

Building a Little Row Boat

by [Pornostache](#) on September 8, 2008

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intro: Building a Little Row Boat

This was my first attempt at building a boat. It's done in the stitch and glue style. I read pretty extensively on the subject and tried the techniques on some scrap plywood before doing this. I'm not going to get into the stitch and glue method specifics, but if you have a question about it ask and i'll tell you as much as i can. I'm not going to try to list all the stuff you need...just some. More will come out as i go.

1. Tools (saws, drill, etc.)
2. Time
3. Money
4. Basic woodworking skills

I didn't have an official plan to go by. I knew about how wide and how long i wanted to make the thing. I wanted to be able to get all the main pieces of wood out of standard 4x8 sheets of plywood.

I learned quite a bit doing this and will try to add as many tips and such as i go. The first is that mostly everyone will suggest using marine grade plywood etc. but i did not. This boat is not built for posterity. It was built for the challenge of doing it and to do a little bit of lake fishing. If it lasts 2 years i will be more than happy. I have used it and it is functional. Not all that pretty, but i bought cheaper materials. If you want it to look nice then at the least buy sanded ply.

If you're concerned about costs then here is tip one. Do not employ the stitch and glue method. Its basically a way to avoid having to be a good wood worker. You can have rough sloppy cuts and still make a go of it. The idea is that you're using epoxy fiberglass to weld a bunch of plywood together. For my second boat I am using lumber to join the sheets together and i will probably save myself several hundred \$'s. Epoxy is EXPENSIVE and i probably saved myself a lot by practicing the method. And for gods sake use epoxy. Polyester resin will do the job, and its much cheaper, but its really finicky to mix and the fumes are extremely toxic.

System Three Epoxies has a "book" called "The Epoxy Book" which i highly reccomend. Give it a look.

http://systemthree.com/members/m_index.asp

Lastly while I was not working off a strict plan, you should at least have an idea of what you want. I went to local lake and rented a row boat. The sides, back and front were about 16" high and about 4' wide so i decided to use those dimensions. And the sides and back were to be cut from a single sheet so it could only be 8' long max. So now to make a box 8' x 4' x 16" with some tweaking to make it boat like! Lets go...



step 1: The Butt End

I'm not sure what the technical term for this piece is called. Nor do I care! I could build a lot of things without knowing exactly what they're called. You only need to know those types of things if you plan on debating an expert. They like to make you feel dumb for not knowing their lingo. Usually they are just threatened by someone who can do what they do without formal mastery. I cut this from 5/8" plywood I had around. Its rough finish and it shows on the final product. Its the full 4' width of the plywood. The ends are tapered inward. Not by any specific amount, I just went by eye to what I thought would be nice. The future bottom seam is not flat, its peaked. Only slightly though. If you pitch it too steeply then while sheeting the bottom you will need to cut curved edges into the plywood. One of the benefits of stitch and glue it you can fill huge gaps. I've gone up to almost a half inch. Any how, onwards and upwards.

P.S. That's the living room of my 1 bedroom apartment. Not the best place to build a boat but its what I got.



step 2: Sides

The sides are 8' long and cut to match the width of the edges of the butt end. They are of 3/8" ply. 1/4" would have worked and would have been easier to bend.



step 3: Center Brace

I cut a second piece of 5/8" ply to match the butt end. It's to hold the shape in the center. I didn't want a big wall in the middle of the boat, so keeping the outer dimensions I cut out the middle leaving a 3" strip that matches the outer edges of the butt end. Then using blocks made from the cutoffs of a 2x6 I attached the cut out piece back on to the 3" strip. Now it's rigid to hold the shape, and the middle can be unscrewed and removed later to open the cabin up.

