

# Uncle John's

5229 Choupique Road Sulphur, LA 70665

Thank you for purchasing our plans.

Have a safe and enjoyable experience building and using your craft.

## Materials needed to build the basic boat

1/4" x 48" x 96" exterior plywood ~ 3 sheets

Lauan maghony, B/C pine or A/C fir will work well. Specify exterior glue.

3/4" x 24" x 48" exterior plywood (one quarter sheet for transom)

7/16" x 1 1/8" x 144" clear lumber ~ 5 The quickest, easiest material to use is common "door stop" which is 7/16" x 1 1/8" fir.

1 1/2" x 6" x 18" (2x8) clear lumber for the stem

Glue, waterproof ~ 16 oz.

The strength of the joints and the boat will come from the fiberglass. The glass, not the glue, will provide the strength.

6 oz. woven fiberglass cloth ~ 3" x 90'

Ninety feet of three inch wide strips, which can easily be cut from larger pieces. The total amount of cloth and resin will be determined by the area you wish to cover.

Sheet #2 ~ cutting the side boards and bottom

Sheet #3 ~ scarf joining the sideboards and bottom

Sheet #4 ~ cutting the stem blank

Sheet #5 ~ cutting the compound angles to form the stem

Sheet #6 ~ cutting the transom

Sheet #7 ~ cutting the bow seat and knee

Sheet #8 ~ cutting the center seats and supports

Sheet #9 ~ cutting the stern seat and support

Sheet #10 ~ attaching the side boards

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Sheet #17 ~ rigging for sail

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Sheet #19 ~ finished sails

Sheet #20 ~ building a leeboard

Sheet #21 ~ an alternative sail plan

**NOTICE:** Care should be exercised in the completion of the steps involved in constructing this boat to assure a sturdy craft. The safety of this boat is determined by the builder and user. Uncle John's assumes no liability for the finished project. As with any water craft, life-jackets should be worn and caution exercised in regard to weather and water conditions.

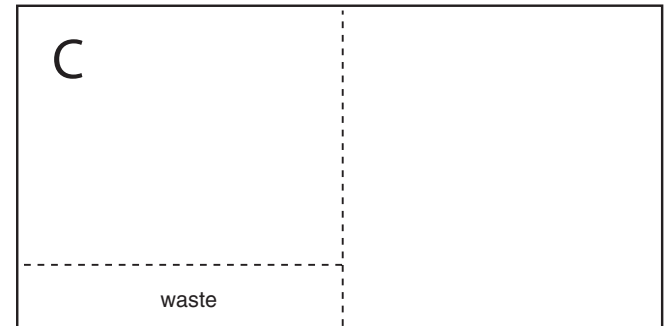
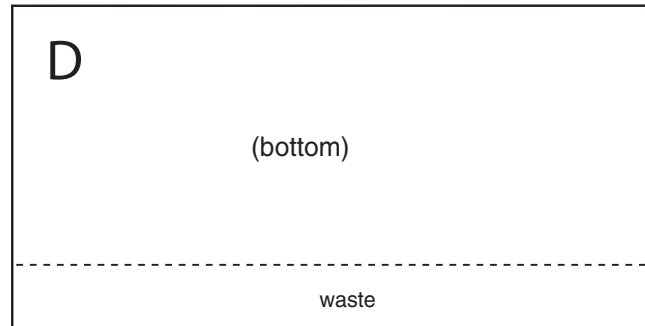
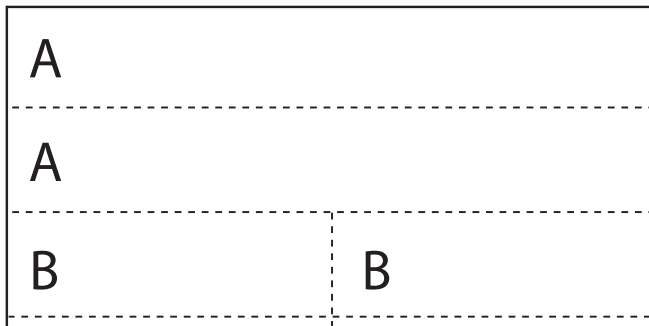
## Sheet #2 ~ cutting the side boards and bottom

By following these simple steps you can be confident that you will successfully build a serviceable boat which will serve you well for years. Take your time, do not "make" things complicated. The strength and durability of your boat will be in the finishing. Fiberglass both sides of all seams and joints, use a quality paint and never store your boat in contact with the ground.

**Plywood:** The basic difference between most marine plywood and exterior plywood is that marine plywood does not contain voids. Both contain essentially the same glues. Taping the seams and edges with fiberglass will effectively seal the edges. Exterior plywood is considerably more economical and is a standard stock item at lumberyards. We have had good results with both A/C fir and B/C pine. Lauan mahogany is used by many small boat builders. Lauan is pretty, easy to work with and very economical.

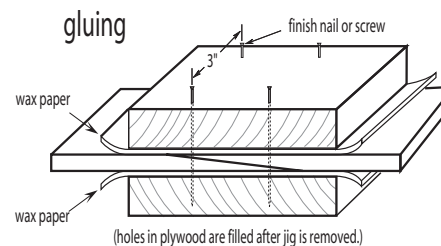
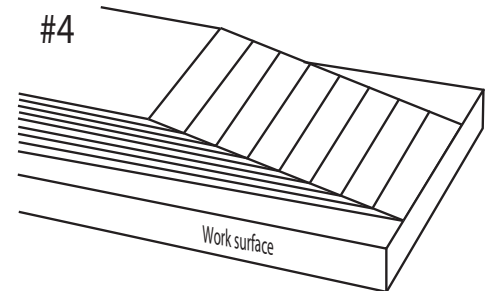
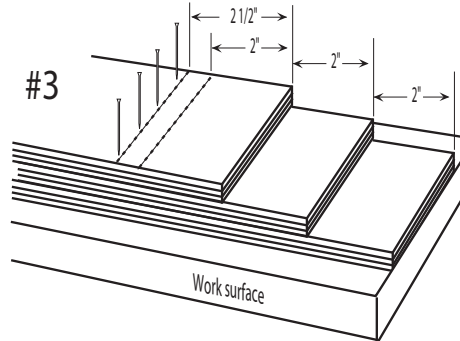
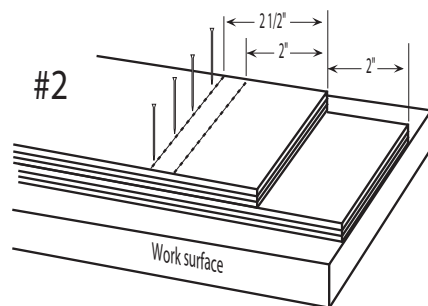
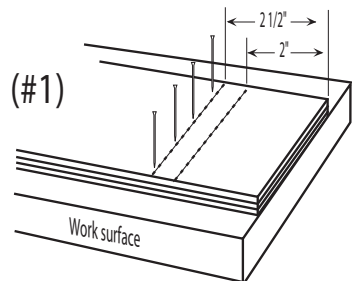
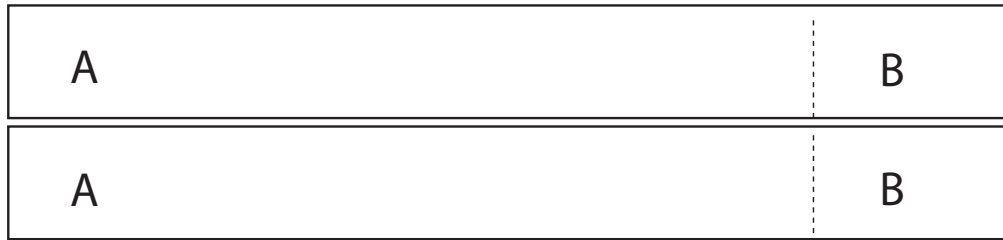
**Glue and fasteners:** There are numerous waterproof and water resistant glues on the market. For the most part, glues, nails and screws hold the structure together prior to taping the seams with fiberglass. Once the seams are taped, the fiberglass will provide a strong waterproof joint. For this reason, the type of glue is of less importance than taping both sides of all seams and joints with fiberglass.

Cut the side boards and bottom pieces from three sheets of 1/4" plywood.



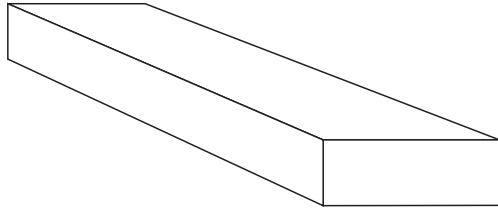
## Sheet #3 ~ scarf joining the sideboards and bottom

Scarf all of the pieces of the same width at the same time. By doing them all at the same time, they will all have the same angle. Stack the pieces offsetting each from the one below by 2". A piece of scrap placed on top will aid in achieving a smooth bevel. Tacking the pieces to a flat work surface will stabilize the pieces while you are scarfing. (#1) Place the first piece on the work surface and tack it down at least two and one half inches from the end. (#2) Place the second piece on top offsetting by 2" and tack it down. The tacks should be placed so as not to be in the area that is to be worked. (#3) Continue to stack the pieces as shown. (#4) Using an electric plane, belt sander, random orbit sander or even a piece of coarse sandpaper wrapped around a piece of two by four "grind" the pieces until a smooth surface is achieved.

