

Kanvaslight: Bright Thinking

If you're impressed by how far LED lighting has come, wait until you see the next game-changer!



Wouldn't it be cool if the canvas in your [boat's bimini](#) or T-top had its own integrated illumination? It seems impossible, but that's the concept behind [Kanvaslight](#). The flexible, rollable, waterproof, polyester fabric itself is what lights up, thanks to a 5- to 24-VDC "light injector" that illuminates optical fibers that transmit LED light. The fibers on the canvas create a warm white or RGB-dimmable glow (with an optional phone app control), bright enough to read by.

Take a look for yourself.

Kanvaslight® by Guardtex

But don't look to shop online or at your local chandlery. Tampa-based manufacturer Guardtex is currently only selling to manufacturers to integrate and sell Kanvaslight as a feature to its canvas product. Most boatbuilding customers are based in Europe now, but expect that to change fast. Kanvaslight will be sold to boat and canvas manufacturers as OEM equipment, so look for it to appear on new boats and tops coming to the marketplace soon.



Multiple fabric lengths (from 20 inches to 8 feet), widths (2 to 8 inches), and colors are available, and the Kanvaslight can be sewn right into the canvas or attached with hook-and-loop tape, zippers, or even magnets.

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Top tech writer and accomplished sports fisherman, BoatUS Magazine Contributing Editor Lenny Rudow has written seven practical boating books, won 30 awards from Boating Writers International — many for his marine electronics articles — and two for excellence from the Outdoor Writers Association of America. He judges the NMMA Innovation Awards, and is Angler in Chief at FishTalk, his own Chesapeake-based publication. A great teacher and inspirational writer, Lenny hosts many of BoatUS Magazine's very-popular how-to videos, which can be found on the BoatUS YouTube channel, or at BoatUS.com