

1995-97 ProStar 190/19 Skier/SportStar 19/ ProStar 195/X-5: A History

By C36
Version: 2007 March 5

PREAMBLE

As questions on the 1995 to 1997 ProStar 190 (and her sisters - 19 Skier, SportStar 19, ProStar 195, and X-5) come up on a fairly regular basis, I thought I would share a summary of the research I undertook on this group of boat models that I did when looking for our new-to-us MasterCraft.

I loosely based this summary on the excellent example put forward by NSXBill on the ProStar 205. However, as all of these models are based on the same hull, this summary is not as technical – it is more of a descriptive overview. I have noted all the sources I used for my research at the bottom.

My hope is that this information is helpful to others in understanding the 1995-1997 ProStar and her sisters. As this summary is almost entirely based on secondary sources, I would welcome suggested corrections, deletions, or additions (when you post, please reference the source of your information, if is something other than first hand knowledge – thank you).

One last thing – I would strongly encourage all TT members who have one of these beautiful boats to post pictures of them in this tread (a picture is worth a thousand words, no?).

Enjoy!



INTRODUCTION

This hull was originally introduced by MasterCraft in 1995 as the ProStar 190 - MasterCraft's premier tournament ski boat. This hull served as the ProStar 190 from 1995-1997.

The 1995-1997 ProStar 190 hull proved to be so versatile it remained in production for eight consecutive years (1995-2002) under five separate model names – ProStar 190, 19 Skier, SportStar 19, ProStar 195, and X-5.

This hull was approved as a tournament tow boat by the American Water Ski Association (AWSA) in the following six years: 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001 – although as different models. As a tournament tow boat this hull pulled 12 world records altogether in five disciplines - men's slalom, men's trick, men's jump, women's slalom, and women's trick.

As shown in **Figure 1** below, this hull was sold in a number of closed bow and open bow configurations – even within certain models. The ProStar 190 and 19 Skier were only offered as closed bow boats and conversely the ProStar 195 was only offered as an open bow boat. However, the other two models – the SportStar 19 was offered in different configurations (closed bow and open bow) in the same year and the X-5 was offered as different configurations (closed bow or open bow) in different years.

Figure 1

95-97 PS 190 & sisters	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
ProStar 190 (closed bow)	■							
SportStar (closed bow)				■				
Skier 19 (closed bow)							■	
SportStar (open bow)					■			
ProStar 195 (open bow)						■		
X-5 (open bow)						■		
X-5 (closed bow)								■

ProStar 190 (1995-1997)

In 1995, MasterCraft released the fourth generation of it's tournament ski boat - the 1995 Pro Star 190. This hull served as the tournament tow boat from 1995 to 1997.

The 1995-1997 version of the ProStar 190 was 19'5" long and 85" wide. The 1995-1997 ProStar 190 hull enters the water at about 26 degrees and flattens out to six degrees at the back. This hull also provides lots of freeboard and deep seating (driver and passenger). The load capacity for this 2,480-pound ProStar 190 is nine people with a fuel capacity of 31 gallons.

The ProStar 190 came standard with the TBI 350 w/275 horsepower engine, 1:1 transmission (with an OJ 13 x 13 three blade propeller). One engine option was offered - MPI 330 horsepower (LT-1). A 1.5:1 PowerSlot was also available as an option (with an OJ 14 x 18 propeller).

This hull was AWSA approved as the ProStar 190 from 1995 to 1997 inclusive.

Standard equipment on the 1995-1997 ProStar 190 included three directional fins, a bow lifting ring, black wrap-around windshield frame, windshield mounted ski mirror, two-colour accent interior, forward storage behind the tournament sized observer's seat, swivel ski pylon, black non-

glare dash with electromechanical gauges (with two speedometers separated by a tachometer), stainless steel passenger hand rails, back seat which can be removed or converted to a sun deck (but be sure to secure it before towing on the highway), rear handle/towing eye, and teak swim platform.