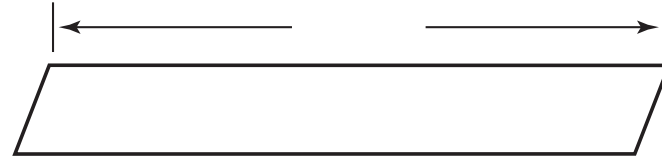


## Sheet #4 ~ cutting the stem blank

Prepare a piece of clear lumber (no knots) " long, " wide and " thick



Set saw for a degree cut and cut stem ends as shown

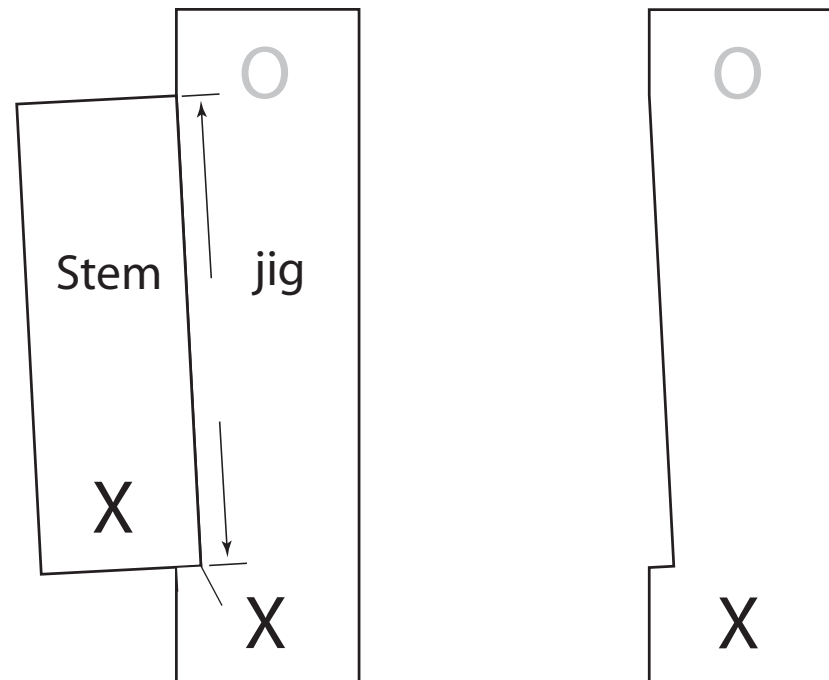
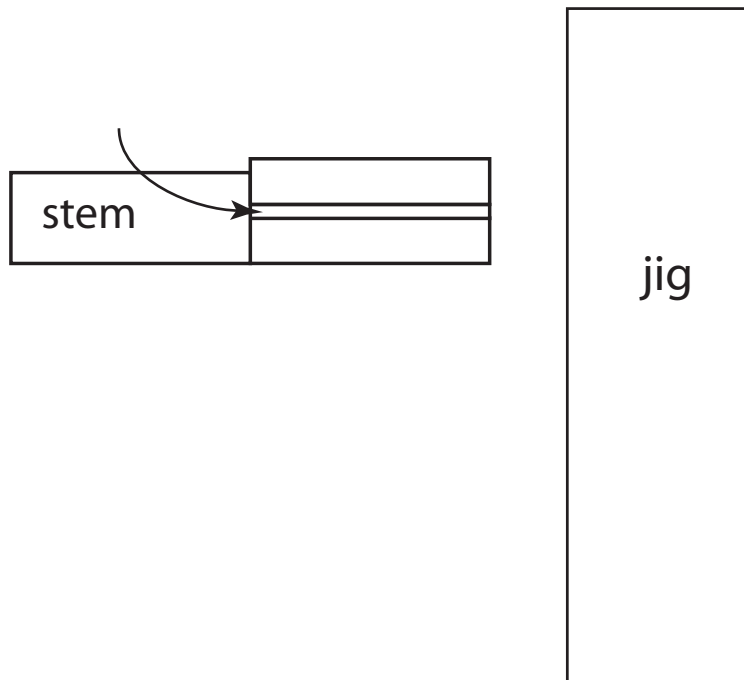


## Building the jig

The cutting jig should be made of " or " plywood sandwiched between two layers of " plywood. The jig needs to be thicker than the stem stock to prevent override.

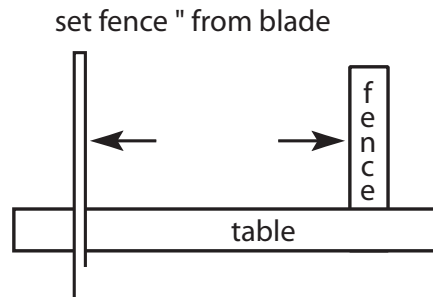
Place an X on one side as shown and an O on the opposite side as shown by the grey. This will help orient the pieces when cutting the stem. In the illustrations, when the letter is black, it is up and when it is grey, it is down.

use stem blank to mark jig for cutting

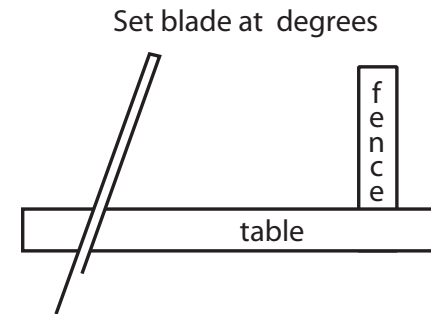


# Sheet #5 ~ cutting the compound angles to form the stem

#1

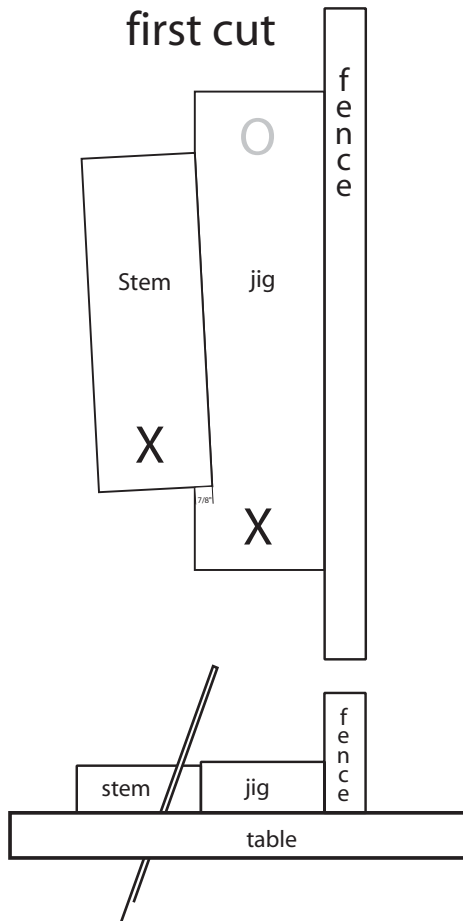


#2



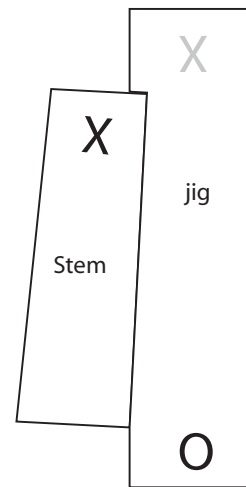
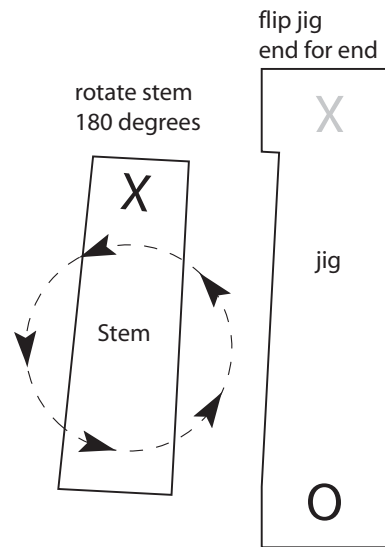
#3

first cut



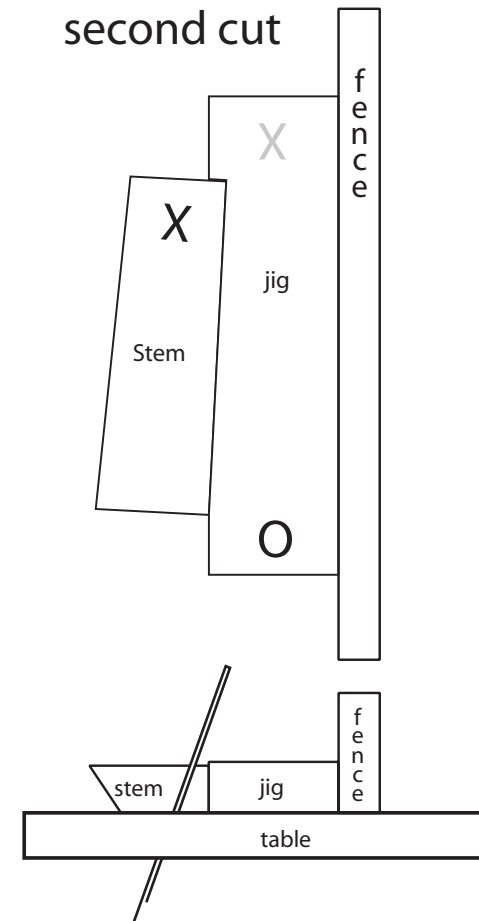
#4

Rotate the stem and flip the jig end for end as shown. Glue or use double sided tape to attach the stem to the jig to prevent slipping while cutting and to prevent the scrap piece created between the stem and the jig from binding the blade.

