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BOAT INDUSTRY

## Grand Craft introduces new hybrid model: The Clybourn

By [Tony Esposito](#) | September 20, 2023

### First new model since the Gallaghers bought the brand

Grand Craft Boats, the builder of luxury wooden boats has announced its first new model since Patrick and Rose Gallagher [acquired the company and moved it from the US state of Michigan to Wisconsin](#); a Michael Peters Design wood and fiberglass hybrid christened the Clybourn.

A 32-foot runabout that captures the character and craftsmanship of Grand Craft's wooden line with mahogany decking and accents with the convenience of a fiberglass hull.



Grand Craft's The Clybourn

“They want to have the classic lines and look, stylistically, of the boats that we build, past and present, but they would love to have it melded with limited fiberglass and an inboard/outboard engine as opposed to the typical rigging of a wooden runabout with an inboard,” Patrick Gallagher told *IBI*.

Powered by either Volvo or MerCruiser, the Claybourn will feature Integrated joystick technology, Seakeeper 1 gyroscopic stabilization, a mini fridge, an under-seat cooler, and a premium sound system.

“It was inspired from what I was hearing in the marketplace and I came to understand and appreciate that there’s a segment of perspective buyers that want a little bit of both. You can either dig your heels in and spend time and energy trying to change them or you can listen to what they’re asking for and think about providing a product that meets their wants and needs.”

In a news release from Grand Craft, Peters is quoted as saying, “For me, this is a passion project. I have always had a love of wooden boats, and the artistry they encapsulate is why I became a boat designer. It was important to me that we stayed faithful to the DNA of a traditional wooden runabout as we melded the modern fiberglass elements.”

For Gallagher, the decision went beyond mere reputation.

“I really liked the conversation that he and I had, where he really dug in and got to know me and the company and understand where we’ve been, where we’re at and where we’re looking to go with this model.”

In March, *IBI* learned Grand Craft splashed its **first-ever fiberglass hull** on its classic Winchester model – aimed at upscale resorts and charters – at the request of long-time resort customer in the Florida Keys. But Gallagher is quick to point out that the company is not changing dramatically.

“As Grand Craft, we want to stay true to our roots and honor that while also trying to meet the modern buyers needs, and transitioning to all fiberglass, for us, would be missing the mark. That isn’t what we think the market we’re going after is asking for. To be all fiberglass isn’t the goal for them, nor is it for us.”

Grand Craft intends to build two Claybourns for demo purposes and are targeting 10-boats per year beginning in 2024.