Exterior graphics on the 1995-1997 ProStar 190 typically featured white deck and white lower hull. Two colour accent stripes ran the length of the hull about half way down each side of the hull. If a main exterior gelcoat colour was used, it was applied from just above the two colour accent stripes up to the bottom edge of the rub rail. The tail end of the the two colour accent stripes sweep down toward the waterline as they approach the transom (to the rear of the engine box). More than 10 different colour combinations (two colour accent stripes and main gelcoat colour (if used)) were produced between 1995 and 1997. A large "MasterCraft" decal was featured one on each side of the hull above the colour accent stripes. In all three years (1995-1997) the MasterCraft logo was colour matched to one of the two accent stripe colours. In 1997 the MasterCraft logo was moved below the two colour accent stripes.

Sammy Duval editions of the ProStar 190 were also offered in 1996 and 1997. These special edition boats featured reverse gel coats – a solid gel coat colour below the colour accent stripe (in 1996 offered as a grey hull below a red accent stripe and in 1997 offered as a grey hull below a black accent stripe). The Sammy Duval ProStar 190's also featured a Sammy Duval signature decal in place of the ProStar 190 decal on the sides of the hull near the transom.

Optional equipment on the 1995-1997 ProStar 190 included a closed cooling system, boat and cockpit covers, heater, sun top, and shower.

Although the same length and width as the 3rd generation ProStar (offered from 1991-1994), the 1995-1997 version offered more interior room by widening the inside and pushing the cockpit and windshield 6" forward. The 1995-1997 version also offered a little more storage capacity as well. The battery was also moved in 1995 to a location under the front observer seat (making it easier to get to).

Compared to the 1991-1994 ProStar 190 (arguably the best slalom wake ever), the 1995-1997 ProStar 190 had improved tracking, reduced spray (chine spray nearly became a non-factor), slightly taller slalom wake (but still exceptional), improved bare footing performance, and greatly improved open water ride. Waterski Magazine also rated this hull well for barefoot, wakeboard, trick, and kneeboard in their 1996 Boat Buyer's Guide (see the **attached** PDF for details).

Since the 1995-1997 ProStar 190 hull is slightly smaller than the 1998-2000 ProStar 190 hull, some have suggested that the 1995-1997 ProStar 190 hull is a little more nimble than subsequent versions of the ProStar 190 (1998-2000 and Evo versions). The 1995-1997 version of the ProStar 190 hull also has slightly more freeboard than the ProStar 190 Evo hull (2001 to current).

In 1996, MasterCraft changed the ProStar 205 to mirror the changes made to the ProStar 190 in 1995. Note the ProStar 205V went on to become the original X-Star/X-2/X-1 with legendary wakeboard performance.

SportStar 19 (1998-2000)

MasterCraft introduced the SportStar 19 midway through the 1998 production year as a closed bow model. MasterCraft developed this model as an entry level boat that set new standards for both quality and performance.

The load capacity for the 2,400-pound SportStar 19 is eight people or 1,095 pounds with a fuel capacity of 31 gallons.

In 1998, the SportStar 19 came with the EFI 260 (5.0 L MX Plus) horsepower engine and 1:1 transmission as standard with a 13 x 13 three blade OJ propeller. The engine option of 330 horsepower (LT-1) was offered in 1998. The 1998 model included a black wrap-around windshield frame, unpadding Driver's armrest, bare fibreglass engine cover, one-colour interior accent, windshield mounted convex mirror, side panel ski storage, two tournament speedometers, ski pylon, transom ski eye, three tracking fins, non-removable swim platform brackets, and did not have a trunk. A boat cover and closed cooling systems were both offered as options in 1998. In 1998 exterior graphics for the SportStar were similar to those of the 1995-1997 ProStar (white deck and white hull, but in the case of the SportStar the gelcoat colour accent stripe was limited to one colour . Only three exterior gelcoat colour accent options were offered in 1998 - red, blue, and purple. In 1998 the MasterCraft logo was solid black and placed below the colour accent stripe.