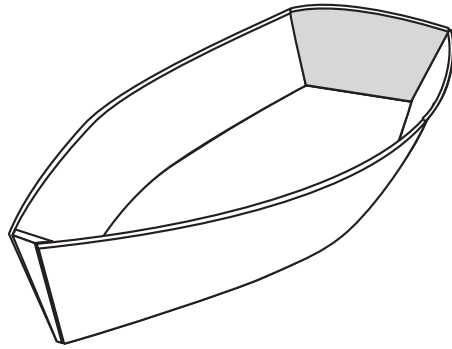


#5

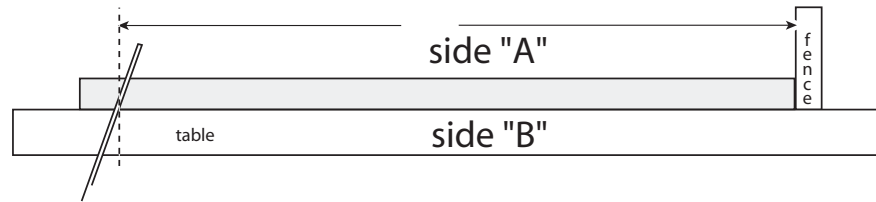
second cut



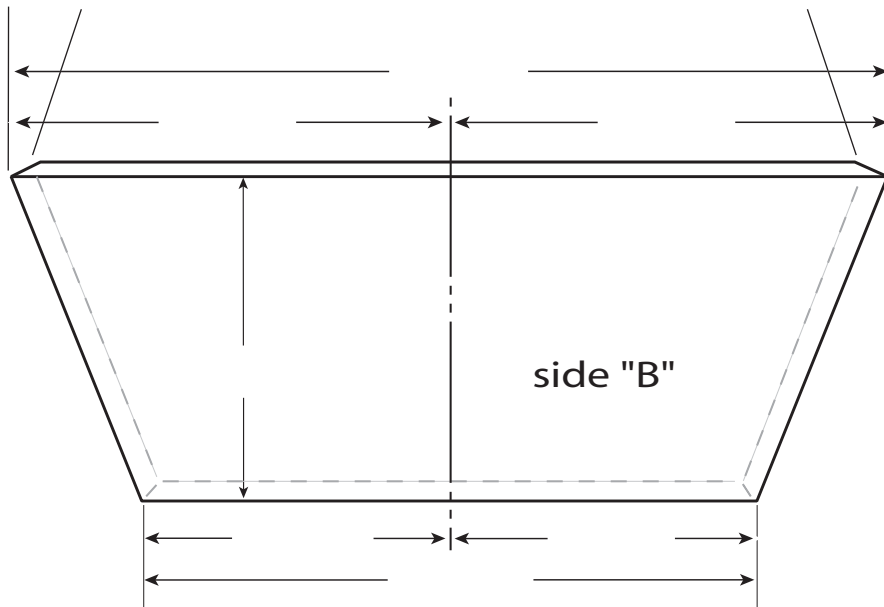
## Sheet #6 ~ cutting the transom



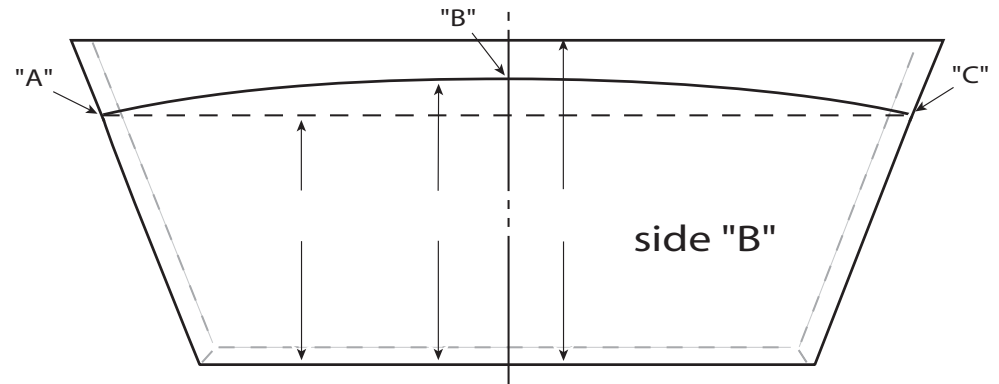
1. Set Blade on table saw at degrees and rip a piece of 3/4" plywood, 1/4" wide, " long.



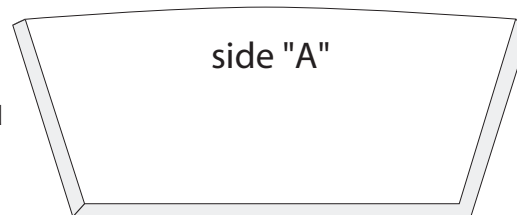
Place side "A" down and the side just cut to the bottom. cut the compound angles on the ends of the transom.



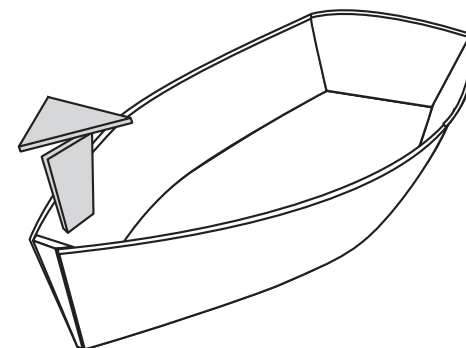
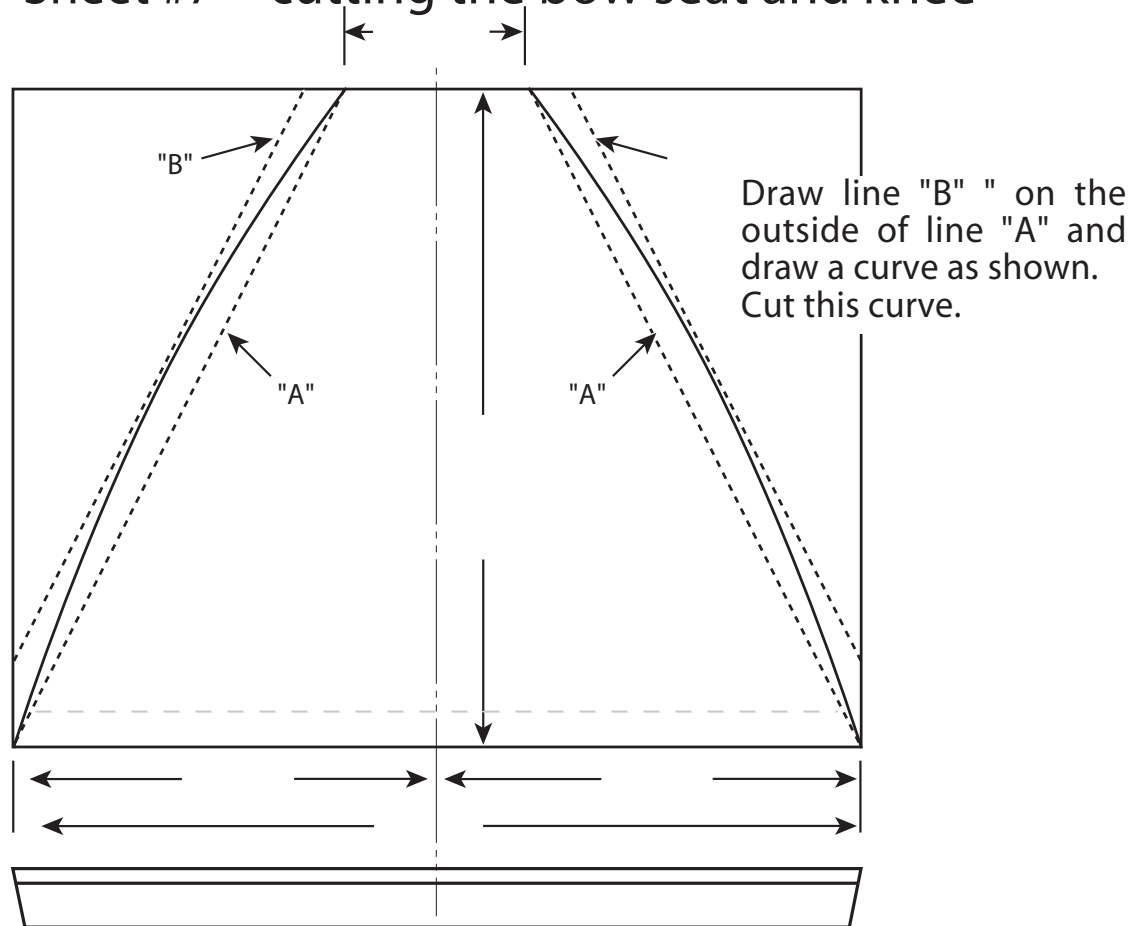
Cut a gentle curve in the top of the transom. Easiest method of drawing the curve is to place a nail at point "B" and bend a flexible scrap of lumber between points "A", "B" and "C" to create the curve. Adjust point "B" until you have a pleasant curve, mark and cut.



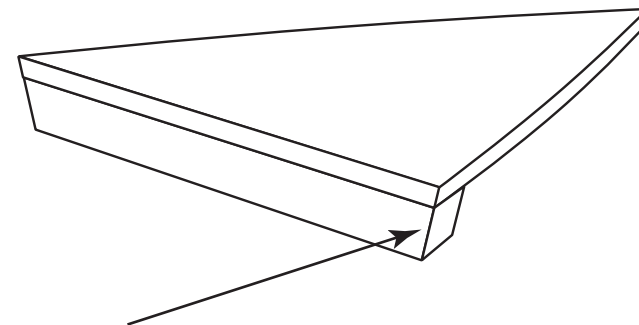
When the transom is placed with the "A" side up, the beveled edges should face you.



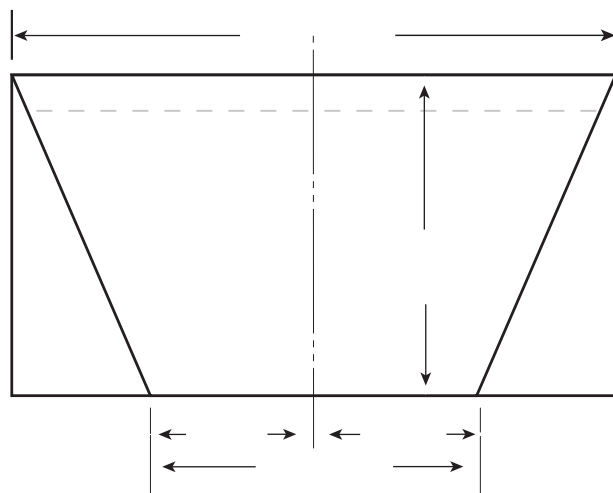
# Sheet #7 ~ cutting the bow seat and knee



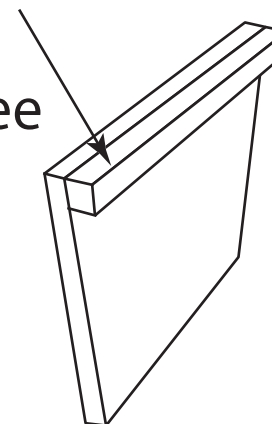
bow seat



Attach " x " strips to seat parts as shown. The ends of the strips on the seat tops need to be beveled to fit where it meets the sideboard.