All attaching of anything in this instructable is done with standard drywall screws. I made a heap of 2x6 blocks to hold it all together in various places. You can see 4 of them holding the butt end to the sides. These will be removed eventually. The sides were screwed directly to the center brace. It will not be removed later.

step 4: Front Bit

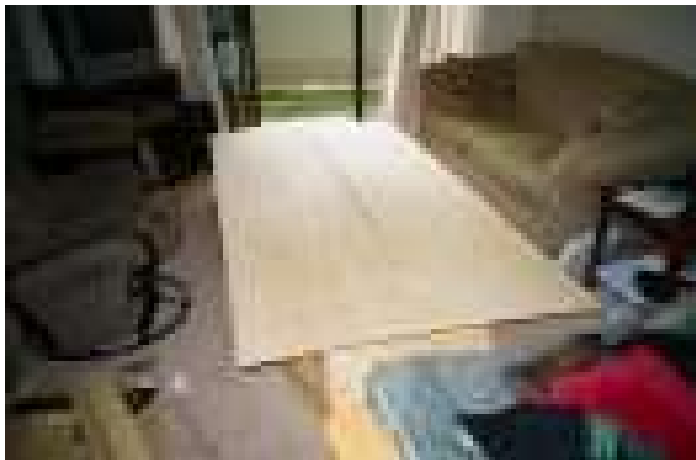
Forgot to mention, the front end of the side pieces were cut at an angle to make a "bow". Anyways the front piece is 5/8" ply. The length was cut match the angled sections of the sides. To guess-timate the width i grabbed the ends of the side pieces and pulled them inward until i thought they might start breaking and then backed off a couple inches and measured the width. Turned out to be 24". This was where the trickiest wood working parts cam into it. To hold the front to the sides i needed braces cut to something other than 90 degrees. I ripped a 2x4 along its length with a skil saw set to 12.5 degrees and it matched pretty well. Also where the bottom will meet the front was tricky. I could have (and probably should have) given the front piece the same peak as the back and center brace, but i didn't so i had to build a custom brace. I screwed a scrap of ply to the front piece so it was sticking out through where the bottom would be going and ran a string from the center brace to the front piece and got a line on how to cut. attached a few of the 2x6 blocks and there you go. Might not make sense but like i said you'll have an easier go if you trace the profile of the butt end to the front piece. I also added more braces to screw the bottom pieces into.



step 5: Bottoms Up!

This might seem like the hack method at this point, but really this where the stitch and glue method shows its value. I ripped a sheet of 3/8" ply in half and screwed them to the bottom. I put the factory edges towards the inside. You can see about a quarter inch gap in the middle. Epoxy putty will gladly fill this gap. I could have fine tuned the mating edges with end to end tapers to close this gap, or if i had added the profile of the butt end to the front piece it would have been a little nicer. Live and learn, and take advantage of the benefits of your build method. Gaps up to a half inch are excusable. Try for nice seams but don't worry if its not perfect.

Anyhow, i then flipped the thing over and ran a marker along the inside where the bottom pieces meet the sides, back and front. Then i removed them and cut along my marked lines. sloppy, or clever? hmmm...



step 6: We've Got a Hull?

So after cutting along my lines this is what we have. Ready for the actual stitch and glue bit now.



step 7: Stitch and Glue 1 - Tacking

So to avoid fumes i cleared up some space in my bedroom and moved the boat in there. This way i can close the door and hang out in the living room. It's kind of a lengthy process so i also slept on the couch for a few weeks. If i were more diligent i could have probably done all the epoxy work in a few days, but i'm pretty lazy so i slept on the couch for a few weeks.

Anyhow...clear up some space in the room of your choice. Put down some polyethelene sheeting. Epoxy does not cure to polyethelene.

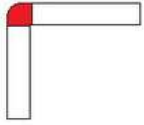
Usually with the stitch and glue method you do the inside first. I did it a little different. My way worked. Just saying.

I started with what i will call "tacking". Cause its kind of like tack welding metal in spots to hold it together. If you haven't read about stitch and glue its gonna get confusing for you. Sorry.

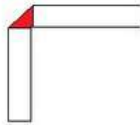
Duct tape along all the inner seams where there are no braces. I marked along the outer seams where there are no braces with pencil. Wet out the seams with epoxy. Wait about 45 mins, and the epoxy should be sticky but still "wet". Mix up a batch of epoxy putty. I bought an epoxy putty mix rather than mucking about trying to thicken it myself. you can save some money apparently if you thicken your own paste, i didn't want to add another element of chance so i just bought the putty mix. Once the initial epoxy is sticky mix up some putty and apply it to the wetted out areas. I gave it a flat fillet rather than a rounded one, and planned on going over these tacks with a proper fillet afterwards. I tried to make a little drawing of what i did. The fillet is not rounded.

