

>> Stuff: Trailers and Trailer Accessories

OK, you've bought a boat, but what about the trailer? In most cases you'll have to budget an additional \$3,000 or so for a trailer, and the dealer will almost always partner with a reputable trailer manufacturer. As you can imagine, there is a world of trailer accessories out there -- here are a few to get you started.

CALL THE DOCK

Trailer Dock | \$24.95

Stop using those worn-out 2 by 4s! No more sinking in the mud or dents in the driveway. The Trailer Dock works with a trailer pad/wheel jack stand and comes with a lifetime warranty against cracking or breaking. Use it for boat trailers, PWC, towables and RV/campers to hold the wheels in place. The Trailer Dock is tough enough to drive over and works on concrete, asphalt, sand, rock, dirt, grass -- even muddy areas. It's also lightweight and even floats. Maximum tongue weight is 1,000 lbs.

■ **MORE INFO:** Marine Technologies Inc.; (800) 383-0269; www.mtiindustries.com.

Circle 203 on reader service card, page 65

GUARDIAN ANGEL

Trailer Guardian | Starting at \$45

Safety, security and peace of mind -- there is no better feeling as you're towing your boat. The Trailer Guardian by DuraSafe,



a new safety and anti-theft device, can be installed in seconds. It eliminates

the fear of an accidental trailer separation. Another benefit is the lock, which comes standard, for securing your trailer on the tow vehicle stinger or on a parked trailer.

The Trailer Guardian retails for about \$45, depending on the model, and is available at leading boating and fishing equipment retailers.

■ **MORE INFO:** DuraSafe Inc.; (866) 544-5615; www.durasafe-usa.com.

Circle 200 on reader service card, page 65

GIVE ME A BRAKE

ShoreLand'r Trailers | Prices vary widely



depending on size and accessories

ShoreLand'r offers a complete line of trailers for every boating need from PWC to offshore cruisers. The company has been installing hydraulic surge brakes as standard equipment on all of its trailers rated at 3,000 pounds or more since 2000. Electric rather than hydraulic brakes are standard on its trailers with carrying capacities above 9,500 pounds. All ShoreLand'r trailers are built to meet or exceed National Marine

Manufacturers Association (NMMA) standards.

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■ **MORE INFO:** Midwest Industries, Inc.; (800) 859-3028; www.shorelandr.com.

Circle 204 on reader service card, page 65

WIRED UP

JetConnex Trailer Plug | Starting at \$34.99



The JetConnex RV Series provides heavy-gauge wires in a tough jacket for tandem boat trailers, fifth wheels,

car tows or other applications where electric brakes, taillights and turn signals, and accessory power are required.

This series comes in a 6-wire model where electric brakes are used and a 7-wire model for fifth wheels, work trailers and trailers requiring accessory power circuits.

The connectors are the real story. Designed to precision tolerances, the terminals and connectors make a strong, tight connection to the receptacles.

The series provides maximum safety and reliability using materials and technology developed for marine and high-reliability applications.

■ **MORE INFO:** JetConnex Inc.; (877) 673-3339; www.jetconnex.com.

Circle 202 on reader service card, page 65

most people will want additional features like snap-in carpet, Bimini tops and filler cushions. It's just like a car where you have to pay extra for power windows and air conditioning.

You will also need a Coast Guard-approved life jacket for everyone aboard, a fire extinguisher and dock lines -- and many boaters won't leave the dock without a depth sounder, a VHF radio, a first-aid kit, an extra bilge pump and myriad other gear items. It all costs money, and for those on a tight budget these not-so-obvious expenses can add up quickly. In

the end you might have to shop for a less expensive boat so you can afford everything else that goes with it -- and as long as you've thought it through there should be no surprises or disappointments.

10 CONSIDER A PARTNER

One way to reduce expenses and increase fun is to get a close friend or relative to share ownership. This will not only reduce everyone's expenditure, it can also

increase boating enjoyment because you've automatically got a pal to enjoy the fun with. Boaters are social people by nature, so the more the merrier. Having a partner is also a great way to get into a somewhat larger, more expensive vessel. **60**

— Peter D. duPre has 30 years of boating experience on a variety of craft ranging from canoes, small runabouts and bass boats to cruising sailboats and large cabin cruisers. During that time he has owned one canoe, two sailboats and six powerboats, and has been happy with all of them. He practices what he preaches.