



## MFA FABRICATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

**S**ponsored by the Marine Fabricators Association (MFA), the Fabrication Excellence Awards contest is designed to recognize excellence in marine fabrication. The entries are displayed throughout the MFA's Marine Fabricators Conference and are judged by a panel of certified marine professionals.

Awards of Excellence and Outstanding Achievement Awards are given in each category.

The MFA recognizes two Awards of Distinction, chosen from the Award of Excellence winners. All winners receive a press release and a plaque.

All of the winning projects, including photos and descriptions, are available on the MFA website, [www.marinecanvas.com](http://www.marinecanvas.com), and at [www.marinefabricatormag.com](http://www.marinefabricatormag.com).

## MARINE INTERIOR UPHOLSTERY



### AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

#### BEACH UPHOLSTERY

*ABSOLUTELY BLOWN AWAY*

**DESIGNER:** Linda Beach

**FABRICATOR:** Linda Beach, Karin Rojas

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Linda Beach

**INSTALLERS:** Terrance Deloatch, Calvin Hicks

**MATERIALS:** Ultraleather® (Buckskin) by Ultrafabrics®

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project was to remodel two interior stationary couches; one straight 7-foot couch and one L-shaped 11-foot couch on the client's 61-foot Craig Blackwell charter fishing boat. The client wanted more storage space and to modernize the worn-out upholstery. This project brought several challenges including a limited budget, which required the reuse of the original couch frames. To achieve both style and functionality, separate plywood boards were joined at the couch bases with joint supports. Piano hinges were installed across the top edge of the new boards to attach to the original frames in addition to 90-pound gas lifts installed at each end of the couches for ease of access. The bases under the seating were adapted to accommodate the needed storage areas and the surface seating was rebuilt to fit. Ultraleather in Buckskin gives the upholstery durability and an elegant feel. A neck roll and new foam for both couches enhanced the plush modern look and comfortable style.

Beach Upholstery  
Virginia Beach, Va.  
[www.beachupholstery.com](http://www.beachupholstery.com)

### OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

#### DAVID'S CUSTOM TRIMMERS

*SUPREME DINING*

**DESIGNER:** Dave Elliott, Aaron Stumer

**FABRICATOR:** Dave Elliott, Aaron Stumer

**INSTALLERS:** Dave Elliott, Aaron Stumer

**MATERIALS:** Ultraleather® by Ultrafabrics®

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project was an indoor/outdoor dining and meeting area with a large U-shaped settee and four semi-tub dining chairs. The owner wanted a clean, modern and uncomplicated looking area for extra dining space and a protected indoor/outdoor meeting area. The project's challenges included making the high-density foam baseboards conform to some very unusual shapes to provide a flat platform for clean-lined foam construction. A lot of time was also put into blending the look of the semi-tub chairs, the settee and the contrasting colored piping.

David's Custom Trimmers  
Wakerly, Queensland, Australia  
[www.davestrimmers.com](http://www.davestrimmers.com)



# MARINE EXTERIOR UPHOLSTERY



## AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

### DAVID'S CUSTOM TRIMMERS

THE DAY LOUNGE

**DESIGNER:** Dave Elliott, Aaron Stumer

**FABRICATOR:** Dave Elliott, Aaron Stumer

**INSTALLERS:** Dave Elliott, Aaron Stumer

**MATERIALS:** Ultraleather® by Ultrafabrics®

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project was to create a functional lounge area for family and guests with a modern clean appearance that incorporates variable position hinging backrests on all daybeds. The owner requested three lounge areas on the front deck and a pair of king-size daybeds, each with twin hinging backrests. The project evolved to add more single-size daybeds with hinging backs to fill in the rest of the deck area, drink holders to slide into the track around the outer edge, platforms for champagne holders, and slide-on pillows for the backrests of the beds. The backrest hinges and tracks were routed into the baseboards to create a seamless look for the all-over storage cover, which was to have no attaching clips in the deck or sides of the cushions. The cover is fitted with removable keder strips with zips attached. The crew unzips the covers and slides the keder strips out for presentation when the owner is onboard.