Once this has cured fully you can remove all your braces and it should hold its shape. Then you duct tape all the rest of the inner seams.





Recommended
by "experts"



My Tacking

step 8: Stitch and Glue 2 - Outer Seams

Like i said i let the tacking cure fully. I gave it 48 hours to be certain. Now we can finish the outer seams.

I cut all the fiberglass tape strips i would need to length before hand and place them about the boat so that i would know where they go. These fiber glassing sessions can get long and should always be done all at once.

Try not to epoxy fresh layers over cured ones. Fresh epoxy doesn't bond well to cured epoxy. if you do this it is recommended that you sand the cured epoxy to give a rough surface for a fresh layer to adhere to.

Luckily the paste from the tacking has a relatively rough surface which held really well to the finishing layers. The tacking that was done was fully cured and subsequent layers have a risk of not adhering well.

Anyhow. Double check that all your inner seams have been taped, and that you have all your fiberglass tape strips ready to go. Wet out the outer seams and make sure to put a thin layer over the tacking. For me, by the time i had worked my way around from one end of the boat to the other the area i had started with was sticky. Mix up putty, and lay a rounded fillet along all the seams and over your tacked areas.

In the previous step i had a drawing of what a good finished seam should look like and thats basically how it should look. Lay the fiberglass tape along all the seams. The putty should still be wet so you can kind of use the tape to shape the fillets.

Now lay a final layer of epoxy to the tape. Try to work out the air bubbles. This should be thought of as finishing work. Do whatever you can to make the seams nice. Cured epoxy is the the most irritating thing in the world to sand and shape. The fiberglass tape should basically be see through. If you have any spots that are still white then you haven't wetted out the tape enough.

Now let it cure. I ended up waiting about a week, mostly i didn't have time to put in. But generally 24-48 hours is more than enough.



step 9: Stitch and Glue 3 - Inner Seams

Ok. So flip the boat! Remove the duct tape. You can now see what i meant about the center brace being a strip. The cut out piece was really helpful while tacking and finishing the outside but is no longer needed. In fact it probably could have been removed all together at this point and i would have had an easier job of epoxying the inner seams.

So this is a lot like the last step. Pre-cut all your fiberglass tape. Lay down a layer of epoxy along the seams. Let it get sticky. Lay down a pretty fillet of the epoxy putty. Lay the fiberglass tape along the seams. Again this is basically finishing work, and you can use the tape a little to shape the fillet. Lay a layer of epoxy over the tape making sure it wets out fully. (should be clear)

Let it cure!





step 10: What not to do?

So i added a strip of wood to the bottom along the length in the hopes of making it go straighter in the water. Next time i would have put this in before any of the epoxy work or left it off completely. To make it i cut a strip of 1x4 in half lengthwise and screwed the two bits on. I then epoxied them and filled the gap with putty, and put a little fillet on the outer edges. I think it looks like crap. Partly because i was using the last of my putty so i didn't have enough to do it as well as i thought. also i knew at this point that it would not turn out exactly as i wanted so i got a little lazy about the whole thing. I think it did help it to move better in the water. Also i would have sealed the hull at this point. I decided to add seats and some other stuff before sealing. oh well. lets proceed.



step 11: Seats

Not wanting to boat alone i added seatS! I put the rowing seat just towards the butt end side of the center brace and a passenger seat right up at the front. The middle one works all right but even a small person sitting right up at the front dips the bow into the water quite a ways. A better plan would be to put a passenger seat right up against the butt end and the rowing seat a little forward of the center brace. Also a cover over the bow section wouldn't hurt. Learn by my mistake. Also I made it so that the front seat was removable and the rowing seat was permanent, thinking i'd be able to remove the front seat and recline there to read or drink or something. this too makes the bow dip dangerously into the water.





step 12: Oar Locks

I bought my oars and the pin deals they attach to but for some reason thought i'd make my own oarlocks. They work but some commercial ones might be better.