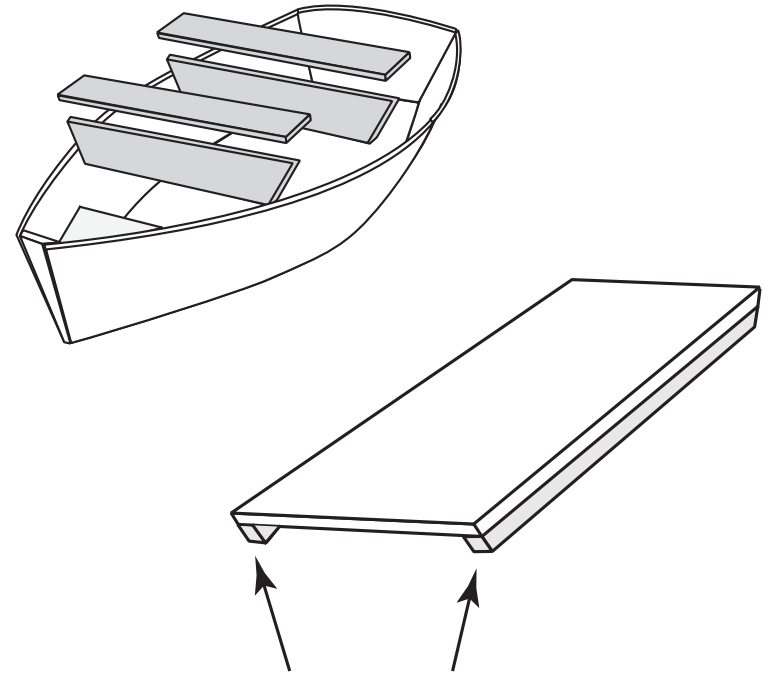
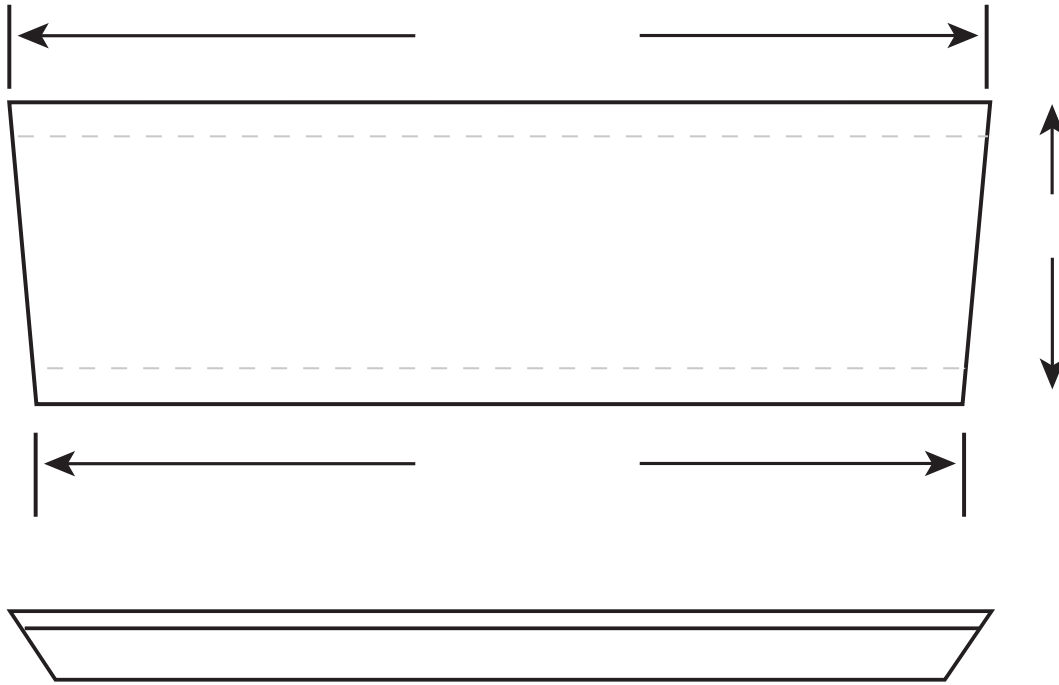


Bow Knee



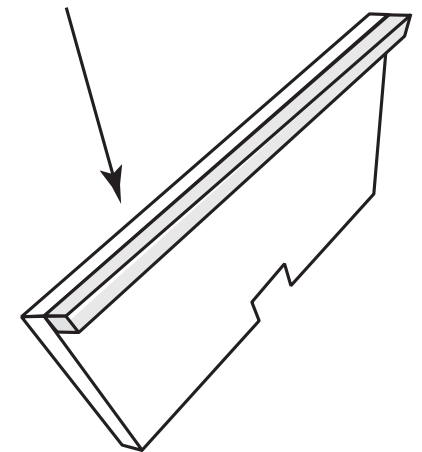
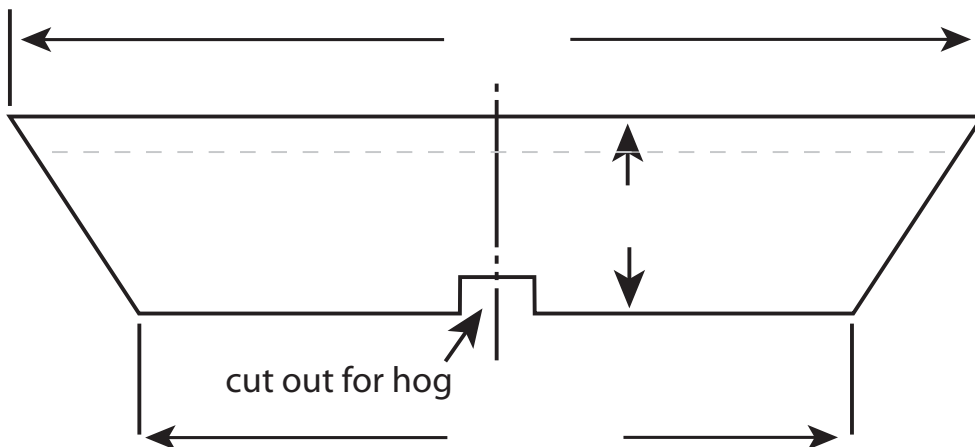
## Sheet #8 ~ cutting the center seats and supports

Seat top, make two



attach " x " strips to seat parts as shown. The ends of the strips on the seat tops will need to be beveled to fit where it meets the sideboard.

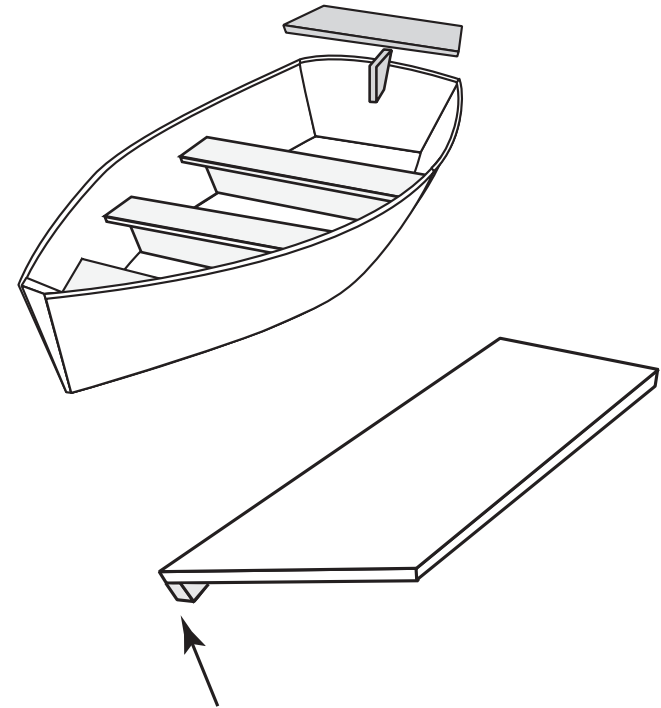
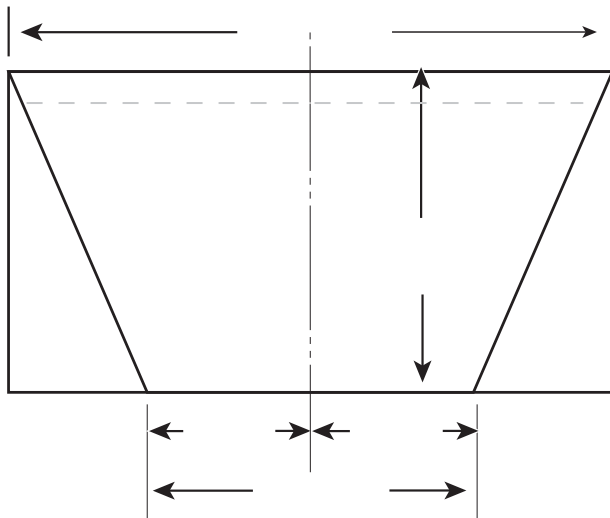
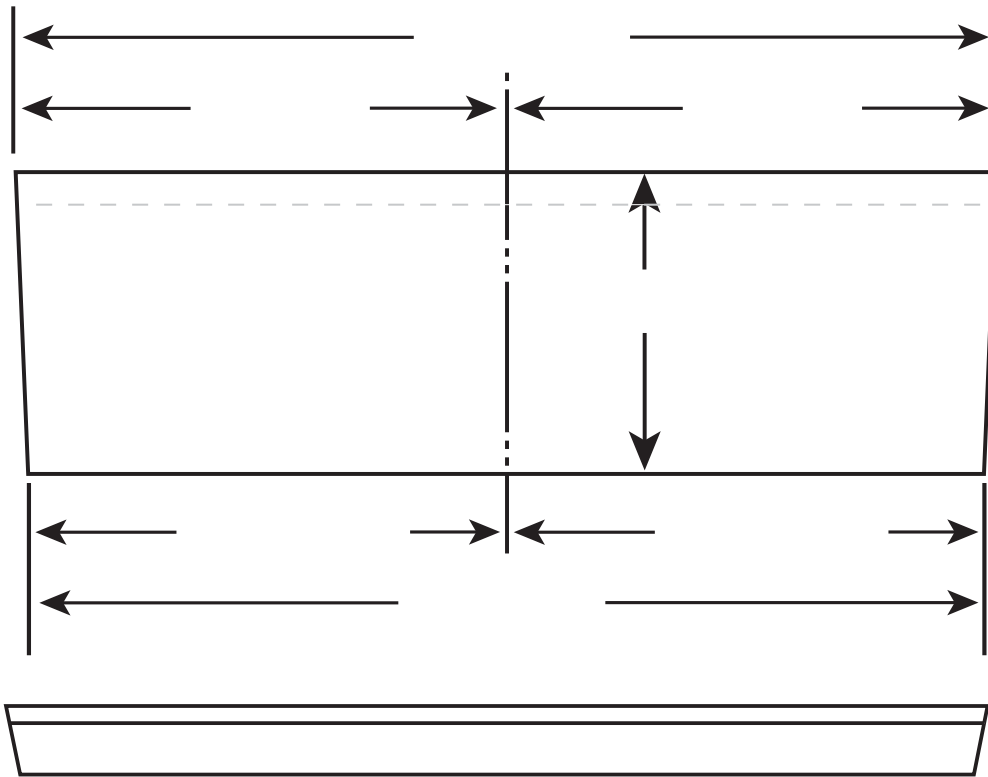
Seat Support, make two