David's Custom Trimmers  
Wakerly, Queensland, Australia  
[www.davestrimmers.com](http://www.davestrimmers.com)



## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

### CANVAS DESIGNERS® INC.

55 NORDHAVN MOTOR YACHT

**DESIGNER:** Pam Erickson

**FABRICATOR:** Upholstery Department

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Steve Eannarino

**INSTALLERS:** Corey Degroff,  
Jim Lapoint

**MATERIALS:** Sunbrella® by Glen Raven  
Custom Fabrics LLC

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project was to fabricate custom flybridge cushions using Sunbrella Solana Seagull and Sunbrella Sailcloth Seagull. The customer wanted to replace the unattractive large one-piece back with a clean, crisp look in stripes. The redesign required the top of the backrest to fit over the railing, which in turn required the fabrication of heat-molded plastic as a substrate. The seat is an extended knee roll on plastic. The seat back has a slight wedge to it for comfort and is extended over the knee roll.

Canvas Designers® Inc.  
Riviera Beach, Fla.  
[www.canvasdesigners.com](http://www.canvasdesigners.com)



## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

### CHICAGO MARINE CANVAS

SAVED BY THE BAJA

**MATERIALS:** Nautolex® Capitano  
Marine Vinyl by OMNOVA Solutions,  
Tradewinds, Armada and Endurasoft  
by Enduralex™

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** This 32 Outlaw arrived in horrible shape after being abandoned in a Missouri barn for five years. The project included replacing all the cockpit upholstery, which consisted of an engine hatch, aft bench, side panels and twin bucket chairs. The customer wanted to reupholster everything exactly the same, re-creating the original organic wave design and vinyl colors. This required replacing the majority of the existing framing and foam and re-fiberglassing some of the engine hatch for support, which would ultimately be covered by the upholstery. Challenges included design flow and matching up the lines perfectly across multiple upholstered pieces. White foam-backed vinyl was used with ¼-inch foam stitched into the various colored vinyl pieces across each patterned piece before stitching everything together to achieve consistency in look and feel. Detailed double needle stitching and topstitching was common across the project along with some piping.

Chicago Marine Canvas  
Chicago, Ill.  
[www.chicagomarinecanvas.com](http://www.chicagomarinecanvas.com)



# SAILBOAT DODGERS



## AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

### SB MARINE TRIMMING

JEANNEAU 51

**DESIGNER:** Shane Beashel

**FABRICATOR:** Shane Beashel

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Shane Beashel

**INSTALLERS:** Shane Beashel

**MATERIALS:** Sunbrella® by Glen Raven Custom Fabrics LLC, extruded clear vinyl by Achilles USA Inc., Gore® Tenara® thread by W.L. Gore & Associates Inc., Stamoid by Serge Ferrari North America Inc.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project was a three-bow spray dodger that provides protection over the companionway and seating on either side of the companionway. It is also the foundation of a full cockpit enclosure behind it with zips on all trailing edges. The size of this spray dodger proved quite a challenge. There are obvious height requirements for function, as there are lounges on either side of the companionway. To make sure the boat owners were able to sit in these, vertical height needed to be achieved a long way outboard. This then makes it very difficult to reduce the boxy look. Added to this was the primary winches are a long way forward, impeding placement of the aft tension point of the cover. A solid stainless steel support was added to the aft frame to provide necessary tension, with the wing being able to be detached and rolled away. This also became a neat handhold for those lounging underneath.