step 13: Sanding

Sanding was a bitch! cured epoxy is really hard. I moved the boat onto my balcony onto a stand i made for it to rest on its side. I used a power sander at first but the clouds of dust prompted a visit from my building manager. Apparently my neighbours did not appreciate clouds of dust wafting over their drying laundry or something. whiners! so i had to finish sanding by hand. lengthy and difficult so i kind of cut corners here. 90% of the ugliness of the boat can attributed to this. The finished product looks like its got duct tape holding it together beneath the paint. if there is one step you should do to its entirety its this one. unless you like an amateur lookin job. in that case do what i did and sand down the pointy bits and call it done.



step 14: Sealing and Painting

Like i've said at this point i was starting to cut corners so normally sealing it means painting the entire thing in epoxy. I only did the outer hull with epoxy. 2 coats. All done on the balcony.

I painted 2 coats over the whole thing. Would have been easier without the rowing seat there.

Anyhow...i used marine paint. Battleship grey. Adds to the duct tape effect on the seams. I added some bits to the corners where the side pieces join the back and front peices with holes in them so i could have somewhere to tie a rope to it.



step 15: Enjoy the Fruits of Your Labour

So throw the boat in your truck. Go to the lake. Row about marveling at your creation. I learned a great deal and am currently working on a bigger, better, badder boat!

It ain't big or pretty but it was built in a 1 bedroom apartment. And for a first try it's bad-ass!



Related Instructables

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Sunfish Land Yacht by TimAnderson

Sailing Canoe Chapter X: Maiden Voyage by TimAnderson

Build a Greenland Kayak by nativewater

Comments

49 comments [Add Comment](#)



worry24 says:

The butt part is called the transom

Sep 13, 2008. 3:51 PM [REPLY](#)

Pornostache says:

Sep 13, 2008. 7:33 PM [REPLY](#)

Since posting I've learned about Transoms, Chines, Gunwales, Bow, Stern, Rudders, Keels, and others. While I appreciate learning these things as I have since designed 3 more boats and begun building another, I maintain that the names of these things are not required knowledge for the successful completion of such a project. If you plan to try this, or something similar and seek the advice of an expert they may become agitated if you are not familiar with these terms. In such cases it does speed up the process if they can say chine, instead of "the joint between the bottom and the sides" each time. Some though, when discussing benefits and drawbacks of certain methods will assume they know better because they know what its called.

As a side note I read an article discussing 100% acrylic latex house paint for use on boats. The paint I used was purchased in a marine supply shop, and cost about \$75 for a 1 gallon tin, and was labeled as specialty marine paint. Anyhow the writer of the article mentioned that exterior house paint is subjected to the elements 365 days a year, and generally will last 5-10 years. Stands to reason that it would be most suitable for a small inexpensive boat, and probably a lot cheaper. I know (now) from experience that anything deemed "marine use" will likely cost at least twice as much as items deemed "home use". Live and learn.



mgalyean says:

May 14, 2009. 7:26 AM [REPLY](#)

Exterior house paint can work fine on a small boat that is kept on the dry mostly. The expense of the marine grade is not so it can stand up to water, but so it can resist plant and animal growth, like algae and barnacles. The main factor is whether the boat will be kept on the dry when not in use or left in the water at the dock.

As for terminology equating to expertise, I think that maybe, just maybe, though you may find many slinging terms that aren't necessarily wiser, the same could be said of the new generation of "internet DIY'ers" that think that just because they insist on inventing everything from scratch doesn't necessarily mean they are smarter or more creative. Boatbuilding has been going on in nearly every culture for tens of thousands of years and is steeped not just in tradition, but in know-how. Personally, I respectfully listen to and store away whatever the olde schoole guys have to say and forego weighing it until my experience in the area outweighs my theories. I really like your instructable, by the way!

KitKat21 says:

Sep 18, 2008. 9:30 AM [REPLY](#)

excellent observations my dear Watson. I agree with not knowing every single piece of terminology about a subject to be able to do it. And, yes, i had the same exact experience with "experts" when i'd ask them for help. they were never kind, always trying to belittle my attempts (sometimes outright refusing to teach me) to learn because i hadn't memorized all the jargon BEFORE getting started. LOL!

