

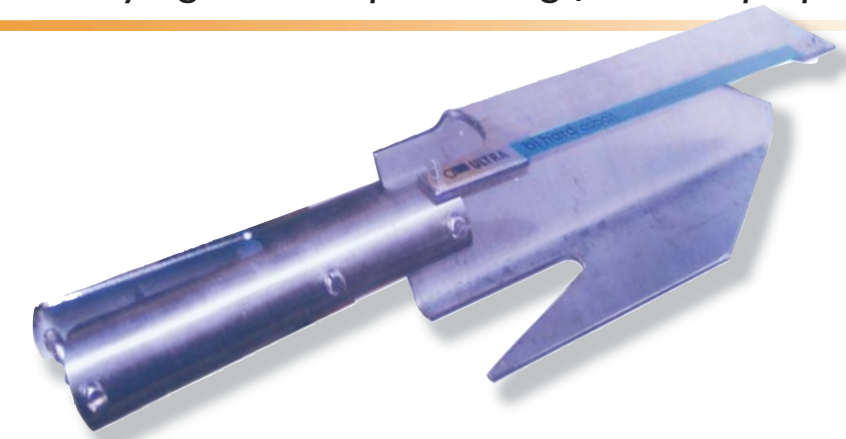


Simple and effective

This simple device from Bargee Bill is ideal for attacking that stubborn piece of rope or removing that unwieldy agricultural plastic bag from the prop

I was reading with interest the recent article in *Canals and Rivers*, concerning protecting your propeller and agree with the opening paragraph: 'Fed up of having to dive down into the weed hatch to remove bits of rope etc'... But I did question the second paragraph, which reads, 'while all using a rotating blade to do the cutting'.

There are other, simpler things, out there which will enable you to remove detritus from your prop without having to remove the boat from the water. One such device is the ingenious tool called Bargee Bill's Prop Cleaner!



It has a 3mm stainless steel head, with a renewable hacksaw blade, a two and a half inch chisel, a half round blade which fits over your shaft, a six inch blade which is used to cut plastic bags and discarded clothing, a spike with a blade that is used for pulling up the unwanted debris and a half round hook which is used in a similar way to a boat hook. All this is attached to a beautiful ash hardwood handle.

Advantages

Other advantages of the Bargee Bill's Prop Cleaner are that it doesn't have to be fitted, it can be stowed in any convenient space and if you don't need it, but you come across some poor soul that does, you can stop and lend a hand because the prop cleaner is not attached to your boat only.

Reading on into the article I noted your comments on amputation and wandered, if ever the occasion arose, that the blade wouldn't cut the debris off your propeller, would that mean you diving down into the weed hatch to remove bits of rope and clothing, with your hands next to a razor sharp blade, if so, your comment is valid. I have had a Bargee Bill's Prop Cleaner for over five years and can claim to have removed a six by four carpet, a sleeping bag, full sized scaffolding net, road cones and many other items and can honestly say my hands have never been down the weed hatch and I've never been held up for more than six and a half minutes and whether you are running a restaurant boat, a hire fleet, or just cruising up the cut, time usually means money.

Due to public demand, Bargee Bill have now produced a version with the same tools attached to a shorter ash handle and this will be used on more traditional boats that do not have a direct access to the weed hatch, but where you have to go under the deck of the boat to gain access to the weed hatch.

The shorter version has a stainless steel head with all the same tools on it, but is in the form of a box section approx. 3 x 3 x 3 in x approximately 12 inches long, attached to an ash handle which makes it approximately 26 inches over all.

Should you wish to see this tool in action, you can see a DVD of it at www.bargee-bill.co.uk or contact the company on 01244 312086.