SB Marine Trimming  
Newport, Australia  
[www.sbmarinetrimming.com.au](http://www.sbmarinetrimming.com.au)



## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

### SB MARINE TRIMMING

JEANNEAU 479

**DESIGNER:** Shane Beashel

**FABRICATOR:** Shane Beashel

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Shane Beashel

**INSTALLERS:** Shane Beashel

**MATERIALS:** Sunbrella® by Glen Raven Custom Fabrics LLC, Strataglass by Strataglass LLC, Gore® Tenara® thread by W.L. Gore & Associates Inc., YKK Zippers by YKK®

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project was a three-bow spray dodger with an opening front U window to provide maximum visibility and a smart look. The primary goal was to provide protection from the elements while sailing or at anchor, but also to serve as the front foundation for other covers to zip to in order to help create an outdoor living space while onboard. The challenge was the approximately 7-foot length fore and aft that needed coverage because of a large companionway. This was overcome with the addition of a third frame to support the roof span. Another challenge was that the cover and frame needed to mount in an area of the boat that was extremely narrow, which would make the spray dodger look very high and boxy sitting on the cabin top. To remedy this, the frame is mounted well inboard on the cabin top while the cover floats off the frame to attach to the outside of the cabin. This gives the dodger a sleek, tapered look.

SB Marine Trimming  
Newport, Australia  
[www.sbmarinetrimming.com.au](http://www.sbmarinetrimming.com.au)



## SAILBOAT ENCLOSURES



### AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

#### DAVID'S CUSTOM TRIMMERS

SV E CAPOE, EXTRA CABIN

**DESIGNER:** Dave Elliott

**FABRICATOR:** Dave Elliott, Aaron Stumer

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Dave Elliott

**INSTALLERS:** Dave Elliott, Aaron Stumer

**MATERIALS:** Sunbrella® by Glen Raven Custom Fabrics LLC, Gore® Tenara® thread by W.L. Gore & Associates Inc., Stamoid Open by Serge Ferrari North America Inc., Makrolon® AR2 by Covestro

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project was a yacht enclosure combining a spray dodger with a bimini to create an extended roof dodger and complete rear enclosure to provide more usable space on the upper deck. The area needed to be light and airy and have exceptional visibility through the windows and clear access through the sides, including clearance for the winches to operate a full 360-degree turn. All the rear enclosure panels had to be replicated and be interchangeable with mesh shade/mosquito screens. The yacht was a challenge, with height restrictions ranging from a very tall owner, potential solar panel mounting on top and a low boom. The finished project was a combination of a traditional two-part dodger and bimini with less framework using "T" fittings on the rear roof section to create greater access into the cockpit. The minimal frame allowed better and bigger clear panels for a greater range of visibility.

David's Custom Trimmers  
Wakerly, Queensland, Australia  
[www.davestrimmers.com](http://www.davestrimmers.com)

### OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

#### CANVAS DESIGNERS® INC.

49 LIBERTY, BIMINI/DODGER  
W/CONNECTOR AND  
THREE-SIDED ENCLOSURE

**DESIGNER:** CAD Department

**FABRICATOR:** Canvas/EZ2CY Departments

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Bob Renna

**INSTALLERS:** Bob Renna, Corey Degroff

**MATERIALS:** Sunbrella® by Glen Raven Custom Fabrics LLC, EZ2CY® by EZ2CY Inc.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project was to re-cover an existing two-bow dodger with a three-bow bimini top using Sunbrella® Doubonnet Tweed fabric with a three-sided removable soft enclosure. Welding the front bar of the bimini to the back of the dodger eliminated the front bar of the bimini, which would have caused an obstructed entry and exit. This made it easier to get in and out of the cockpit and allowed for the incorporation of a clear dodger/bimini connector into this area. The aft end of the bimini is attached to the bimini bow, as opposed to the boom galleys, to accommodate the main sheet. A removable connector piece fills this gap.

