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# Easy Boat Docking Techniques

Each year thousands of people start flocking to the waterways to enjoy a day of boating. While many are experienced boaters, there are plenty of first time boaters hitting the water (and the docks).

Dependent upon the weather and wind conditions are docking techniques but there are a few things you can keep in mind. First of all, especially in this particular case, practice makes perfect. Docking techniques in boating is something you have to personalize to your boat, experience, and the dock itself regardless of the tips that can be provided for you.

A common mistake made by many boaters is approaching the dock in a straight line in order to dock their boats. But when you approach the dock at an angle, its easier to get close to the dock and improve the accuracy of your approach. Also, the speed at which you come in to the dock must be controlled.

If you think its as easy as it sounds, youre wrong. Accurately lining up with the dock is even more difficult because even idle speed on a boat is too fast and coasting reduces steering capability. To counter this problem, the best way to do so would be alternating between coasting for speed control and power for steering or short shots of forward gear.

This is what you have to practice over and over. As you get closer to the dock start to turn the boat and decelerate to a stop by using reverse. Again, the deceleration reduces steering capability. You are going to have to rely on the momentum of the boat to get you over this obstacle.

Momentum and speed are not the same thing. Momentum is defined as the boats forward motion that carries you into the dock. To get you to the dock, you will need just enough momentum and youll also have to make the shift to reverse to stop. The best docking technique is the one you learned by trial and error, and once youve mastered this task you may probably agree with this. Nothing will be a better teacher than practice, practice, practice.

The best advice would be to take it slow, dont get nervous or discouraged and most importantly, remember that every time you try it, will make it a little easier the next time.

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