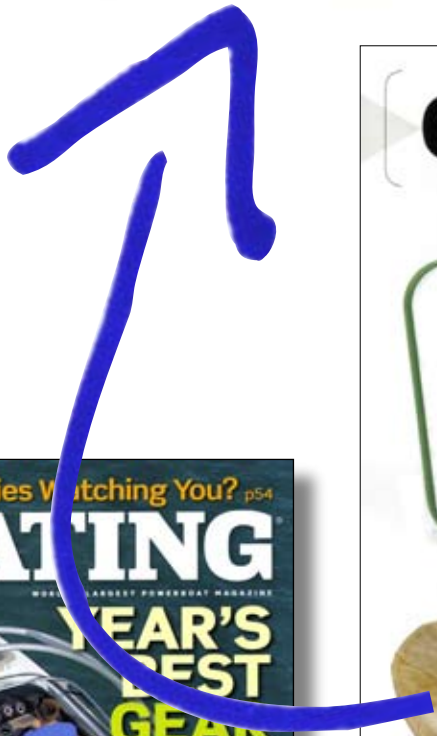


REAL DEAL BRAZIL WRITEUP,
"BOATING," OCTOBER 2009



◀ **REAL DEAL CHAPEAU**

Recycled. Do you ever get tired of hearing this overused marketing ploy? Then along comes this wide-brimmed hat offering boaters big sun protection, and guess what? It, and all Real Deal tarp hats, is made from recycled cargo tarps for a casual, light and cool-to-wear, weathered-in look. Shape the brim to suit your mood. They don't float, so hold it on at speed. \$29.99; tarpthat.com



Gearhead

◀ **WEATHER CADDY**

Want to know the weather at a glance? Of course you do; you're a boater. This gizmo by Ambient reports three-day forecasts and automatically updates when accuweather.com does. It's easier than watching the clock strike "five," gives three days of high/low temps, rain, thunder, wind speed and wind direction, and it tells the current time — so you won't miss happy hour. \$129.99; ambientdevices.com



▲ **RESCUE TAPE**

Stretch this silicone tape around a leaky pipe and it fuses to itself, forming a 700 psi seal that takes more than 500 degrees Fahrenheit to burn off. We've fixed leaking water pipes, broken VHF antennas, radiator hoses and insulated trailer light wires with it. The clear tape lets you inspect wiring connections, and colored tape lets you index wires for easy tracing. \$24.95 for two 12-foot rolls; rescuetape.com



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▶ **MESH-TOP VEST**

Here we found safety and comfort in a practical life jacket. Eight separate pockets keep gear organized and the mesh top lets the body keep itself cool in muggy weather. A neoprene collar won't chafe the neck during all-day wear. Two buckles reinforce the heavy-duty polymer zipper. It's available in sizes small through 4XXL. \$39.99; basspro.com



◀ **XPS PFD VEST**

This is the life jacket our crew would wear in performance boats. The flexible foam hugs the body and flexes comfortably with it, but the thick padding also offers the impact resistance that performance bass boaters like. Its four large pockets have drain holes, should you actually find yourself in the water. \$49.99; basspro.com