Canvas Designers® Inc.  
Riviera Beach, Fla.  
[www.canvasdesigners.com](http://www.canvasdesigners.com)



## SOFT ENCLOSURES



### AWARD OF EXCELLENCE MIKE'S MARINE CUSTOM CANVAS REEL DRAG, ROBALO 24

**DESIGNER:** Dan Johnson

**FABRICATOR:** Faith Thomas

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Mike Johnson

**INSTALLERS:** Dan Johnson, Randy VanVliet

**MATERIALS:** Sunbrella® by Glen Raven Custom Fabrics LLC, Strataglass by Strataglass LLC, Herculite® products by Herculite® Inc., PVC-coated polyester

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The client requested a full four-sided enclosure on a hardtop dual console/bow rider fishing boat that provided maximum visibility and protection from the elements, while allowing easy access and exit from both the front and back. He also wanted extra ventilation capability on the side curtains. The hardtop/boat manufacturer made the project very difficult due to the location and trajectory of the hardtop frame legs and braces (in addition to the undulating hardtop). The curtains had to have specially fitted and sealed cutouts to accommodate the structure. Also, the welded rod holders protruded through the plane of the side curtains and had to be cut around and sealed versus covered up (easier) so they could be utilized even with the curtains on. The aft corners have adjustable buckle straps for easy installation and removal as well as maximum tightening.

Mike's Marine Custom Canvas  
Virginia Beach, Va.  
[www.mikesmarinecanvas.com](http://www.mikesmarinecanvas.com)

### OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

#### LAKE SHORE BOAT TOP COMPANY INC.

DEADLY CATCH, 242 ROBALO CENTER CONSOLE

**DESIGNER:** Rob Kotowski, Bob Kotowski

**FABRICATOR:** Rob Kotowski, Gregory Phillips, Jake Koch, Diana Boskovich, Laurie Boyle, Phyllis Gielow

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Rob Kotowski, Bob Kotowski

**INSTALLERS:** Rob Kotowski, Gregory Phillips

**MATERIALS:** Sunbrella® by Glen Raven Custom Fabrics LLC, O'Sea® Firma by O'Sullivan Films, SolarFix® Thread by Solar Fix, YKK Zippers by YKK®

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The customer wanted a travel cover and enclosure that would provide full protection while driving the boat and an easy way to cover up the boat and keep the three-piece front window section of the enclosure up at all times. The customer needed a creative design that would cover and protect the cockpit and upholstery while in port, while also having a canvas design that would be quick and easy to remove and install so he could get on the water quickly and easily. The two-piece travel cover allows the client to leave his enclosure panels up even while having the travel cover on. The unique part of this project was the construction of the two-piece travel cover that ties into a three-piece front window telephone booth enclosure and still has the option to drive with the front cover attached, keeping the entire boat dry and warm. Small drop panels close off the front of the boat completely so that wind and water will not enter the boat.

Lake Shore Boat Top Company Inc.  
Detroit, Mich.  
[www.lakeshoreboattop.com](http://www.lakeshoreboattop.com)



### OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

#### LAKE SHORE BOAT TOP COMPANY INC.

YOSHI'S ISLAND, 48-FOOT SEA RAY SEDAN

**DESIGNER:** Rob Kotowski

**FABRICATOR:** Rob Kotowski, Gregory Phillips, Jake Koch, Laurie Boyle, Diana Boskovich, Phyllis Gielow

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Rob Kotowski, Bob Kotowski

**INSTALLERS:** Rob Kotowski, Gregory Phillips

**MATERIALS:** Sunbrella® by Glen Raven Custom Fabrics LLC, Strataglass by Strataglass LLC, SolarFix® Thread by Solar Fix, Stamoid by Serge Ferrari North America Inc.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The customer wanted an enclosure that would improve his visibility and comfort while boating, specifically larger front and side windows to increase sight lines at the helm. Acrylic bonded windows used on the front three panels ensured the customer would have an unobstructed view all the way around. To provide ventilation, everything else was built with 60mil Strataglass, and three screen vents were included at the top of the front windows to provide airflow. This project required the fabricators to drill and tap the entire windshield edge and apply track to ensure a strong and watertight enclosure. An additional challenge was eliminating existing panels and making others larger, which made it tricky to handle and protect the large panels during fabrication.