I can understand where that frustration comes from, but since then i've vowed to never become one of thoooooose people. I learned to do lots of things this way, and yes even picked up the proper lingo after some time.

regarding the latex paint fiasco, you can pretty much count on ALL supplies pertaining to well-known and popular hobbies (like boat -making) to be overpriced because of the demand and popularity of such items among the hobbyists (is that a word). so it would be a good rule of thumb to ALWAYS look for similar tools that are used in other types of work, or generic versions. buyer-beware of those over-priced items!

Pornostache says:

Sep 19, 2008. 2:12 AM [REPLY](#)

hobbyists better be a word

Pornostache says:

Sep 19, 2008. 2:12 AM [REPLY](#)

Watson?! Thats slander! Yes. Yes anything people want for any specific purpose costs way way more. And yes there is almost always a viable alternative.

The only thing I will say in the defense of experts is that they are exactly that. I'm a hack in a lot of ways and whenever i see a master at work I am floored. (see "Building a Greenland Kayak") Knowing the terms does not make you an expert by the way. I've heard it said that Jimi Hendrix couldn't tell you a C chord from an F sharp minor. Anyhoo...I fear that labeling an expert as an A-hole may incriminate me if I ever reach such a level of any of my hobbies. I doubt hendrix would like it either. (again don't quote me on it, but i've met some terrific guitar players who never took a lesson. some day i'll play night moves perfectly!)

So, what was my point? Oh yea. I'm sorry you've found "experts" disagreeable. I have too. I just try to keep in mind that a lot of modern education centers itself on being a part of a community before being let in on the secrets of that community. And from what i've gleaned about the field of communities and creating a subculture for said community, the linguistics of a particular group and the use thereof tends to imply you are part of the gang and not a threat. I find it obscene that people can't openly share information, but i fully understand that it might make them feel like their well being via their trade might be in jeopardy. Especially if someone who's so rookie might be "catching up".

P.S. Watson says...Down With Experts!

smithy813 says:

Sep 14, 2008. 7:38 PM [REPLY](#)

defanatyly true, although sometimes it's unavoidable

plus, "marine" paint is also meant for salt water, not in and out lake rowboats

and marine wire is sometimes tined, which i think makes it more salt resestaint, thats the name of the marine game in my book, salt water and salt resestaince.

Pornostache says:
when it comes to marine electrical SPARE NO EXPENSE!

Sep 18, 2008. 3:01 AM [REPLY](#)



alsafi says:
make it more adventures by using a motor & fan on back or in the botom side of boat.byee!!

Apr 11, 2009. 3:24 AM [REPLY](#)



ninite says:
Good job, thanks for sharing this,I am going to make this boat with my grandson.

Dec 25, 2008. 6:53 AM [REPLY](#)



drawe21 says:
I recommend doing the epoxy work outside with good airflow, it is toxic and flammable. If you are forced to do work inside (any room) open windows and close doors to other rooms to keep the fumes out. (may want to mask off air vents and returns to keep your HVAC system from returning the air to all rooms in your house) Don't touch the light switch it sparks on the inside, BOOM...
Safety First

Nov 4, 2008. 8:13 PM [REPLY](#)

Pornostache says:
In high concentrations it can be dangerous. I opened my windows. As far as explosions are concerned, thats called fear mongering. I agree safety first, but the vapours are not really flammable or explosive. If possible, work outside obviously. Basically the biggest danger is in mixing too large of a batch. The process of "setting" is called polymerization and it produces heat proportionate to the mass. In extreme cases this can start to smoke or even ignite a paper cup. As stated at the beginning of this instructable, read up a little first. I have provided a link to a tutorial/manual on epoxy use which has a lot of safety info. Also, chemicals sold in the US or Canada have MSDS's (Material Safety Data Sheets) available on line or from a retailer when requested. Read these whenever you are unsure of what you're using or even do so if you think you know it all. different manufacturers tweak their recipes possibly creating different hazards. As a side note, polyester resin is another story. Epoxy resin is so popular due in large part to the fact that its fairly benign. Polyester resin is not. Its far cheaper but the fumes are EXTREMELY toxic. Even moderate exposure to polyester resin fumes can cause damage to the nervous system. Also, polyester resin's ability to bond to wood is dependant on many factors including the moisture level of the lumber. Epoxy wraps itself around the wood fibers, so while i wouldn't want to epoxy to a soaking wet board there is a much greater success rate at this building method with epoxy. Long story short, polyester resins (such as bondo) may be less expensive as a resin but generally cause more problems than they solve. USE EPOXY RESIN!