In 1999, the SportStar 19 was available as both a closed bow model and as an open bow model - both 1999 models featured an engine upgrade (to EFI 310 horsepower (MX Plus) engine with 1:1 transmission and a 13 x 13 three blade OJ propeller) as standard issue. Two engine options were offered in 1999 – EFI 275 horsepower (MX Plus) or EFI 330 horsepower (LT-1). The Power Slot 1.5:1 transmission with a 14 x 20 four blade OJ propeller was also offered as an option in 1999. Other changes in 1999 included a restyled topside and interior, a new two-part motor box, expanded storage capacity (full-length gunwale compartments), increased rear storage, and upgraded upholstery/carpeting. The open bow SportStar 19 also featured step-through access to the bow jump seats and a trunk (for additional storage). In 1999 options were expanded to include depth finder, shower, heater, fibreglass swim platform, AM/FM/CD stereo, closed cooling system, Safe-T-Top with net, ZeroFlex tower, and wakeboarding option (extended pylon, ballast system, AM/FM CD upgraded stereo with 6 disc changer, stereo remote, amp and subwoofer). In 1999 a band of colour was applied to the exterior gelcoat (extending from the nose of the boat to just short of the transom. No colour was applied to the transom. On the open bow model this colour band was extended to just above the rub rail. In 1999 the MasterCraft logo on the SportStars was white and was moved to the back of the colour band near the transom.

In 2000, MasterCraft offered only a closed bow SportStar 19 (as the open bow SportStar 19 was retooled as the ProStar 195 for 2000). The closed bow SportStar 19 was offered with EFI 310 horsepower engine and 1:1 transmission with a 13" four blade propeller as standard. The 1.5:1 Power Slot transmission was again offered as an option in 2000. The broad range of options introduced in 1999, continued to be offered in 2000 including the Safe-T-Top ZeroFlex tower and wakeboarding option. New options for 2000 included cruise control (AccuSki 2000 or Perfect Pass Cruise), and bimini. In 2000 the band of colour ringed the whole hull (including the transom) and the MasterCraft logo was solid white again located inside the colour band near the transom. In 2000 black was also available as an exterior gelcoat accent colour.

The SportStar 19 (closed bow) was AWSA approved from 1998 to 2000 inclusive and the SportStar 19 (open bow) was AWSA approved in 1999.

To view **archived MasterCraft website pages** for these models click on them below:

1998 SportStar 19

<http://web.archive.org/web/19980112141648/www.mastercraft.com/showroom/98models/sportstar.html>

1999 SportStar 19 (closed bow)

<http://web.archive.org/web/20011108132838/www.mastercraft.com/showroom/1999/mastercraft/sstar19c.html>

1999 SportStar 19 (open bow)

<http://web.archive.org/web/20011108134257/www.mastercraft.com/showroom/1999/mastercraft/sstar19o.html>

2000 SportStar 19

<http://web.archive.org/web/20010109161500/www.mastercraft.com/showroom/2000/mastercraft/sstar19c.html>

To view a **Waterski Magazine review** for these models click on them below:

1999 SportStar 19 (closed bow)

<http://www.waterskimag.com/article.jsp?ID=12416&typeID=103&categoryID=110>

1999 SportStar 19 (open bow)

<http://www.waterskimag.com/article.jsp?ID=12403&typeID=103&categoryID=110>



ProStar 195 (2000-2001)

In 2000, the ProStar 195 took over from the 1999 SportStar as MasterCraft's under 20' open bow model. MasterCraft designed the ProStar 195 for someone who is primarily a slalom skier, primarily a small-lake boater, who also has kids or a dog that they want to bring along.



The load capacity for the 2,540-pound ProStar 195 is nine people or 1,355 pounds with a fuel capacity of 31 gallons.

The ProStar 195 came standard with a EFI 310 horsepower (Predator) engine and offered the EFI 330 horsepower (LT-1) engine offered as an option. Standard transmission was a 1:1 with a 13" four blade propeller, but a 1.5:1 PowerSlot was available as an option.