Lake Shore Boat Top Company Inc.  
Detroit, Mich.  
[www.lakeshoreboattop.com](http://www.lakeshoreboattop.com)



# RIGID ENCLOSURES



## AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

### SEA 2 SKY UPHOLSTERY & CANVAS

SLEEK SEA RAY

**DESIGNER:** Ryon Figgins

**FABRICATOR:** Sea2Sky Crew

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Ryon Figgins

**INSTALLERS:** Ryon Figgins

**MATERIALS:** Sunbrella® by Glen Raven Custom Fabrics LLC, SolarFix® Thread by Solar Fix, Top Gun® by Marlen Textiles, Makrolon® polycarbonate by Covestro

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project was a custom stainless steel rigid framework supported by a radar arch and welded forward legs, leaving a minimally obstructed view. The purpose was to provide a leak-proof, temperature-controlled and quiet environment with maximum visibility due to the flybridge being the only helm. The rigid top, in lieu of an expensive fiberglass hardtop, is strong enough to withstand 70 mph winds, offers configurable ventilation for any northwest weather and provides a sleek look that emphasizes the fast profile of the boat. The unique aspect of this top is the way the visor was constructed to be a hollow, watertight and usable space for storage. The visor is divided into three sections: the left and right sides are closed off to provide the storage and the center is openable for ventilation. Poly plastic sheets were cut and bent to provide a rigid floor for the storage spaces. There is a zipper opening flap at the center section to allow for dry ventilation while sitting through the changing temperatures of the day or to serve as an air scoop while under way to help prevent any exhaust fumes from accumulating in the space. The side and aft windows use a unique zipper arrangement that allows for three sides to be opened with two zippers without affecting the view lines at their transitions.

Sea 2 Sky Upholstery & Canvas  
Federal Way, Wash.  
[www.sea2skyupholstery.com](http://www.sea2skyupholstery.com)

## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

### LAKE SHORE BOAT TOP COMPANY INC.

PICTURE WINDOW, 510 SEA RAY  
FLY ENCLOSURE

**DESIGNER:** Rob Kotowski

**FABRICATOR:** Rob Kotowski, Gregory Phillips, Jake Koch, Laurie Boyle, Diana Boskovich, Phyllis Gielow

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Rob Kotowski, Bob Kotowski

**INSTALLERS:** Rob Kotowski, Gregory Phillips

**MATERIALS:** Sunbrella® by Glen Raven Custom Fabrics LLC, Strataglass by Strataglass LLC, SolarFix® Thread by Solar Fix, YKK Zippers by YKK®, 80-mil Acrylic, Aqua marine glass

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The customer had a factory-built enclosure with polycarbonate windows that after one year were heavily scratched. The project redesigned the entire 15-panel bridge enclosure using bonded hard acrylic window glass to give the customer a more rigid enclosure and a better view from the bridge. Patterning this job was challenging due to the height of the bridge. The limited walk-around required the use of secure ladders and safety harnesses, and the rear enclosure required multiple steps because there were two windows per panel and each of the panels had to be bonded. Precision cutting and bonding needed to be done to ensure that all sight lines would line up properly.

Lake Shore Boat Top Company Inc.  
Detroit, Mich.  
[www.lakeshoreboattop.com](http://www.lakeshoreboattop.com)



## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

### SEACANVAS LLC

FIVE HUNDRED

**DESIGNER:** Carl Pellegrini

**FABRICATOR:** Gladys Maxwell, Carl Pellegrini

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Carl Pellegrini

**INSTALLERS:** Carl Pellegrini, Gladys Maxwell

**MATERIALS:** EZ2CY® by EZ2CY Inc., Sunbrella® by Glen Raven Custom Fabrics LLC, Gore® Tenara® thread by W.L. Gore & Associates Inc., YKK Marine Mates® Zippers by YKK®

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project was a full enclosure replacement on this bridge deck cruiser. It was fabricated with rigid acrylic .080 EZ2CY® on every window. There were a total of 17 windows with six of them hinged in the aft section. A new Sunbrella® color completed the transformation and gave the project a fresh look. The large size of the windows increased the complexity of this job as did the hinged windows in the aft section and going through the corners.