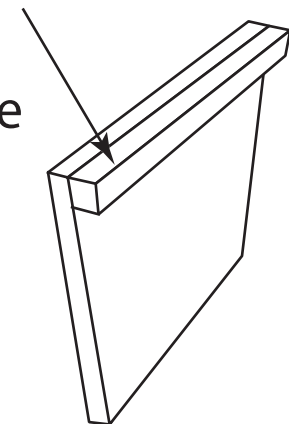
## Sheet #9 ~ cutting the stern seat and support

Stern Seat



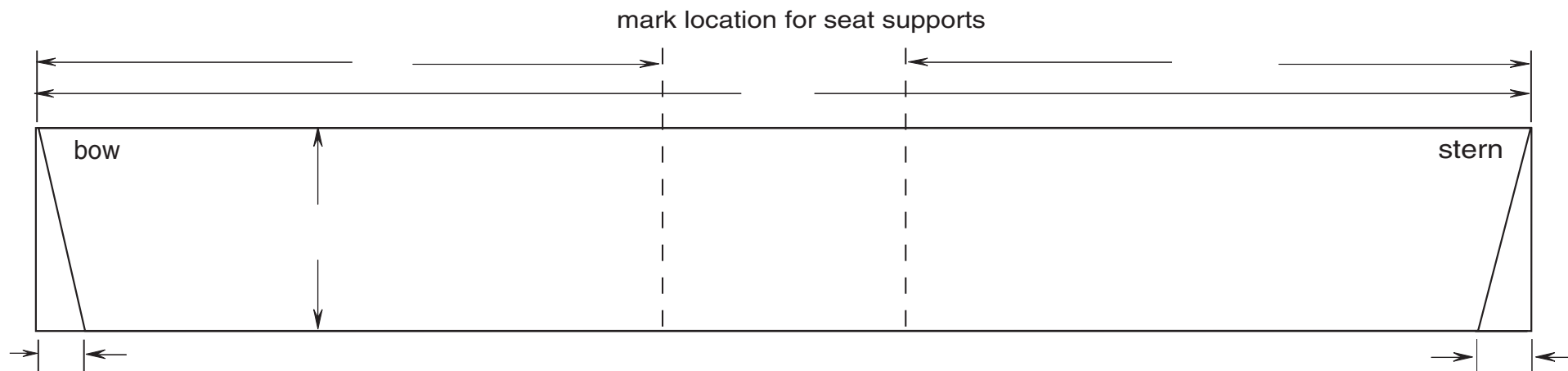
Attach " x " strips to seat parts as shown. The ends of the strips on the seat tops will need to be beveled to fit where it meets the sideboard.

Bow Knee



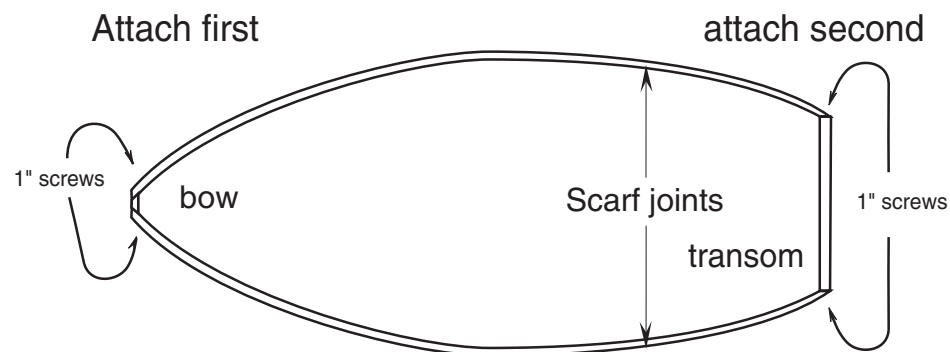
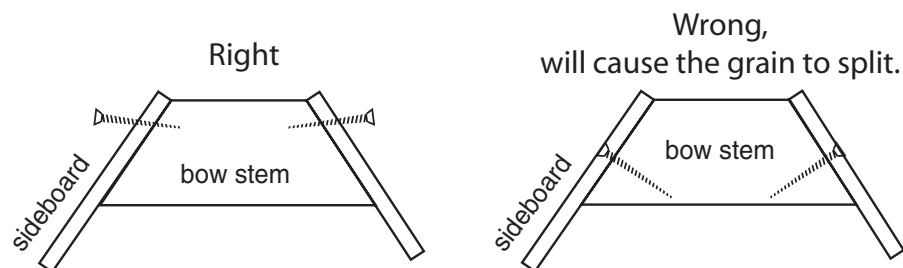
# Sheet #10 ~ attaching the side boards

LAY OUT AND CUT THE SIDEBOARDS. Mark off the bow and stern angle. Mark the positions for seat supports on the inside of both sideboards before cutting the bow and stern angle. Stack the sideboards and cut both at the same time, this will assure that they are identical.



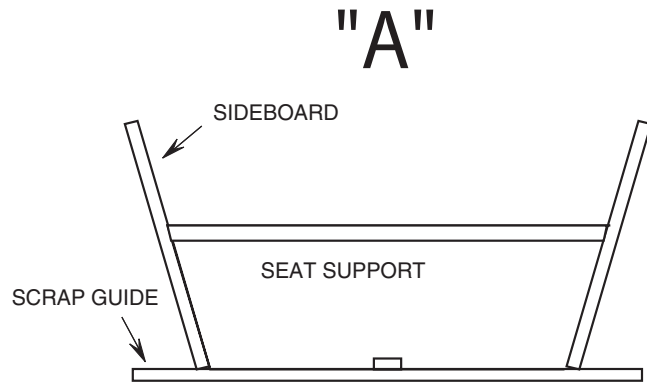
Using both a waterproof glue and 1" screws to attach sideboards to bow stem first, then attach sideboards to transom. NOTE: Use a scrap guide across the bottom of the sideboards (see Sheet #11 "A") to position the bottom of pieces when attaching items such as the stems, transom, hog, knees or center seat support.

Use screws in as shown to attach the sideboards to the stems. It is very important to attach the sideboards to the bow stem first and then to the transom. After the glue is dry remove the screws and fill the holes.

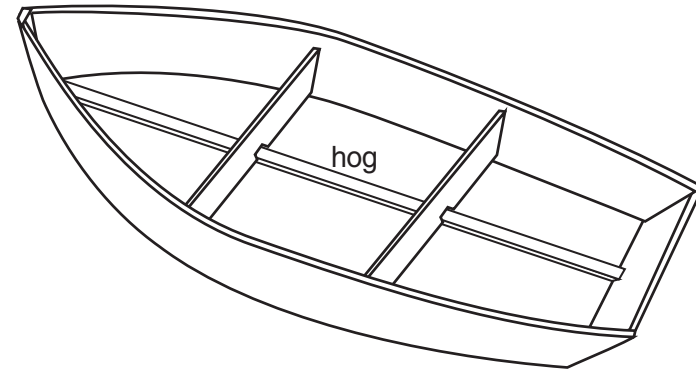


# Sheet #11~ installing the seat units

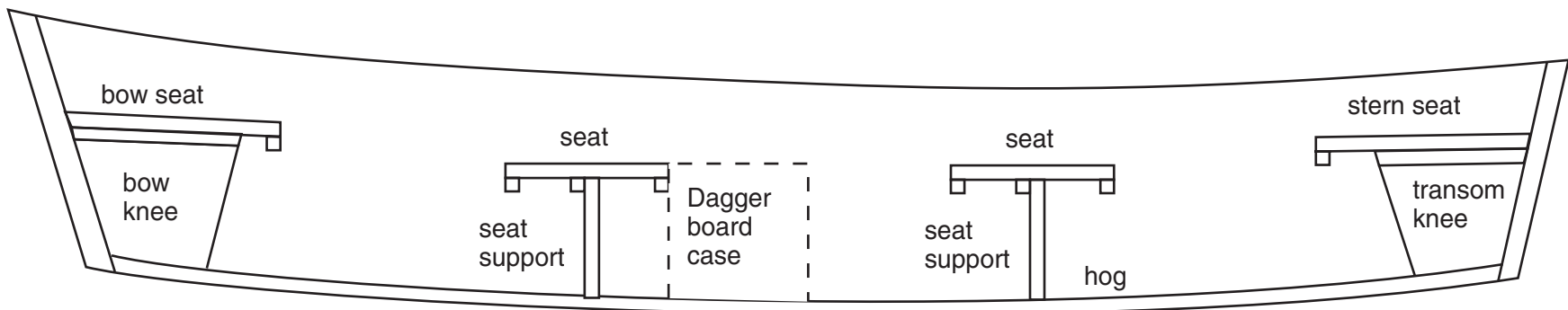
Insert seat supports and glue. Use a scrap guide across the bottom of the sideboards to position bottom of the seat support.