The 2000 ProStar 195 offers more refinements than the previous SportStar 19 open bow. The 2000 ProStar 195 has an open bow with a flip-down step-through to the front seats, silver windshield frame, a new lower dash (offering improved visibility) with electromechanical gauges, integrated speed control, integrated stereo remote control in the armrest, a wide passenger seat all the way across, a trunk in the back (carpeted and light), and storage in the gunnels. Options in 2000 included

boat cover, six-disk CD changer, ZeroFlex tower, Fat Sac ballast system with pump, extended pylon, Pro Riders package (ZeroFlex tower, AM/FM CD stereo upgrade, Fat Sac ballast system, AccuSki Cruise 2000, two board racks, transom saver), reverse gelcoat, Accu Ski Pro Tour 2000, Perfect Pass Pro Series, heater, and depth finder. In 2000 exterior graphics for the ProStar 195 followed a similar swoosh pattern as the 1995-1997 ProStar 190 (and 1998 SportStar) but used a solid gelcoat accent colour above a colour accent stripe done in a second colour. Similar to the 1999 SportStar open bow, the main gelcoat colour was again extended above the rub rail. In 2000 there were at least four colour pairs to choose from – black/grey, blue/grey, red/grey, and red/beige in addition to a reverse gelcoat option. The MasterCraft logo was two-colour and these two colours matched the main two gelcoat colours. The MasterCraft logo was placed below the colour accent stripe.

An EFI 425 horsepower engine was introduced as an option with limited availability in addition to the optional EFI 330 horsepower (LT-1). 2001 also saw the introduction of TeleFlex Xtreme high performance rattle-shift control (standard), pull-up cleats (optional), back stop rope deflector (optional), MasterView bolster driver's seat (optional), and raised swim platform (optional). In 2001 the ProStar 195 continued to offer a solid gelcoat accent colour and a colour accent stripe – but the swoosh used in 2000 was changed to a straight bottom edge in 2001. In 2001 a range of colour pairs were offered including blue/grey, red/beige, and green/beige. The MasterCraft logo was a reflective silver and was moved up inside the main gelcoat colour.

The **ProStar 195** was discontinued in 2002 - the year MasterCraft introduced the **ProStar 197**, the new sub-20-foot open bow slalom boat.

This hull was AWSA approved as the ProStar 195 in both 2000 and 2001.

To view **archived MasterCraft website pages** for these models click on them below:

2000 ProStar 195

<http://web.archive.org/web/20010602133241/www.mastercraft.com/showroom/2000/mastercraft/prostar195.html>

2001 ProStar 195

<http://web.archive.org/web/20021019165207/www.mastercraft.com/showroom/2001/prostar/prostar195.html>

To view a **Waterski Magazine review** of these models click here:

2001 ProStar 195

<http://www.waterskimag.com/article.jsp?ID=13622>

X-5 (2000-2002)

Introduced in 2000, the X-5 takes the concept of the ProStar 195 one step further. MasterCraft developed this model in response to customer and dealer demands for: high-quality construction at a mid-price; a sub-20-foot hull that could hold it's own with the big boats; a full list of boarding features; and a mid-engine boat that would allow all-event capability. This model was the forerunner to the current X-7 model - an open bow all-event boat equipped with wakeboard specific equipment.

Waterski Magazine noted in the 2000 Boat Buyer's Guide that, "It is one of the few boats on the market that could pull a 35-off (slalom) run, then load up the ballast and tow a pro-level wakeboard session."



The load capacity for the 2,540-pound 2001 X-5 is 10 people or 1,355 pounds with a fuel capacity of 31 gallons.

Although the X-5 was offered as an open bow boat in 2000 and 2001 (built on the same platform as the open bow ProStar 195), in 2002 it was offered as a closed bow boat (based on the 19 Skier) - the year the X-7 was introduced as the new sub-20-foot open bow all-event boat by MasterCraft.

The X-5 was offered with a EFI 310 horsepower (Predator) engine, 1:1 transmission and a 13 x 13 four blade OJ propeller as standard with the 1.5:1 PowerSlot transmission as options. In 2000 and 2001 the EFI 330 horsepower (LT-1) engine was offered as an option. In 2001 the EFI 425 horsepower (L-18 HO 8.1 L) was also offered as an option (limited availability). In 2002 the 1.23:1 Power Slot transmission was also offered as an additional transmission option.

