The chart table is a proper navigator's station with a working space large enough to hold ChartKits or folded paper charts—experienced skippers always carry paper charts. Above the table there is plenty of space to mount a multi-function display, sailing instruments, radios, a sat phone and other items such as a digital barometer. The electrical panels are works of art in themselves and offer ready access to the boat's entire wiring system right behind them. When cruising and passagemaking, the chart table is the place the skipper spends the most time so experienced sailors will appreciate

the thought and work that has gone into making the 545's nav station one of the best you can find.

Just aft of the galley, you will find the utility cabin where the genset can be mounted—and serviced easily—and where you can install a washer drier, watermaker, air conditioning and other systems that make life aboard more comfortable.

The joinery in the 545—as in all Passports—is superb and truly yacht quality. The bulkheads are laminated with careful attention to matching grains. Doors, drawer fronts and cabinet doors are solid wood and built

with intricate louvered fronts. Louvers are attractive but they also allow for constant air circulation that helps to inhibit mildew and mustiness. Owners can choose between American cherry or Burmese teak finishes. It is interesting to note, also, that handholds are built into the woodwork throughout the boat—a detail sailors really appreciate at sea.

To appreciate the dedication to building a proper cruising boat, look at some interesting numbers. The boat comes standard with 1,355 total amp-hours of battery capacity—that's huge. The water tanks hold



200 gallons and the fuel tanks hold 320 gallons. In a pinch—cruising up the Red Sea, for example—a family of four can live for a month on 200 gallons of fresh water.

The 545's powering range is equally impressive. On an extended cruise you often have to motor for long distances, particularly around the equator—800 miles from Panama to the Galapagos or 1,000 miles from Bali to Singapore, for example. The 110-horsepower Yanmar will consume about a gallon an hour at 2,000 rpms. This will drive the 545 at six and a half knots and provides a safe powering range of over 1,500 miles with fuel to spare.

CONSTRUCTION

The 545 is a hand built yacht that combines proven traditional craftsmanship—just look at the wood work—with the latest in high tech hull and deck construction. The hull is solid fiberglass with advanced

stitched biaxial fabric laminated with vinylester resin to prevent blistering. The gelcoat is Ashland Maxguard, which has proven to be extremely durable and colorfast.

Longitudinal and transverse stringers laminated with biaxial cloth and foam coring make the hull extremely stiff. The lead ballast is internal—not bolted onto the hull—and sealed in a fixed modified keel. Even in a serious grounding the watertight integrity of the hull won't be compromised.

The deck is foam cored with Divinylac and all stress points are reinforced with Divinylac H2000 closed cell foam. Deck hardware is through bolted and supported by stainless steel backing plates.

The 545 is built to go to sea in safety, comfort and style. The basic construction, engineering, systems and rig all inspire confidence. The large comfortable cockpit and the finely finished interior offer a home afloat that is truly elegant and stylish. **BWS**

PASSPORT VISTA 545 AFT COCKPIT

LOA	54'6"
LWL	45'5"
Beam	15'2"
Draft (shoal)	5'7"
Draft (deep)	6'6"
Ballast	14,700 lbs.
Displ.	38,500 lbs.
Sail area	1,123 sq. ft.
Water	200 gals.
Fuel	320 gals.
Engine	110-hp.
Yanmar	

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