Cut a " x " (standard door stop) hog strip to fit from bow to transom. Attach hog to bow stem, center seat support and transom.

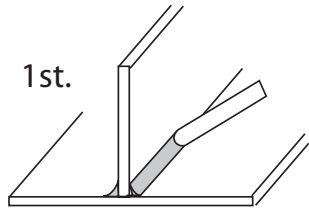


Attach knees to stem, to transom and to hog. Attach seat tops. Because all plywood may not bend the same, some minor adjustments may be needed when attaching the seat tops. 60 grit sand paper wrapped on a piece of scrap will serve as an efficient rasp. Don't worry about small gaps. When the joints are glassed, the gaps will be filled with resin.

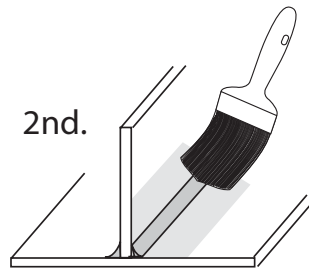


# Sheet #12 ~ fiberglassing the seat units

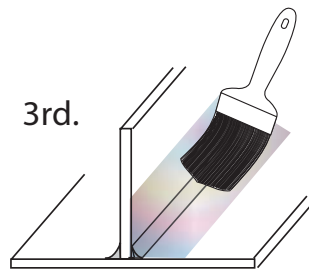
Fiberglass: All seams and joints should be fiberglassed inside and out with 3" wide 6 oz. cloth for strength and to seal the edges. Epoxy resin is the best, polyester is the most economical and the easiest to obtain. Polyester resin can be found lumberyards and auto parts stores. A good source for epoxy may be found from [www.raka.com](http://www.raka.com)



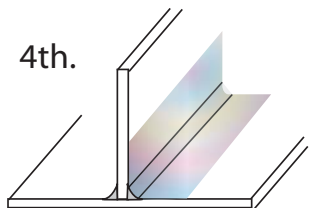
Use a tongue depressor to create a cove on the inside seams with a mixture of fiberglass resin mixed with filler or fine sawdust.



Paint resin on the area to be glassed. If you use polyester resin, for the first application, add one tablespoon of acetone to each ounce of resin, thinning the resin to increase penetration into the wood fiber and holding strength. This is not necessary when using epoxy and is only for the first coat using polyester.



Put cloth in place and saturate with resin. When the cloth is saturated it will become virtually invisible. It is important to saturate the cloth but not to the extent to "float" the cloth off the surface. The texture of the weave may be floated with a second coat of resin. Overlap cloth by 2" where needed.

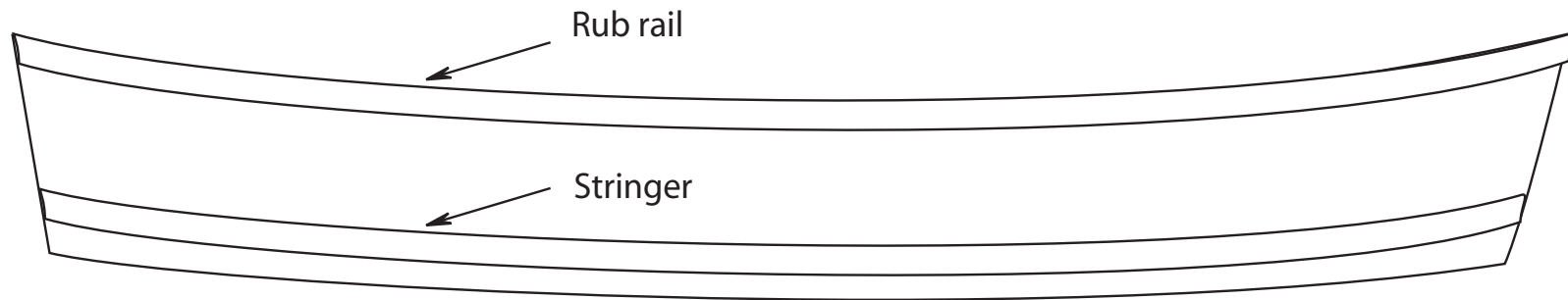


After the resin has cured, puncture any bubbles and reglass. The edges of the cloth may be feathered on by sanding to blend the cloth into the wood.

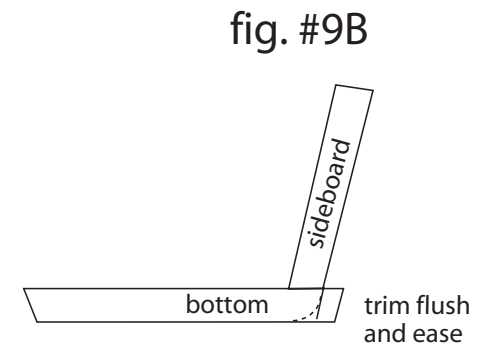
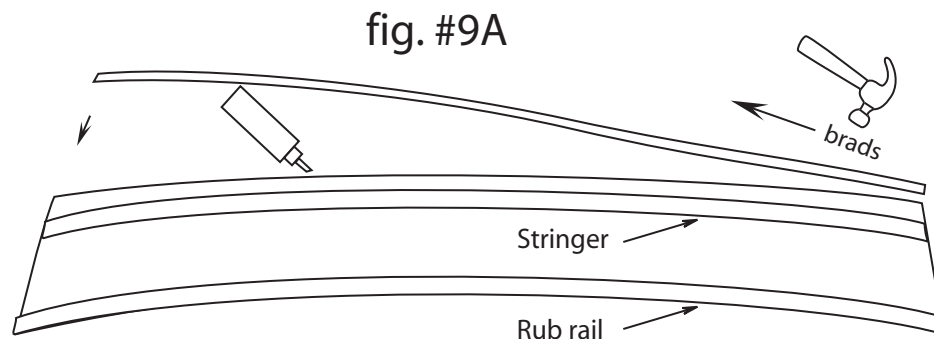
Paint: Epoxy must be protected from sunlight or it will degrade. Painting is easy and durable. 100% acrylic exterior latex (water based) house paint works well. It is economical, fast drying and very durable. Water based paints generally stick well to epoxy where some oil based paints have adhesion problems and often require more preparation. If you wish to stain your boat and use a clear finish you should use a water or alcohol and not oil based stain. Allow the stain to dry thoroughly before applying the resin. A good marine varnish will protect the epoxy and show the beauty of the wood.

## Sheet #13 ~ attaching the rub rails and bottom

Attach outer rub rails flush with the top of the sideboards, then attach inter-rub rails. After attaching rub rails but prior to attaching the bottom, temporarily attach a stringer (using only screws) 2" above the bottom of the sideboards to shape the boat prior to attaching the bottom. After the bottom is attached the stringers are removed and the screw holes are filled.



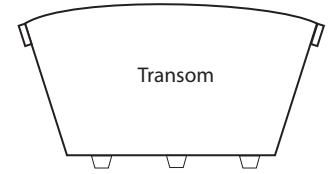
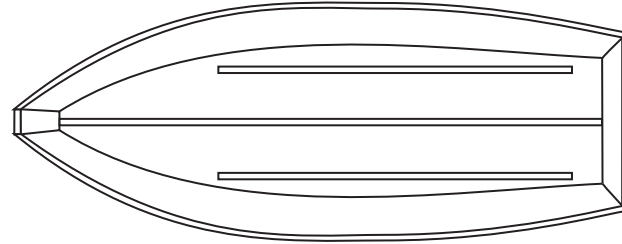
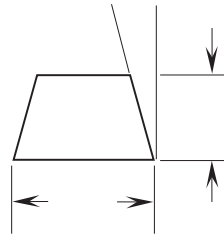
Turn boat upside-down, tack bottom in place and mark hull shape, add ¼" all around, remove and cut bottom to shape. Attach bottom to sideboards, hog, center seat support, knees, stem and transom (fig. #9A). Trim bottom flush with sideboards and ease the edge, (fig. #9B). When attaching bottom it should be remembered that the strength will come from fiberglassing the seams inside and out, not from the glue or fasteners.



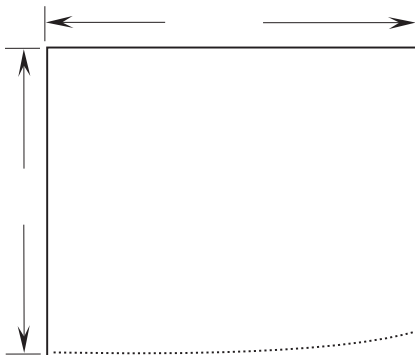
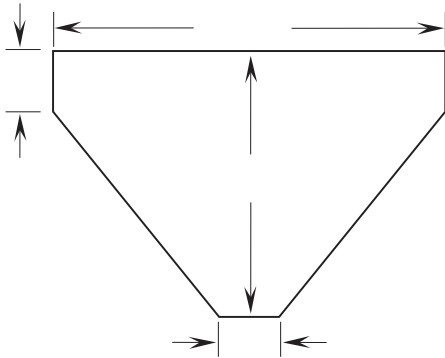
# Sheet #14 ~ attaching runners and building the daggarboard trunk

## Attach bottom runners

Note: If you are building the boat to sail, the runners are not normally used.