SeaCanvas LLC  
Egg Harbor Township, N.J.  
[www.seacanvas.com](http://www.seacanvas.com)



# TOPS



## AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

### DAVID'S CUSTOM TRIMMERS

*THE HARDTOP EFFECT*

**DESIGNER:** Dave Elliott

**FABRICATOR:** Dave Elliott, Aaron Stumer

**INSTALLERS:** Dave Elliott, Aaron Stumer

**MATERIALS:** Stamoid Open by Serge Ferrari North America Inc.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project was a hardtop-effect roof to go over the mid-aft deck, which had a solar panel mounting system attached. The client requested a roof that blended with the bridge deck hardtop and was not an old-fashioned lace-on job. The client also required the solar mounting system to be mounted as low to the soft roof as possible, which required the design of custom end fittings. Extra frames were also installed for future solar panels to be added by the owner. This was a huge roof to pattern and fit all around the bridge deck rails, while keeping it as light, tensioned and waterproof as possible.

David's Custom Trimmers  
Wakerley, Queensland, Australia  
[www.davestrimmers.com](http://www.davestrimmers.com)

## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

### MARINE TOPS UNLIMITED

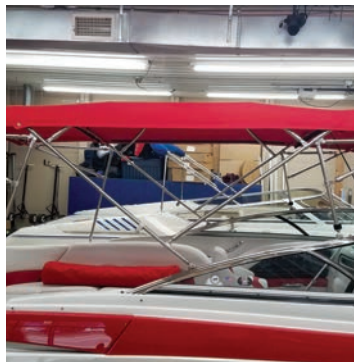
*CROWNLINER TOP  
W/ CANTILEVER FRAMEWORK*

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Kyle Van Damme

**MATERIALS:** Sunbrella® by Glen Raven Custom Fabrics LLC

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** This four-bow bimini top, double cantilever extension awnings and 3/4 enclosure were made to provide sun protection, be ultra user friendly, and be aesthetically pleasing and functional. The entire frame is made so it easily folds up into one big boot. For the main bimini top, both the front and rear cantilever bows are mounted to jaw slides on the vertical support arms, which are not riveted or secured with a set screw, but rather have a large quick-release pin. This allows them to slide down to the support arm and be re-pinned into place so all of the frames will fold up and lie at the same level when the frame is laid back in the booted storage position. The horizontal support arms for the cantilever bows that put tension on the top all have quick-release pins to easily remove and stow away when the frame is in the booted position. Each support arm is labeled for easy re-installation.

Marine Tops Unlimited  
Madison, Wis.  
[www.marinetops.com](http://www.marinetops.com)



## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

### MIKE'S MARINE

*CUSTOM CANVAS  
PARKER 28 PILOTHOUSE  
RETRACTABLE CANOPY TOP*

**DESIGNER:** Mike Johnson

**FABRICATOR:** Darlene Phillips

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Mike Johnson

**INSTALLERS:** Dan Johnson and Randy VanVliet

**MATERIALS:** Stamoid Open Cream by Serge Ferrari North America Inc.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project was to build and install a retractable canopy to cover 8 feet of a 12-foot-long cockpit. The client wanted it built so that he could also shorten it to 4 feet of coverage to provide overhead room to maneuver while fishing versus cruising or camping. He also requested adding brackets with crossbar racks to his existing rooftop grab rails to carry his stand-up paddle boards and kayaks. The project incorporated a double-crowned main frame installed in a horizontal position, with a crowned center rafter mounted with stainless steel "T" fittings. Aft legs and forward diagonal braces support the frame, and a slide track with carrier hinges installed on the rooftop receives the front ends. The vinyl top zips to Costa Track® with a welt at the forward end, and a zippered pocket secures it at the aft end of the frame and center rafter.

