Tube, connector, and wiring details revealed some of the more obvious differences in the construction quality of the refrigeration units we tested.

1. Soldered unions on the Adler Barbour showed signs of corrosion and, once installed, could not be removed without refrigerant replacement.

2. The Adler Barbour uses the undesirable RJ-11-type plug to connect the thermostat to the control unit.

3. The Sea Frost system uses an expansion valve to meter the pressure of the liquid refrigerant entering the evaporator plate.

4. The well-made unions on the Frigoboat system could be taken apart without requiring a complete recharge.