Nov 8, 2008. 5:25 AM [REPLY](#)

dciocoiu says:
on lake ontario do you need an floating licenc?

Oct 23, 2008. 4:06 PM [REPLY](#)



bigtreehouse says:
A friend and I did this same thing. We did it in a shop... I can't imagine working with the fiberglass in an apartment...

Sep 11, 2008. 1:00 PM [REPLY](#)

Pornostache says:
when i was in grade 4 a girl i liked said i was like macguyver. guess i never got over her ;)

Sep 18, 2008. 3:04 AM [REPLY](#)

KitKat21 says:
this is on my list of to-do's now. i've never even thought this could be possible to diy, learned alot from your mistakes. thanks for posting

Sep 11, 2008. 3:10 PM [REPLY](#)

Pornostache says:
you're welcome. watch for my table saw, and my kayak. you'll probably learn a lot about what not to do again lol.

Sep 18, 2008. 3:02 AM [REPLY](#)

Lithium Rain says:
You probably said and I just missed it, but do you know approximately how much this cost to make?

Sep 16, 2008. 1:20 PM [REPLY](#)

Pornostache says:
hmmmm...about \$100 for lumber, but i overspent. (or overbuilt) probably \$150 on epoxy putty. \$200 for fiberglass tape and unthickened epoxy. \$75 for paint. \$50 or so on the oars, and oarlocks. I didn't keep close track of my costs but i wish i had. Some tips to save some money would be to use 1/2" ply for the center brace, front and transom, 1/4" ply for the sides, use the center brace piece that was removed as the rowing seat, get a better mating between the two bottom pieces (used a LOT of putty in there) Or make it a flat bottom boat, set the width in the middle with a seat/brace. I have a lot of fiberglass tape left over too. If you can, only buy as much as you need. I would guess-timate the seams as costing about \$20/foot. Also buy 100% acrylic latex exterior house paint. You could also make your own oars? I also wonder if I could have used 1/4" ply for the transom and front as well as the sides. If I had I probably could have gotten all my pieces from 1 sheet of 3/8" and 1 sheet of 1/4". It might not be as strong initially but if you added some decent gunwales it would probably be pretty solid.

Sep 16, 2008. 2:28 PM [REPLY](#)

static says:
"Butt End", thanks for the chuckle, and good instructable. the finished boat reminds of a steel row boat a friend of mine has. A boat you definitely don't want to swap. So old it doesn't have the extra flotation foam my aluminum row boat had. I wonder if one took care when making the seams and other joint, if the glassing step could be left out and the hull painted with a quality enamel? IMO it should be mandatory for every house hold in NOLA and other place subject yo flooding should have a simple boat as this chained up to the house.

Sep 16, 2008. 2:39 AM [REPLY](#)

mysterious ninja of fire says:

Sep 15, 2008. 2:09 AM [REPLY](#)

Me and my dad have been looking for a small fishing boat for years we never had any idea they had some ways to build them on here lol

Pumpkin\$ says:

Sep 13, 2008. 7:43 PM [REPLY](#)

great 'ible' man that's great I love that little thing!

fav'd and added to my group

-PUMPKIN\$



dgeer says:

Sep 11, 2008. 7:09 PM [REPLY](#)

Yo nice one!

