



*The Lavac uses a separate diaphragm pump for filling and flushing.*



## Look for the Lavac in Upcoming Head Tests

**T**he Lavac head's simplicity is appealing. It is essentially a toilet bowl with large lip seals that seal the bowl tight so that a vacuum may be created to fill and flush the bowl with a separate diaphragm pump. The manufacturer claims no macerator is required and that each flush uses only about three pints of water.

Testers found the 30-page Lavac manual to be excellent. It covers more topics than the manuals for other heads, including a discussion on seacocks and hull materials, several installation diagrams showing recommended hose configurations with and without holding tanks, a discussion of types of holding tanks, winterizing, detailed maintenance instructions, and a diagnostic chart.

The Lavac requires a 7.5-inch flat surface for mounting. Its manual pump (see photo above right) is a Henderson Mark V diaphragm type, essentially the same as a manual bilge pump. An electric pump is available. The pump must be mounted vertically, but can be mounted anywhere near the toilet. Its inlet valve, however, must be higher than the water in the bowl.

The manual pump stands 5.5 inches off the mounting surface, and is 7.5 inches from inlet to outlet. If you have

the space behind a false bulkhead or in a large cabinet, you will be able to conceal the pump and hose.

Key to the Lavac's proper function is the lid seal and tiny air-bleed plug that must be installed at a high point of the intake line. After flushing, this valve breaks the vacuum in the toilet bowl, allowing the lid to be lifted. It is important to keep this valve free of clogs. In the event it does clog, sticking a pin in the plug's hole will remedy the problem.

As often happens on sailboats of all sizes, testers found that the size and layout of the Beneteau test boat's head was not conducive to installing the Lavac. After several attempts to find a convenient place for the pump, we opted not to go with the Lavac for this particular comparison. It will, however, be featured in more detail in the larger comparison to come.

### CONTACTS

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