

A solid fuel heater for Edmond Dantes

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A couple of weeks ago Håvard invited me down to try out the new heater he had fitted for his 31' *Edmond Dantes*.

The heater was a little bulkhead-mounted thing called Dickinson Newport.



Dickinson Newport solid fuel heater, bolted onto the main bulkhead of ED

The heater is not much bigger than a mailbox; $h = 365\text{mm}$, $w = 200\text{mm}$ and $d = 243\text{mm}$. It was made of ss-steel plates throughout, with two adjustable air intakes and with an ash tray.

The combustion chamber appeared to be really tiny, but this could well be an asset here: The temperature in the chamber seemed to rise rapidly and this gave a very good combustion as far as I could tell. The heater was of a typical convection type with a plate jacket around the hot chamber. This meant that it didn't radiate so much to the sides (making installation easier). The heat output was generous, surely better than that from my paraffin Taylor, but still it was not so powerful that one would have to abandon ship after a while (it was around 0°C outside). Just as with my own heaters in Johanna, it soon became very hot up below deck, but stayed cold around our ankles so I surely would recommend some sort of elephant trunk fan to bring the hot air down to the sole.



..burning coal briquettes of some sort..



The hat, not as close to the sail as it looks here...

The heater appeared to like whatever solid fuel we tried on it. Ordinary firewood went well, as did wood briquettes (compressed sawdust) and some sort of coal briquettes, as shown above. The coal briquettes left very little ash behind them.

I guess I would do two small fixes if this heater was mine:

- I would make and fit a shelf or tray below the heater to pick up hot bits of ash which may fall out when the door is opened.
- The door fit was not really tight so even with both air intakes closed, the Newport still kept on burning merrily. I might fit gaskets to stop that leak, glued onto the heater or door with Gun Gum.

Conclusion:

I seriously like this heater; it is so easy to install and use and has plenty enough of output. I also bet it will last forever without any fuss. Finally; one may safely leave it to burn out without attention, which is really convenient - so yes again - I really like this thing...

Cheers, Arne



.. Edmond Dantes, waiting for the spring...