

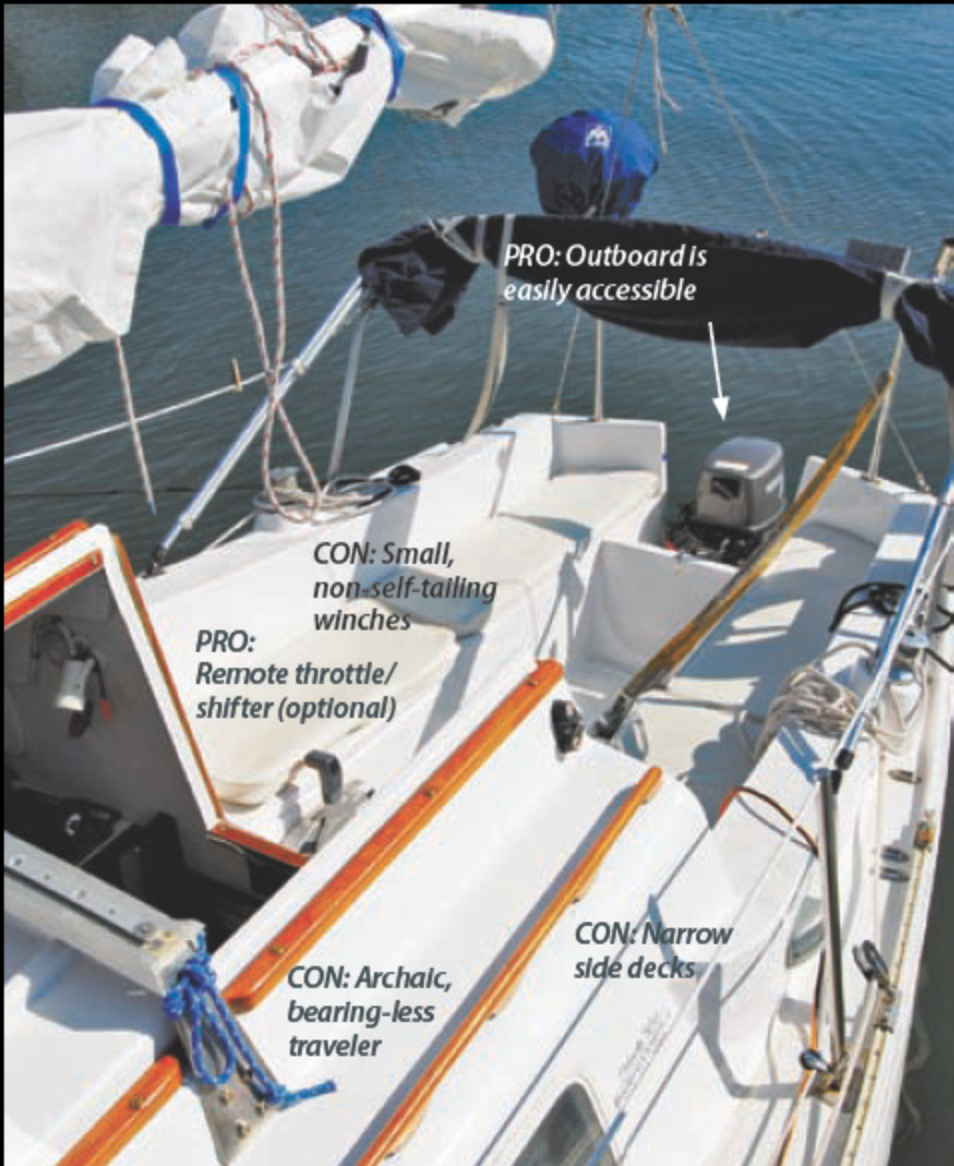
## CRITIC'S CORNER: BALBOA 26

### PROS

- *Hinged mast step simplifies stepping, un-stepping.*
- *Floats in 22 inches of water, steers in about 30 inches.*
- *Hull and deck construction above average for its era.*
- *Mid-boom mainsheet allows room for cockpit bimini top.*
- *Large companionway offers good ventilation below.*

### CONS

- *Lift-out rudder does not kick up to steer in skinny water.*
- *Engine location aft of rudder restricts maneuverability.*
- *Mid-boom sheeting and inefficient, high-friction traveler offer a workout.*
- *Sharp angle of aft lower shroud at mast increases load on wire and chainplate.*



*When under sail, the jib-sheet trimmer sits aft of the tiller, giving the helmsman a clear view ahead. But no matter the seating arrangement, leg room for four adults is tight.*



*Hinged mast step*



*Aft lower shroud chainplate*