Avoiding the use of timber frames really works. I tried some years ago to build a boat using oil tempered hardboard (UK term). That makes an excellent skin and it stuck with 2 part adhesive but the frame needed to be made from a bendy wood like ash and that makes it expensive, even back then. If you can find a bendy timber and then use othb...also I suspect that discarded concrete shuttering ply might be perfect given it has I believe a bakelite/melamine water proof coating on one side...I want to make a boat but... too much house fixing up to do...perhaps we should move to apartment!



dominic.tarr says:

Sep 11, 2008. 4:44 PM [REPLY](#)

nice work mate!

now, find a suitable river or some such and go on an grand expedition... 100 miles seems suitable.

CementTruck says:

Sep 9, 2008. 9:46 AM [REPLY](#)

If you live in an apartment, and have limited storage, you can "dual purpose" this thing by using it as a bookshelf when not using it as a rowboat. Stand it up on it's stern, and lean it up against a wall, use a couple of scrap pieces of ply as shelves, and voila. :)

Great 'ible.

Pornostache says:

Sep 9, 2008. 12:43 PM [REPLY](#)

i actually keep it on the stand on the balcony. some people were more impressed at the "cleverness" of the stand than the boat itself. i thought about turning it into a shelf once i retire it. problem though. my ceilings are 7'8" and the boat is 7'10". dangit!

CementTruck says:

Sep 10, 2008. 5:32 AM [REPLY](#)

Thought#2 If you ever build a "next one", make it the dimensions of your truck bed rails. You can use it as a truck topper when not using it as a boat. It would make your truck more streamlined and aerodynamic, and would save you some gas.

I actually wanted to scratchbuild a fiberglass dinghy once. I wanted to incorporate it into the design of my truck to where the bow of the boat would follow the rake of the truck's windshield, and the boat would be mounted upside down on the truck roof, and extend to toward the tailgate. Life got in the way and the boat plans remain in my head.

Pornostache says:

Sep 10, 2008. 1:37 PM [REPLY](#)

actually trucks are designed to be aerodynamic with no topper and the tailgate up. haven't you seen mythbusters? i like the back of my truck open for the most part. the best way to save gas is to not drag around extra stuff.

CementTruck says:

Sep 10, 2008. 4:46 PM [REPLY](#)

Mythbusters!? They're good for a laugh and entertainment, but I cannot take their findings too seriously. I'll have to respectfully disagree. :)

I have owned a 1990 Nissan Hardbody since I drove it off the lot as brand new vehicle in 1990. Every time I drive the truck on the highway with the tailgate up I get 11MPG and when I drive with it down, or off, or with a truck topper, I get 21MPG (range of 55mph to 75mph). You can really feel the air flow over the vehicle and through the bed. It's been that way for 18 years. The truck has all the aerodynamic capabilities of a brick.

Pornostache says:

Sep 11, 2008. 11:12 AM [REPLY](#)

10mpg difference? i doubt it. i don't even really care to be honest. gas costs what it costs, and i want to go where i go when i go. i own a gas powered vehicle and its going to cost what it costs. money is one of the most abundant things out there. there is a limitless supply waiting to be grabbed by who ever has the get up and go to go get it. unfortunately it ain't me. money is for the rottweilers of the human race. myself...i'm a bloodhound...i'm in it for the thrill of the chase. if you get nearly 100% mileage improvement i congratulate you. You're truck was designed by the worst engineers to ever walk the earth!

Wade Tarzia says:

Sep 9, 2008. 1:01 PM [REPLY](#)

Well explained. Welcome to the Precocious Fraternal Order of Apartment Boat Builders! And if such an Order does not exist, then it should.

Pornostache says:

Sep 9, 2008. 1:40 PM [REPLY](#)

It was actually you're instructable on the sailboat that inspired me. Best one i've read to date, and it has made my life better! Only problem is i want to build another. and a kayak or canoe as well, for when i go fishin on my own. i have since been accused of having boat OCD, and gotten a few compliments on my renegade ways of building a boat in my living room. HIGH FIVE!

Wade Tarzia says:

Sep 10, 2008. 12:20 PM [REPLY](#)

Glad it worked out. Might as well have a boat for each day of the week. All that air over your head in an apartment is wasted space, so you could hang them from the ceiling on inventive cranes. I myself was inspired by a photo of someone lowering their boat out of an 11 story NYC apartment building window. Later I saw a photo of a bolt-in-two kayak in a Wooden Boat magazine, and then that was it, it had to be done.