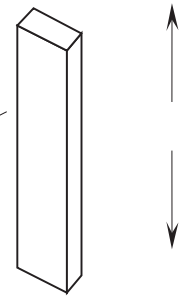
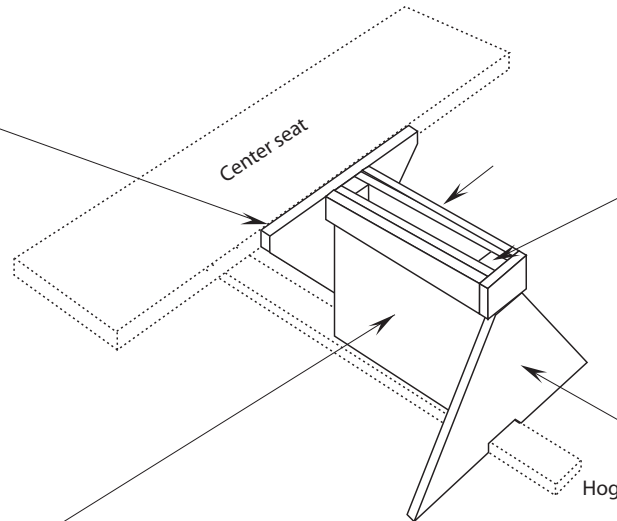


## Building the daggarboard trunk

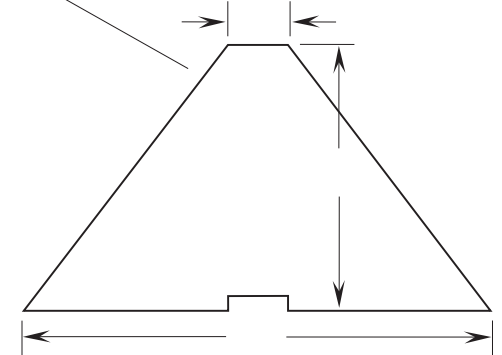
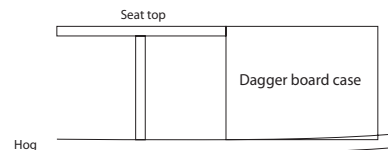


## Build and install the daggerboard case

Use assembled case to locate slot through hull.  
Extend height of case by 1" for each 100 pounds over 400 pounds of load.

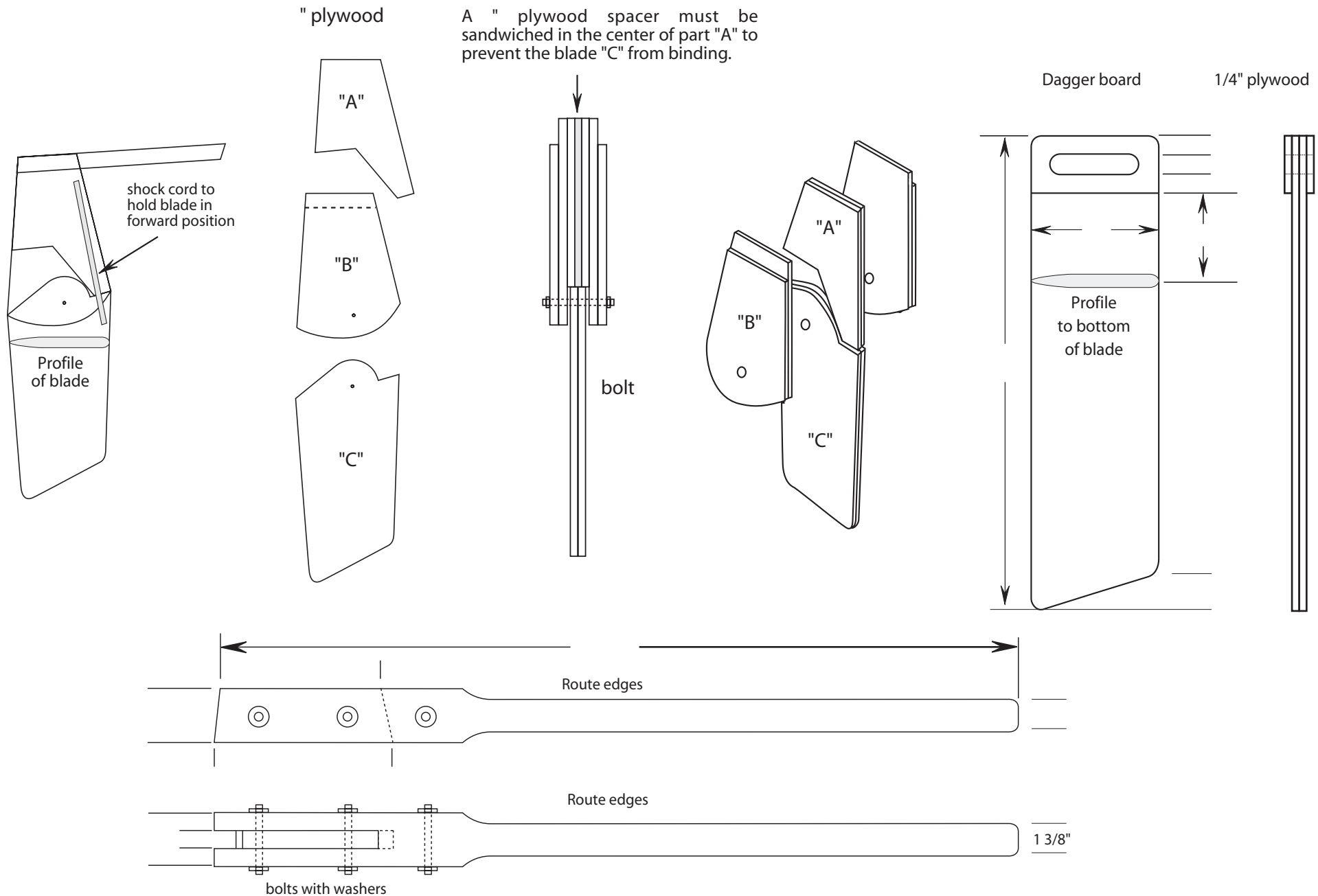


NOTE: The daggerboard case must be installed perpendicular to the seat top. The bottom of the case must be trimmed to fit.



# Sheet #15 ~ building the rudder

Building the rudder. The rudder is constructed from separate pieces sandwiched together. Use the full size layout sheet to transfer patterns and cut out pieces. Plywood has two distinct sides, good and not so good. Always glue the not so good sides facing each other, this will flatten and strengthen the finished piece.

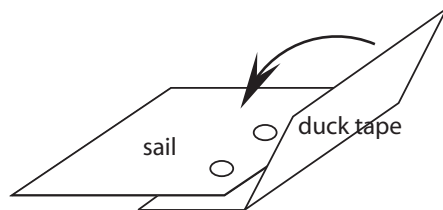


# Sheet #16 ~ building a sail

The easiest and most economical sail to construct is a spirit rig, made using poly-tarp for the sail, " chain-link fence tubing for the mast and " conduit for the spirit boom. The optimum size sail depends upon the experience of the sailor and the weather conditions. Because of the ease of construction, it is convenient to have more than one size. Start conservative and work up.

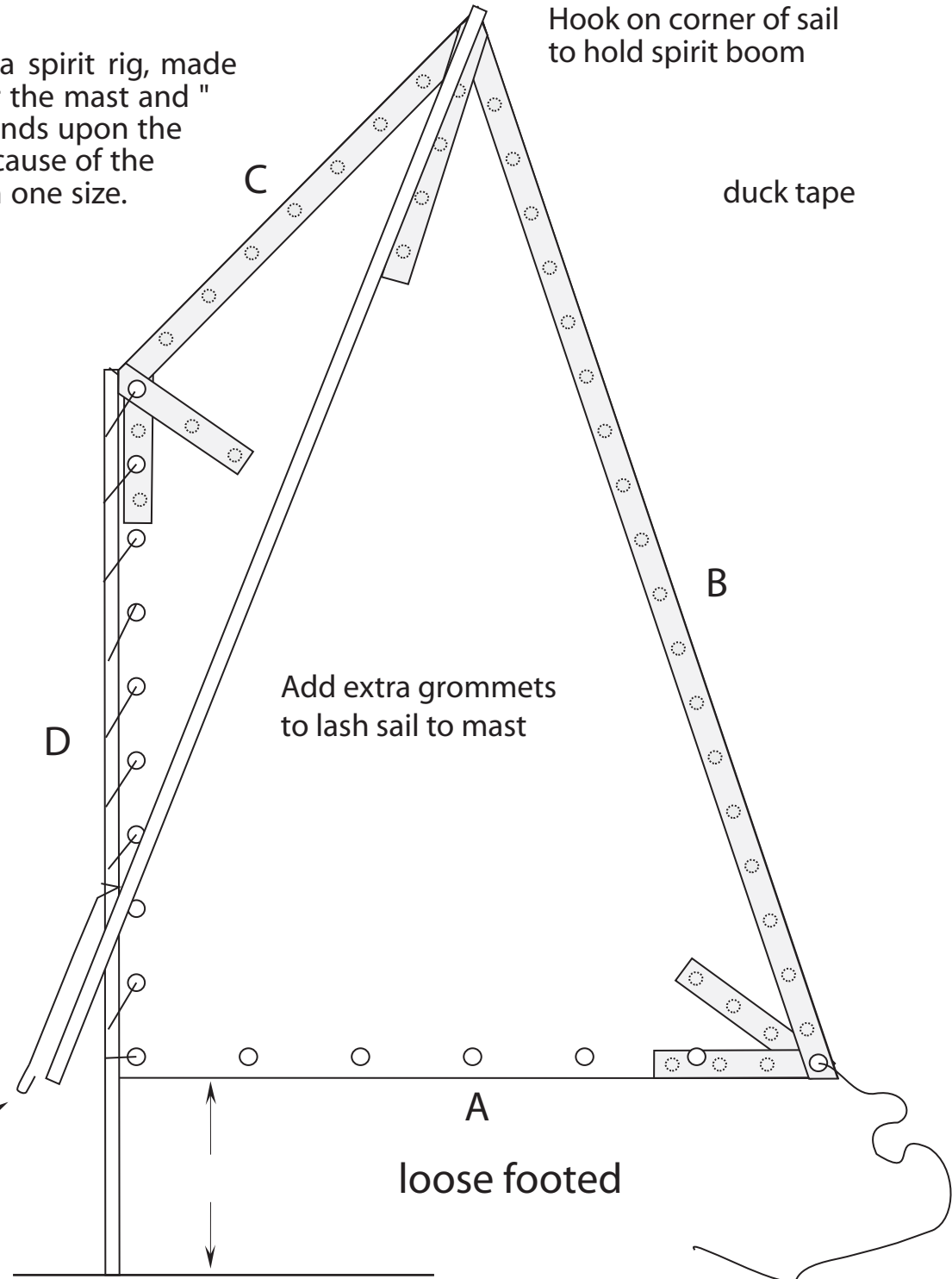
A B C D Sail Area

Layout sail then cut mast and spirit boom to fit.