Mike's Marine Custom Canvas  
Virginia Beach, Va.  
[www.mikesmarinecanvas.com](http://www.mikesmarinecanvas.com)





# TRAVEL/FULL COVERS



## AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

### CANVASWORKS INC.

TRAVEL COVER FOR 2017 SCOUT 225XSF

**DESIGNER:** Duane Smith

**FABRICATOR:** Duane Smith

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Duane Smith

**INSTALLERS:** Duane Smith

**MATERIALS:** Top Notch® by Marlen Textiles, Sur Last® by Glen Raven Custom Fabrics LLC

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project was a custom three-piece ratchet strap travel cover for a 2017 Scout 225XSF. The client wanted a cover to fully protect his boat while on the road. He also wanted a cover that would be easier to handle than a large one-piece cover. The three-piece design and the #15 LENZIP zipper connecting the front and rear pieces are both unique design attributes to this project. This cover also has welded main seams. The tall structure of the boat made aerodynamics a chief concern in creating the cover, so the boat was first laser measured, then cut on a CNC plotter/cutter, and finally hand-tailored for the ultimate custom fit.

Canvasworks Inc.  
Cokato, Minn.  
[www.canvasworksincmn.com](http://www.canvasworksincmn.com)

## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

### KASTELIC CANVAS AND TRIM

28-FOOT MAGIC POWERBOAT

**DESIGNER:** Zach Muehlfelt

**FABRICATOR:** Zach Muehlfelt

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Mark Muehlfelt

**INSTALLERS:** Tom Catalano

**MATERIALS:** Sunbrella® by Glen Raven Custom Fabrics LLC

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The customer wanted a hybrid cover to both trailer with and serve as an "on-the-water" cover. The cover includes pocketed front pickle forks, turn-snap fasteners in the bow edge of the cover, Scoville DOT® snaps down the sides and in the rear, and a bow plane that is sealed with Xtreme Seal® to ensure a water- and wind-resistant fit while trailering. Designing the cover with the pocketed fronts and hardware mounted closer to the bow and upper deck area allows the owner to easily slip the front of the cover on and attach the snaps and turn-snaps from inside or outside the boat. Challenges included the boat layout and intended use. Aesthetics played a large part as well. The line of Scoville snap studs installed in the boat match the body lines to make it visually flow, and make it easy to install the cover from inside the boat. To make the reinforced front pockets functional and aesthetically pleasing, seven separate panels were custom templated to match the planes of the boat, allowing for an attractive, durable, tight fit.

Kastelic Canvas and Trim  
Plainfield, Ill.  
[www.kasteliccanvas.com](http://www.kasteliccanvas.com)



## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

### DIGISHAPES™

KEEPIN' IT CLEAN

**DESIGNER:** Tim James

**FABRICATOR:** Dave Killian

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Tim James

**INSTALLERS:** Dave Killian

**MATERIALS:** proTex™ by digiShapes™

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project was a fully automatic, breathable, form-fitted boat cover that covered the entire boat down to the waterline. The client was tired of the amount of time it took to put on the original mooring covers, along with the constant cleaning required to keep the boat ready for an afternoon on the water. The client also wanted to ensure the black gelcoat on the boat was protected from sun damage. To address these issues, the client opted for a SwiftShield™ fully automatic cover, which does not require support poles and relies on a perfect fit and tension applied by the mechanism to shed water. The finished cover was measured in 3-D and designed by calculating the seam curves and using amorphous panels to create a glove-like fit, even over large expanses of unsupported fabric.

digiShapes™  
Kent, Wash.  
[www.digishapes.com](http://www.digishapes.com)



