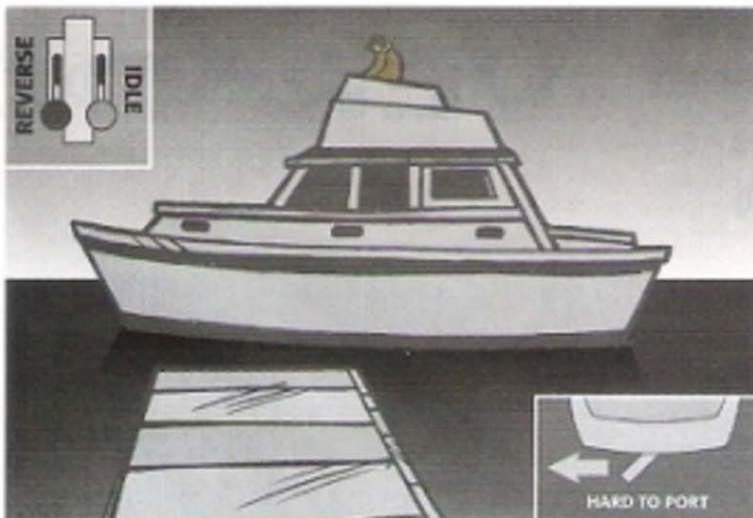
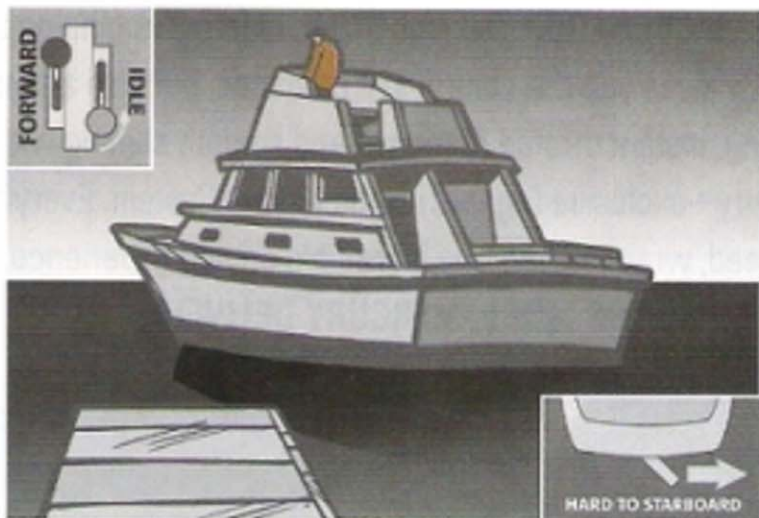


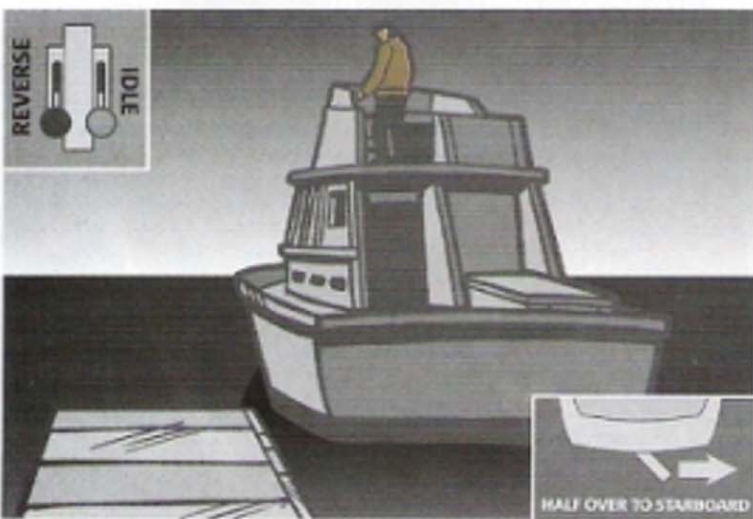
Docking Tips From the Pros | Part 2



1 Prop torque will walk the boat's stern to port in reverse. To set up for a portside approach, stop the boat with its transom in front of the slip. Turn the rudder to port and shift into reverse. Use throttle if necessary—idle speed is usually enough.



2 As the transom swings toward the slip, shift into neutral, turn the rudder to starboard, and shift into forward using no throttle unless necessary. The boat will straighten out.



3 Before the boat swings beyond being parallel to the dock, shift to neutral, turn the rudder slightly to starboard, then go into reverse. The rudder should help counteract the boat's natural tendency to walk to port while backing up.



4 Keep the boat straight using short bursts of forward power and little wiggles of rudder. Always shift out of gear after a burst of power and between turns of the rudder. Let the boat drift a bit. That way it's harder to start a cycle of overcorrecting, which inevitably will get you out of control and into trouble.