Although originally based on the ProStar 195 layout, the X-5 has a long list of standard additional features including: X-series graphics, ZeroFlex tower, AM/FM/CD-stereo with four speakers, two-part clam shell engine compartment, a 300+ pound rear ballast bag, 32 ounce vinyl, 40 ounce carpet, rack-and-pinion steering, aluminium floor boards, brushed metal x-series interior accents, and two 12-volt AC outlets.

In 2000, the swim platform was raised 3 inches (to compensate for the lower running attitude of a loaded wakeboard boat). This keeps the swim platform above the water at idle and keeps it from interfering with wake shape at lower speeds. In 2000 the rear ballast was an external pump powered by an AC outlet in the truck used to fill one rear ballast bag located in the trunk. The 2000 model had a first generation ZeroFlex tower and silver windshield frame. In 2000 closed cooling system, depth finder, 6-disc CD changer, shower, heater, speed control, sub-woofer, amp, and binding blaster were all available as options on the X-5 model. In 2000 gelcoat accent

colours were again limited to black and red.

In 2001, a build in automatic ballast pump (activated from the dash) was used to fill the one ballast bag in the trunk. Additional standard features added to the 2001 model had a second generation two-piece folding ZeroFlex tower (folded frontward and backward), Teleflex Xtreme throttle/steering cable (2001 and 2002 only), silver windshield frame, new waterproof Clarion AM/FM CD stereo with driver's-side remote, and drip molded letter decals. In 2001 other options added included, amp, smart drain plug alarm, Perfect Pass (cruise or digital pro or wakeboard pro), binding soap pump, water temperature gauge, Masterview bolster seat, tower light bar, and x-series board racks. In 2001 gelcoat accent colours were again limited to black and red. Reverse gelcoat was an option in 2001 and at some point during 2001 the band of gelcoat accent colour became thicker (bottom edge was lowered toward the waterline).

In 2002, the X-5 was a closed bow boat based on the 19 Skier. This resulted in several changes included a black windshield frame, the 19 Skier type black driver's console (dash). Additional standard features for 2002 included a rear seat that was able to convert to a sun pad, digital speed indicator, a larger swim platform, and an added running light to the tower. However, the 2002 model did lose the open bow, the rear trunk, one 12-volt AC outlet, and the swim platform handle. Other changes included. In 2002 gelcoat accent colours were increased to include black, red, navy blue, and yellow.

To view **archived MasterCraft Website pages** for these models click on them below:

2000 X-5 (open bow)

<http://web.archive.org/web/20001006051634/www.mastercraft.com/showroom/2000/mastercraft/x5.html>

2001 X-5 (open bow)

http://web.archive.org/web/20021019162531/www.mastercraft.com/showroom/2001/xseries/2001_x5.html

2002 X-5 (closed bow)

http://web.archive.org/web/20021001192435/www.mastercraft.com/showroom/2002/xseries/x_5/index.htm

To view a **Waterski Magazine review** of these models click here:

2001 X-5 (open bow)

<http://www.waterskimag.com/article.jsp?ID=13626&typeID=121&categoryID=113>

2002 X-5 (closed bow)

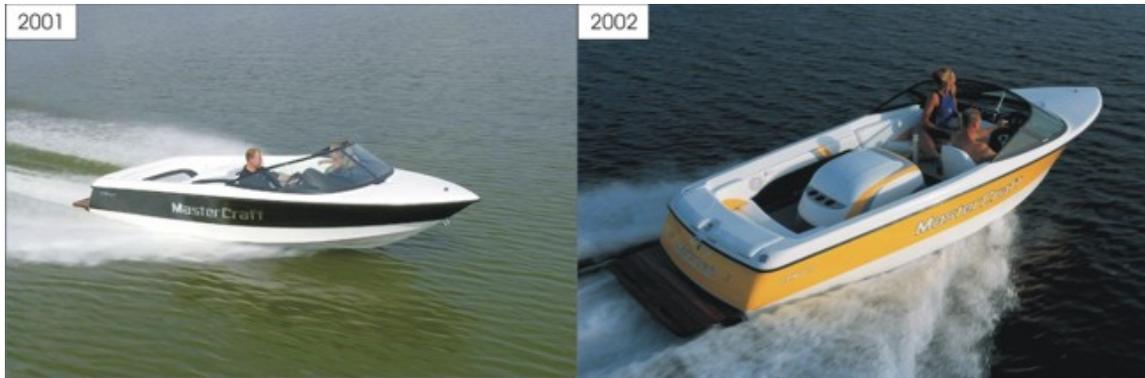
<http://www.waterskimag.com/article.jsp?ID=3005&typeID=121&categoryID=366>