## MARINE MISCELLANEOUS



### AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

#### LAKE SHORE BOAT TOP COMPANY INC.

*"BYE BYE DONALD—DAISY IS SINGLE!"*

**DESIGNER:** Bob Kotowski, Rob Kotowski

**FABRICATOR:** Rob Kotowski, Gregory Phillips, Jake Koch, Laurie Boyle, Diana Boskovich, Phyllis Gielow

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Bob Kotowski, Rob Kotowski

**INSTALLERS:** Rob Kotowski, Gregory Phillips

**MATERIALS:** Top Gun® by Marlen Textiles, SolarFix® Thread by Solar Fix

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** This project was an adjustable frame that would provide protection from the elements during duck hunting, while also allowing a duck blind to be built off of the frame to hide the customer and his dog from view. The customer wanted to be able to fold down the frame inside the boat while running with the boat on the water. This frame structure also needed to sit in the folded position when trailering the boat by truck so the custom full travel cover could be installed to cover the cockpit when not in use. The frame was designed with adjustable tent poles so it is easy to set up and close down. It can also be set up at different heights and widths for different people or hunting options. Bent stainless steel tubing for the main bow supports and rigid supports are secured to the boat to help support the weight load of this job. Added belting on both sides allows the customer to hang his needs to help cover the boat.

Lake Shore Boat Top Company Inc.  
Detroit, Mich.  
[www.lakeshoreboattop.com](http://www.lakeshoreboattop.com)

### OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

#### HOOD CANVAS LLC

SAIL PACK

**MATERIALS:** Sunbrella® by Glen Raven Custom Fabrics LLC, YKK Zippers by YKK®, SolarFix® Thread by Solar Fix

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project was to fabricate a mainsail handling system for a 1972 Douglas 32 sloop. The pack is supported by two 5/8-inch by 14-foot round battens and lazy jack lines on each side. The top has a zipper and is tracked forward with zippers to the backside of the mast. The outside of the pack is Toast Sunbrella® and the entire inside is lined with 6.5-ounce Dacron®, including the long batten pockets. Each side is joined at the bottom with webbing and a sail slide in the middle. The mainsail is loose footed. It was tough to get the shape of the pack correct to fit the sail exactly without the excess bagginess common with some other designs. Circumference patterns were made from cardboard aboard the boat. The Dacron lining is important to the correct furling inside the pack when the mainsail is lowered. The forward end of the pack does not wrap around the mast like many, but instead has an awning track on each side aft of the mast with a zipper attached to close in the forward end tightly behind the boom at the end of the day.

Hood Canvas LLC  
Merrimac, Mass.  
[www.hoodcanvas.com](http://www.hoodcanvas.com)



### OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

#### DAVID'S CUSTOM TRIMMERS

THE SUSPENDED SHADE SYSTEM

**DESIGNER:** Dave Elliott

**FABRICATOR:** Dave Elliott, Aaron Stumer

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Dave Elliott

**INSTALLERS:** Dave Elliott, Aaron Stumer

**MATERIALS:** Stamoid Light by Serge Ferrari North America Inc., Gore® Tenara® thread by W.L. Gore & Associates Inc., YKK Zippers by YKK®, WeatherMAX® by Safety Components

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project was a very large suspended set of roll-out awnings attached to the boom and completed with a joiner panel from the awnings to the bimini. The awnings were suspended between the outer stays and bimini with no battens used. The sides roll up separately to allow easy side access and create adaptability, ending with a flat roof. These suspended boom bag awnings were nearly 9 meters long and it was a challenge to achieve the tension required on the outer spine or edge. Adding a small pulley block at the front provided an extra tension point for a 3-to-1 pulling ratio. The other challenge was making the roller furling sail cover strong enough to attach the bagged awnings when deployed. An extra triple overlapped Velcro® system was added to take the pressure away from the zippers at the main tension areas front and back.

David's Custom Trimmers  
Wakerly, Queensland, Australia  
[www.davestrimmers.com](http://www.davestrimmers.com)

