



AC Compressor & Line Set

Excerpts from recent Houseboat forum exchanges at www.houseboatmagazine.com/forum

JTAlberts: I currently have two rooftop units on my Pluckebaum that are long in the tooth and both are in the same room. Therefore the back bedroom receives zero cooling if the door is closed.

I am looking at either a mini-split setup, traditional HVAC setup, or a geothermal unit.

As far as you guys out there with standard residential setups, are your lines to your outdoor unit just standard copper lines? I am somewhat concerned the vibration will break the copper. Also, how do you have the lines coming into your boat? Is that area sealed up?

Zilpo55: I have an aluminum barge-style hull 73-foot houseboat with a 3-ton house style HVAC unit. The blower unit is horizontal near the front with about 40 to 50 feet of copper lines going to the outside unit. My boat is 19 years old and the system has been replaced once, but not the copper lines. Plastic straps support the lines along the way, which I assume absorb some vibration. I've never heard of issues with the lines on this kind of setup.

The multi-split units look like a great solution for many boats. We saw a nicely refurbished Gibson with the rooftop unit replaced by a multi-split. They had wall mount blowers in the salon and back cabin. The outside compressor unit size and weight gives a lot of options on where to locate it.

I am very interested in what you decide. Please keep us posted.

easttnboater: I just replaced my 4-ton unit last year, and they reused the existing copper lines. The lines come through the rear bulkhead and are foamed in place back there.

I think the mini-split could be a good idea. The only issue that I see is that inside units are typically sized much bigger than what would be needed in the typical houseboat stateroom.

JTAlberts: The front salon in my boat is very large with massive windows. The back bedroom is smaller but that unit will also help cool the bathroom and kitchen area. I think the large windows will be the main reason the larger units will work. You can get fairly small units now as well.

easttnboater: As with any HVAC system for a minimally insulated space, the sizing is critical.

Have you got any questions or advice about searching for a houseboat? **Hop on the forum and join the conversation.**



Boating Recipes

Bob Johndrow's cookbook *Boat Cooking and Entertaining* just hit the shelves this month and it's packed with scrumptious recipes. As an avid boater and practiced chef, Bob made a habit of inviting friends over to the marina for dinner every weekend of the boating season. He'd wow them course by course and he'd sometimes even play his fiddle for them. Great company and delicious food made these some truly memorable weekends. With his new cookbook, he hopes to inspire other boating chefs like himself to create some spectacular dishes aboard their boats. He's included some of his favorite recipes such as his famous Mediterranean Shrimp Skewers and the Mississippi Bee Sting cocktail.

www.boatcooking.com

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