



# KISS 'N' Tell

Wit and Wisdom from the Prophet of Product

**R**UMOR HAS IT A LOT OF RACE DRIVERS USE KISS-Cote on their hulls and in their engines to gain a speed advantage. What is Kiss-Cote? It's a high-tech coating that contains self-bonding polymers in a slick finish that can reduce drag and surface friction.

I chatted with Kiss-Cote inventor Dr. Keith Kent, and he clicked off a list of Kiss-Cote uses that range from coating valves in pacemakers to speeding up offshore powerboats. For example, he said that Gentry's trans-Atlantic 110' gained 2 knots, going from 79.5 to 81.5 knots after a Kiss-Cote treatment. Dr. Kent sent me a sample and then talked me through a mini-demo via telephone. He told me to put a minuscule drop of Kiss Cote on a towel and spread it over a portion of a clean window. Even though I couldn't clearly see the Kiss-Coted area, when I dragged a towel across the window as instructed, my hand went sailing when the towel hit the coated area. Friction was amazingly reduced.

Days later, I applied Kiss-Cote to an area of my Pro-Line, but I couldn't really measure a speed difference with any accuracy because the bottom was cleaned and Kiss-Cote was

applied at the same time. I do notice that grass and slime on the sides of the boat tends to slip off under way because it can't hang on like it did before I applied Kiss-Cote. What does remain is easier to remove.

Technical achievements do not come cheap. Kiss-Cote costs about \$500 a quart. That should be enough to cover a 40' or 50' boat bottom and sides with some left-over to put in your engine. Yep, in your engine, because it's supposed to reduce friction there, too. If you're looking for technical information or more uses for Kiss-Cote, check out Dr. Kent's website at [www.kiss-cote.com](http://www.kiss-cote.com).

## MOVING INTO A HIGHER BRACKET

No, it's nothing to do with taxes. (One of the advantages of working at POWERBOAT is that there's very lit-

BOY! THAT KISS-COTE REALLY DOES REDUCE FRICTION! HE BETTER USE LESS THROTTLE NEXT TIME HE PUTS HIS BOAT ON THE TRAILER!



D I C

P I G

## WHEEL STEAL

With propellers costing \$500 to \$600 and up, BoatLock at \$70 or less seems like a good investment. It installs in seconds to protect the lower unit and the propeller on outboards from 70 hp to 300 hp and more. Built from hardened steel, vinyl for high visibility, the a pick-resistant lock. For more information, see [www.unbreakabl.com](http://www.unbreakabl.com).

## HIGH JACK

You can lift your outboard with the new Panther Elevator from Goldeneye's Products. It handles outboards from 4

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check out [www.goldeneyep.com](http://www.goldeneyep.com)