Article published on August 5th 2012 | Business

The boat is one of the earliest forms of transport to cross the water bodies like rivers or lakes. Boats were also used in fishing in these water bodies. Boats were rowed manually by a number of rowers depending on the size of the boats. Modern day boats are automatic and do not need manual rowing. Boat propellers, also called as boat props in short can be used to move the boats. Boat props are available in different sizes and types based on the requirement and the type of boat.

Boat prop work on Newtonâ€™s third law of motion which states â€œEvery action has an equal and oppos reactionâ€•. In a propeller, the action refers to the water that is pushed backward by the propeller blades and the reaction is the boat moving forward. Further, a vacuum is created at the propeller blade front side when the water is pushed backwards by the propeller. This vacuum facilitates the movement of the boat in the forward direction by pulling on the propeller blade. The strength of the vacuum created is proportional to the speed of the boat. More the vacuum created, the higher is the speed of the boat and more the volume of water that is pushed backwards.

Propeller selection is an important criterion in maximizing a boatâ€™s performance. An engine to perform well should run within the recommended RPM. A right boat prop will ensure the RPM range and help the engine apply maximum horsepower to the water.

The propellers vary in terms of size, material and number of blades. The size of a propeller is measured in terms of diameter and pitch. Smaller diameter props are used for smaller boats and larger diameter props for larger boats. Number of blades commonly is either three or four. The material of the propeller can be composite, aluminium or stainless steel.

Propeller selection should be made with utmost care considering the type of boat for which it is used.

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Article Keywords:
Boat props, Boat prop

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