

# OLD BOAT, NEW LOOK: HUCKINS YACHT REFITS 24' 1997 PANGA

BY SARA GIELOW

If you have seen the movie, *Captain Phillips*, then you've probably seen a Panga boat. These mid-sized boats are commonly used in South America and third world countries around the world as water taxis and fishing boats. They are also favored by Somalia pirates and drug runners for their speed and stability. The Panga boat featured in this story was purchased off the web from an owner who purchased the hull from a DEA impound lot in South Florida.

Today the boat lives right here in Jacksonville and is used as a recreation cruiser for the owner and his sons.

This ugly duckling arrived at the Huckins yard on a trailer and was obviously in rough shape after all it has been through. The boat was essentially a blank canvas and foremen at Huckins were excited to "make her pretty again." After the boat was offloaded and blocked up, a formal inspection was completed. Other than some major paint work and minor mechanical work, the boat was in good condition. Now it was time for the customer to make some cosmetic decisions; like; what color hull paint (sea foam green, vivid red, or fighting lady yellow), boot stripe, seat style, Bimini top color and upholstery color. They also had to come up with a new name for the boat.

Once all of these questions were answered, the craftsmen had a good understanding of what the owner wanted and estimates were provided. The plan was approved and the work began.

The bulk of the work was paint and fiberglass. Our paint department started removing hardware so they could mask and protect designated areas. On the bench seat, rotten wood was removed and fiberglass cracks were repaired. Everything was sanded and faired to create a smooth surface. Once the new helm seating was installed by our carpenters, the painters started to sand down the inside walls, console and bench seats. Then, four coats of primer were applied to the outside and inside. Then, four coats of Alexseal Topcoat paint were applied for finish. Finally, nonskid was applied to the decks to prevent slipping.

The plastic rub rail and new drain plugs were installed. Basic engine work was completed; new spark plugs, fuel filters, water pump, pump housing seal, gear oil and impeller. Final touches included applying the new boat name, IMENSA, and fabricating a yellow and white striped Bimini top to really give it that Island feel. This refit took three months to complete.

"You guys did a fantastic job and I get so many comments and compliments on the boat all the time," said owner Jeff Ashby. "People are always passing and giving me a thumbs up! We love to go scalloping in Steinhatchie every summer and it's absolutely perfect for that." Now Panga is a swan, a beautiful swan at that!



IF IT FLOATS, WE'LL SERVICE IT.  
IF IT DOESN'T, SOMEBODY ELSE DID.

**(904) 389-1125**



**HUCKINS YACHT**

[huckinsyacht.com](http://huckinsyacht.com) | [service@huckinsyacht.com](mailto:service@huckinsyacht.com)

3482 Lakeshore Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32210

Avoid having your boat sit in the yard, collecting dust and storage fees. Be prepared to make decisions and ask questions. Huckins has the experience and knowledge to help guide you into a smarter refit the right way.

**Refit tips:**

1. Review the survey and create a “must fix” list (engine, structure, safety, electrical issues).
2. Create a budget and add additional funds for unexpected problems.
3. Create a “dream” list (new interior, upholstery, canvas, paint, teak decks, and electronics).
4. Once you have identified your work list, finalize and prioritize it.
5. Obtain estimates and advice from our experts at Huckins. Don’t forget that we have the know-how and capability to make your ideas a reality. We also estimate each item of the job and stand by our numbers.

*Whether you’re refitting, remodeling, repainting or repowering, the service department at Huckins does it all for all brands, models and sizes of boats. And – go figure – their higher quality comes at a lower price. Contact Huckins at 904-389-1125 or visit [huckinsyacht.com](http://huckinsyacht.com)*



Today a *Learner*. Tomorrow a *Leader*.



A nurturing Christian environment for your child to learn and lead from age 1 through sixth grade.

904.388.2362  
[stmarksdayschool.org](http://stmarksdayschool.org)



"Where Pilates Elevates Physical Therapy"

# SYNERGY STUDIO

Jacksonville's First Fully Equipped Pilates and Physical Therapy Studio

PHYSICAL THERAPY
•
MASSAGE
•
PILATES

904.387.9355 (387-WELL)

3576 St. Johns Avenue Jacksonville, FL 32205 | [www.synergypilatespt.com](http://www.synergypilatespt.com)

MM10819