

MONTEREY 234 FS/FSX

Sporty performance in a sleek package.

by Tom Thompson



Monterey Boats has unveiled another gem in its Facet Series sportboats. The 234 FS is a sleek-looking, agile-performing bowrider ideal for wakeboarding, skiing and towing. Its spacious interior and long list of standards add up to a fun time on the water. The 234 FS is priced to fit a budget, but if you want to go full tilt, the limited-edition 234 FSX comes tricked out with a premium sound system, custom exhaust and upgraded graphics.



The 234 FS offers a wide range of choices of MerCruiser and Volvo Penta power from 220 to 320 hp. I tested an FS powered with a Volvo Penta 270-hp 5.0 GXi coupled with a single-prop drive, and an FSX with a MerCruiser 320-hp MX 6.2L engine and Bravo 3 drive. Both were quick off the line and nimble in turns. Handling was excellent in a light chop and the ride was dry. The FS topped out at 46 mph, and the FSX hit 51 at wide-open throttle. The 5.0 GXi delivers a thrifty 3.5 mpg while cruising at 38 mph. The throaty exhaust of the Corsa Quick and Quiet system on the FSX adds to the offshore running experience.

The 234 FS/X boats have a spacious cockpit with a wraparound bench aft, and a flip-up bolster and swivel bucket seats forward behind a curved, automotive-style windshield. Storage compartments are located under the bench cushions. The one forward of the engine compartment holds a removable 25-quart cooler. In the cockpit sole there's a ski locker that actually has a lock. The helm sports a futuristic, high-tech look in matte silver, dark gray and jet black.

One feature you'll really appreciate when nature calls is located in the port-side console. It's an enclosed head compartment with a portable toilet. There's another storage compartment in the starboard-side console to keep your gear dry. A full-beam sunpad across the

The top two photos show the 234 FS, while the others are of the tricked-out FSX, a limited edition that boasts a premium sound setup, a bow and cockpit cover, and other goodies.



engine compartment has removable sections to starboard that create a walkway to the swim platform. The sections conveniently stow away in a dedicated space built into the engine hatch.

The swim platform extends nearly 2 feet and has a side-facing boarding ladder. For safety, it's starboard, giving the driver a view of people in the water. The boat's optional transom shower stows in a storage compartment to port.

The bow has bench seating that can face forward or aft. Interior handholds are well-placed for when the ride gets bumpy. Monterey also offers grabrails that run aft on top of the gunwales. They're part of an optional package on the FS that includes a recessed bow boarding ladder and a convenient grabrail on the swim platform that spans the aft end off the sunpad. These items are all standard on the FSX model.

The 234 FS comes with an AM/FM stereo with CD player that hides in the glovebox on the port side. It has four speakers and a wireless remote on the swim platform. The premium upgrade is a Kenwood dual-amplifier system with six speakers and a subwoofer, plus a remote at the helm. This comes standard on the FSX. Sirius satellite radio is also available for the premium system.

The standard canvas package on the 234 FS is a bimini top with a boot. On the FSX, you also get a bow and cockpit cover. If you add the optional wakeboard tower to either model, you'll get a bimini that's custom-configured to fit around it.

Performance and good looks come in a convenient package with the new Monterey 234. Whether you choose the FS or FSX version, you're bound to have good times on the water. ↓

Specs

LOA.....	24'
Beam	8'6"
Draft	3'2"
Weight	4,300 lbs. (FX) 4,500 lbs. (FSX)
Fuel capacity.....	62 gals.
FS base power	5.0L MerCruiser w/ Alpha
Base price	\$39,548
FSX base power	MerCruiser 350 Magnum MPI w/ Bravo 1
Base price	\$49,973

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