Pornostache says:

Sep 10, 2008. 1:33 PM [REPLY](#)

thats effin awesome. makes me wish i wasn't on the ground floor. i was originally going for a bolt together pontoon boat about 15 feet long and 6 wide. i started it and realized how much it was going to cost. as far as building in my apt, i pay for the space and should use it how i like.



MadScott says:

Sep 10, 2008. 3:57 AM [REPLY](#)

Splendid. Anybody who'd hand-sand a hardened epoxy coat (and risk the damage deposit on their apartment putting it on in the first place) gets my admiration.

For all of the great boat-porn that Wooden Boat and their ilk publishes, they've also convinced people that you should have the facilities and expertise to crank out a 35 foot Herreshoff racer from a half-hull model. Forget it - build a boat and get on the water!

I've found a few other links over the years for we like-minded sorts:

<http://www.duckworksmagazine.com/index.cfm>

<http://www.pdracer.com/>

Pornostache says:

Sep 10, 2008. 11:34 AM [REPLY](#)

that was my theory. slap it together, see if it floats. and it did. FUN!

altomic says:

Sep 9, 2008. 4:09 AM [REPLY](#)

that is one very cool instructable.

If i had to vote for the best 'build a row boat in a one bedroom apartment" then definitely yours would be up there.

"Usually they are just threatened by someone who can do what they do without formal mastery." - gold.

I lived in Japan for 4 years -waits for the applause to die down- and yeah the number of experts who show you how to do the most mundane crap but a praised for it is ridiculous.

"here is master shoji, who has trained for 20 years under grand master yoshi in a secluded mountain top shrine. see how he uses ancient methodologies with the obvious signs of learning from the northern japanese method influenced by the 15th century shogunite leader of kyushu Tachinoyou Shintaro. Yes, look how he uses his left hand to scratch his ass."

Pornostache says:

Sep 9, 2008. 12:46 PM [REPLY](#)

ha ha! i think my favourite question was "Wow! how'd you bend the wood?" and they expected some bizarre steam bath/vice technique and my answer was "you grab here...and you pull this way."

gnomedriver says:

Sep 8, 2008. 10:50 PM [REPLY](#)

great job!

How did you get away with building it in the living room?

I get it from my wife when I rewire a plug at the kitchen table.

Pornostache says:

Sep 9, 2008. 12:15 AM [REPLY](#)

well for one thing i'm a bachelor. and i have good neighbours for the most part. i play guitar all the time and no one seems to mind. I also crank up the stereo when using power tools. ;)

Pornostache says:

Sep 8, 2008. 6:43 PM [REPLY](#)

i really appreciate the positive feedback. thanks guys.

darth2o says:

Sep 8, 2008. 6:19 PM [REPLY](#)

So how long did it take you?

Pornostache says:

Sep 8, 2008. 6:40 PM [REPLY](#)

about 3 months. there were a couple of delays. with complete devotion and unlimited funds you could pull it off in a couple weeks.

Gjdj3 says:

Sep 8, 2008. 6:18 PM [REPLY](#)

Nice first 'ible. Other than the small pics, great job.

Brennn10 says:

Sep 8, 2008. 4:43 PM [REPLY](#)

Although the pictures are a little small, I felt your descriptions were outstanding. This is well done.

LinuxH4x0r says:

Sep 8, 2008. 5:15 PM [REPLY](#)

agreed. did you take it with a phone?

Pornostache says:

Sep 8, 2008. 5:48 PM [REPLY](#)

the early pics came out small. not sure why. and the last five we got to the lake and my digital camera was dead. so those were taken with a cell. most were done on a film camera and developed by the shop onto cd. sucks that its mostly the wood working ones. those have the most details. sorry.

LinuxH4x0r says:

Sep 8, 2008. 5:55 PM [REPLY](#)

No problem. The written part makes up for it. Hope to see more stuff from you soon!

Brennn10 says:

Sep 8, 2008. 6:16 PM [REPLY](#)

You took the words right out of my mouth Linux!
