

FLAG Rust Converter

£6.94 for 250ml



Just before launching last spring, I used Flag Rust Converter to paint the short length of anchor chain that lies across the deck between the stock and the chain pipe (when the anchor is stowed on deck), because the links had lost a lot of galvanizing and were looking a touch rusty and unsightly. Their strength was in no way affected, but it didn't look too good.

The immediate effect was a much improved appearance for the chain with a smooth, satin black coating. It's a water-based coating that keys into the rust, neutralises it and forms what really does appear to be a rather smart finish. Being water based, the paint washes out of the brush with plain water, so cleaning up afterwards was very easy without resorting to messy or unpleasant solvents.

If you don't like the black colour, just allow it to dry and then paint over it.

Coverage for the Rust



mild spring day, but the instructions say that you should not overcoat it within 4-6 hours and

I didn't put a second coat on until some days later. A third coat would have been good, because it was being used on anchor chain, which gets a lot of wear, but I decided to see how two coats worked and put more on this spring.

In fact, looking at the cable when the boat came ashore at the end of the season, there was no sign of wear or damage, so further coats would be purely precautionary. The lack of wear has been helped by anchoring mainly in mud, rather than on sand, rock or shell, which would scrub at the paint, but it was still encouraging. I would certainly use the Rust Converter on any other patches that pop up and actually touched up a 'ding' on a black car's bodywork to ensure rust didn't set in.

Colin Jarman

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WE LIKE

Water based for easy clean-up
 Simple, effective

WE DON'T LIKE

Big tub for small job

VERDICT ★★★★★

It's very easy to use and appears to be hard wearing and effective.

Good stuff.



Converter is quoted as 2-3m² per 250ml tub. Frankly, I was using so little, even for a couple of coats, that I can't give any opinion as to the accuracy of the coverage claim, but I've also no reason to doubt it. The paint dried in an hour or so after application on a normal,

NEXUS NX1500

Hand-held VHF

£139.95



PHOTOS COLIN & BARRY JARMAN

The Nexus NX1500 is a sturdy, mid-sized hand-held VHF radio that fits comfortably into your hand and offers a choice of either 1W or 5W transmission powers. The 1W output saves battery power at short ranges, while the 5W provides a stronger signal to make yourself heard over longer distances or in conditions of poor reception. The set's provided with a soft rubber cover – either in matching grey or 'safety' orange – that both protects the radio from the inevitable bumps and knocks and enhances your grip on it when you've got wet hands. Actually, it also helps to stop the radio sliding about if it's put down on a cockpit bench or below on the chart table – not that one would ever do that, of course.

The radio has a commendably simple array of just eight buttons on the front and they are well spaced for use with gloves. There's the on/off power button, a dedicated Ch 16 button coloured red, two up/down channel changing ones, a menu and dual watch button, one for changing between high and low transmission power, an 'enter' button and a volume/squelch button. When switching the radio on, the power button is pressed and held for a moment until the display lights up; when switching it off, you again press and hold the button while the display shows numbers counting down 3, 2, 1 and then goes off.

The display window

measures 36 x 28mm and has commendably clear channel numbers in addition to a channel title and a large battery state indicator up the left hand side in the form of a wedge of bars.

Adjusting both volume and squelch is just a matter of pressing the button then using the up and down arrows. Both have their levels indicated numerically and, although these levels are not displayed on the screen in normal operating mode, they are easily checked and seldom need much adjustment.

Channels M1 and M2 are provided on the NX1500, but are designated C1 and C2 respectively.

The PTT button on the side of the radio is large and requires only gentle pressure to engage with a positive 'click'. Although I've not knowingly had any problem with it, I think it would be possible



PHOTOS COLIN JARMAN