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Miami Boating Lessons – Multiple Engine Boating Lesson

Miami Boating Lessons – Advanced Transition Course: From Single to Twin Engine Operation

Duration: 3–4 hours

Audience: Boat owners with basic experience (single engine) upgrading to a larger, twin- or multi-engine vessel

Vessel: Client's personal twin/multi-engine vessel

Objective: Provide a hands-on, safety-focused learning experience that equips the client to confidently and competently operate a multi-engine vessel in real-world conditions.

Lesson Outline

0:00 – 0:20 | Safety Review & Multi-Engine Systems Overview

- Quick refresher on USCG-required safety equipment
- Twin-engine system overview:
 - Independent throttle control
 - Engine start/stop procedures
 - Joystick operation (if equipped)
- Electrical systems: battery banks, parallel switches, power management
- Engine sync systems (if applicable)

0:20 – 0:45 | Multi-Engine Handling Basics

- Benefits and handling characteristics of twin/multiple engines
- Differential thrust techniques (pivoting, spinning in place)
- Using only engines to maneuver (no wheel input)
- Shift timing & throttle sensitivity

0:45 – 1:15 | Dock Departure & Close Quarters Handling

- Departure checklist tailored to larger vessels



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- Assessing wind and current impacts on multi-engine control
 - Departing the slip: use of spring lines, thrusters (if applicable), and crew communication
 - Hands-on slow-speed maneuvering:
 - Pivoting around a piling
 - Straight-line tracking with offset wind/current
 - Reversing with control using engines alone
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1:15 – 1:45 | Open Water Operations & Trim Management

- Transitioning onto plane with dual engines
 - Understanding trim tabs vs engine trim – proper use
 - Engine syncing and efficiency tips
 - Navigating at cruise: proper RPM balancing and fuel economy
 - Man-overboard drill: twin-engine stop & turn
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1:45 – 2:15 | Anchoring & Holding Position with Twin Engines

- Advanced anchoring techniques: holding bow into wind with engines
 - Practice setting anchor with precision in tight locations
 - Demonstrate virtual anchoring or GPS position hold (if equipped)
 - Mooring procedure review with larger vessel approach techniques
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2:15 – 2:45 | Twin-Engine Docking Techniques

- Planning approach: factors for heavier vessels
 - Throttle-only maneuvers: approaching slip or T-dock
 - Side tie and stern-in docking using differential thrust
 - Bow thruster coordination (if available)
 - Multiple docking attempts under instructor supervision
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2:45 – 3:15 | Electronics Integration & Situational Awareness

- Using radar, GPS, depth, and engine monitoring systems together
 - Autopilot systems and waypoint tracking
 - Active trim systems or joystick features
 - Safety alarms and engine diagnostics
 - Advanced VHF use (DSC, hailing nearby vessels, etc.)
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3:15 – 3:45 | Confidence Drills & Debrief (Optional Time Buffer)

- Full-cycle drill: Depart, navigate, anchor, return, dock
 - Practice quick-reaction scenarios: sudden stop, MOB, strong wind docking
 - Final Q&A and instructor feedback
 - Discuss next steps (night ops, offshore handling, weather navigation, etc.)
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Client Receives

- Verbal performance review
 - Custom “Next Skills to Practice” checklist
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