

## DIY DVD Rentals

Consider it NetFlix for DIYers. SmartFlix is an online DVD rental service based in Massachusetts that caters specifically to the how-to set, offering over 3,000 instructional videos in 100 hobbyist categories. Started in 2003, SmartFlix operates like other online video stores, allowing customers to rent videos over the Internet and receive them in the mail, along with a postage paid box or envelope for returns.

SmartFlix differs from other services, though, in that there is no monthly membership fee (you pay for each video individually – around \$10) and there is a one-week rental period, rather than an open-ended period with no late fees. Keep in mind that many of the DVDs SmartFlix offers aren't likely to be found at your local video store. We browsed SmartFlix's cyber shelves and found a number of categories of interest to BoatWorks readers, including boating, fiberglass, woodworking, and metalworking. The fiberglass section featured such titles as *Cosmetic Fiberglass and Gelcoat Repair* and *How to Paint your Fiberglass Boat*; the boating section contained 45 DVDs in four categories: Boat Maintenance, Cruising, Power Boating, and Sailing. Some step-by-step videos available for rental included: *Varnish Made Easy*, *Marine Diesel Engine Maintenance*, and *Spinnaker Sailing*.

All description of available DVDs include an average viewer rating, and the site posts a weekly blog where experts share technical advice. Check it out at [www.smartflix.com](http://www.smartflix.com).