To view a **Waterski Magazine photo gallery** of the closed bow 2002 X-5 click here:

<http://www.waterskimag.com/product.jsp?ID=61550>

19 Skier (2001-2002)

MasterCraft designed the 19 Skier as a purists' ski boat - someone looking for a value oriented world-record-capable quality tow boat that would last a lifetime. Although the 19 Skier was MasterCraft's value boat, but nowhere did MasterCraft scale back its commitment to construction excellence. The 19 Skier was offered as a closed bow boat with no trunk.



Load capacity for the 2,450-pound 19 Skier is nine people or 1,440 pounds with a fuel capacity of 31 gallons.

The 19 Skier came standard with an EFI 310 horsepower (Predator) engine, 1:1 transmission and a 13 x 13 four blade OJ propeller. The EFI 330 horsepower (LT-1) engine and 1.5:1 Power Slot transmission with a 14" four blade propeller were offered as options. In 2002 a 1.23:1 Power Slot transmission was also offered as an option.

This hull was AWSA approved as the 19 Skier in 2001.

The 19 Skier was offered with a similar array of standard and optional features in 2001 and 2002. It came standard with rack-and-pinion steering, a black non-glare dash with electromechanical instruments (including two large dual speedometers with a tachometer in between), lighted bow storage, swivel pylon, two-part clam shell engine compartment, a two-color interior and a lightweight, aluminium floor boards, honeycomb aluminium seat that converts to a sun pad, transom handrail/tow eye. Although options for the 19 Skier were similar to those available on the 2000 SportStar, some new ones were offered including smart drain plug with alarm, extended pylon (in 2001 only), MasterCraft Training System (passenger side ballast tank), Perfect Pass (Cruise, Digital Pro, and Wakeboard Edition), AccuSki (limited availability), slick boot soap pump, transom saver, water temperature gauge, and ZeroFlex tower. In 2001 the exterior graphics of the 19 Skier introduced new gelcoat lines with a larger band of colour travelling right around the boat and the MasterCraft logo being placed inside the colour band. New for 2001, the MasterCraft logo was moved forward to the middle of the boat and it was reflective silver in colour had a drip-molded feel.

To view **archived MasterCraft Website pages** for these models click on them below:

2001 19 Skier

<http://web.archive.org/web/20021019163417/www.mastercraft.com/showroom/2001/prostar/19skier.html>

2002 19 Skier

http://web.archive.org/web/20021001185850/www.mastercraft.com/showroom/2002/prostar/19_skier/index.htm

To view a **Waterski Magazine review** of the closed bow 2001 19 Skier click here.

<http://www.waterskimag.com/article.jsp?ID=3012&typeID=121&categoryID=366>

Sources:

http://web.archive.org/web/*/www.mastercraft.com

<http://www.6ballsports.com/Boats.html>

<http://www.boats.com/boat-articles/N...sic/11469.html>

<http://www.nadaguides.com/>

<http://www.tmcowners.com>

<http://usawaterski.org/graphics/down...story83-06.pdf>
<http://www.waterskimag.com/article.j...categoryID=113>
<http://www.waterskimag.com/article.j...categoryID=366>
<http://www.waterskis.com/MasterCraft...ions-s/118.htm>

1991-1993 MasterCraft ProStar 190 Owner's Manual
1995 MasterCraft ProStar 190 Owner's Manual
1996 Waterski Magazine Boat Buyer's Guide
1998 Waterski Magazine Boat Buyer's Guide
1999 Waterski Magazine Boat Buyer's Guide
2000 Waterski Magazine Boat Buyer's Guide
2001 Waterski Magazine Boat Buyer's Guide