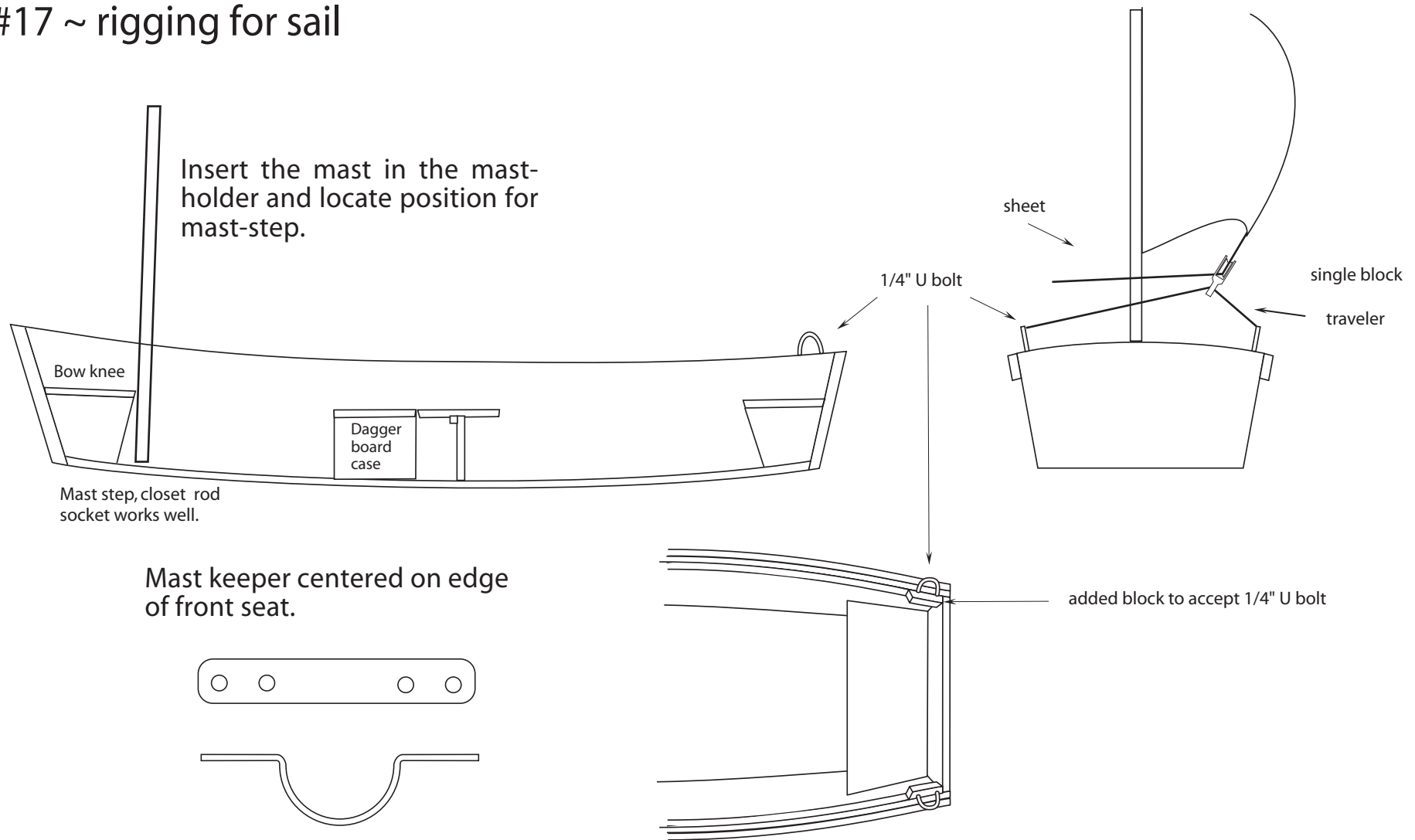
Reinforce cut edges with duct tape. punch " holes " apart on cut edge of sail and trim with folded duck tape. When the adhesive of the tape contacts through the hole, the tape will permanently stick. After applying tape, rub tape briskly to assure contact.

Hook on end of line  
to hold spirit boom





# Sheet #17 ~ rigging for sail



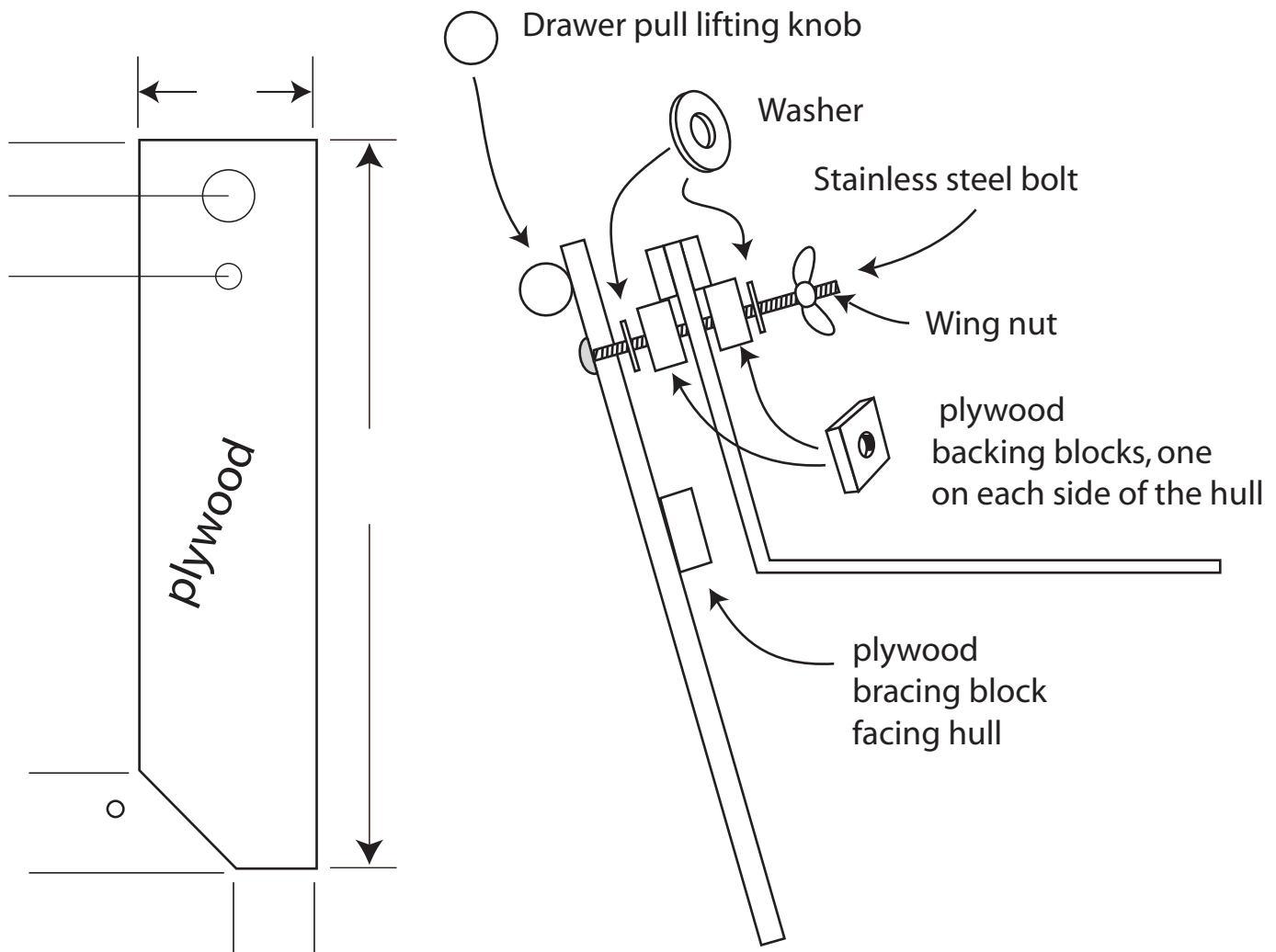
*Need help? email [unclejohn@unclejohns.com](mailto:unclejohn@unclejohns.com) or call 337-527-9696*

The quality and durability of your boat will be determined by the care you excersize in finishing it. Take your time and use a good quality paint. Don't rush and paint over resin which is "almost dry" and don't paint over "wet paint".

NOTICE: Care should be exercised in the completion of the steps involved in constructing this kit to assure a sturdy craft. The safety of this boat is determined by the builder and user. This kit is not rated for either number of occupants, maximum weight or motor size. The purpose of this kit is to provide the builder with those parts that require precision cutting and a set of easy to follow building plans. Uncle John's assumes no liability for the finished project. As with any water craft, life-jackets should be worn and caution exercised in regard to weather and water conditions.

## Sheet #18 ~ building a leeboard

A good alternative to a daggerboard is a leeboard. The leeboard is attached to the outside of the boat and pivots up when it contacts the bottom, making it attractive when beaching the boat.



The positioning of the leeboard in general is at the widest beam of the hull and at the middle of the sail area, these two points will be pretty close to one another. You might consider clamping the board in place with C-clamps your first few outings. Move it fore and aft to find the best place. As you move it you will experience a change in the steering characteristics of the boat. When you find the "sweet" place, attach it with the bolt. Which side to place the board is builder's choice. Some individuals use only one board and do not change sides when tacking and some use two boards. Just be sure you have not over-tightened the wing nut so that the board doesn't pivot when it contacts the bottom. How tight you make the bolt is something you have to experiment with.

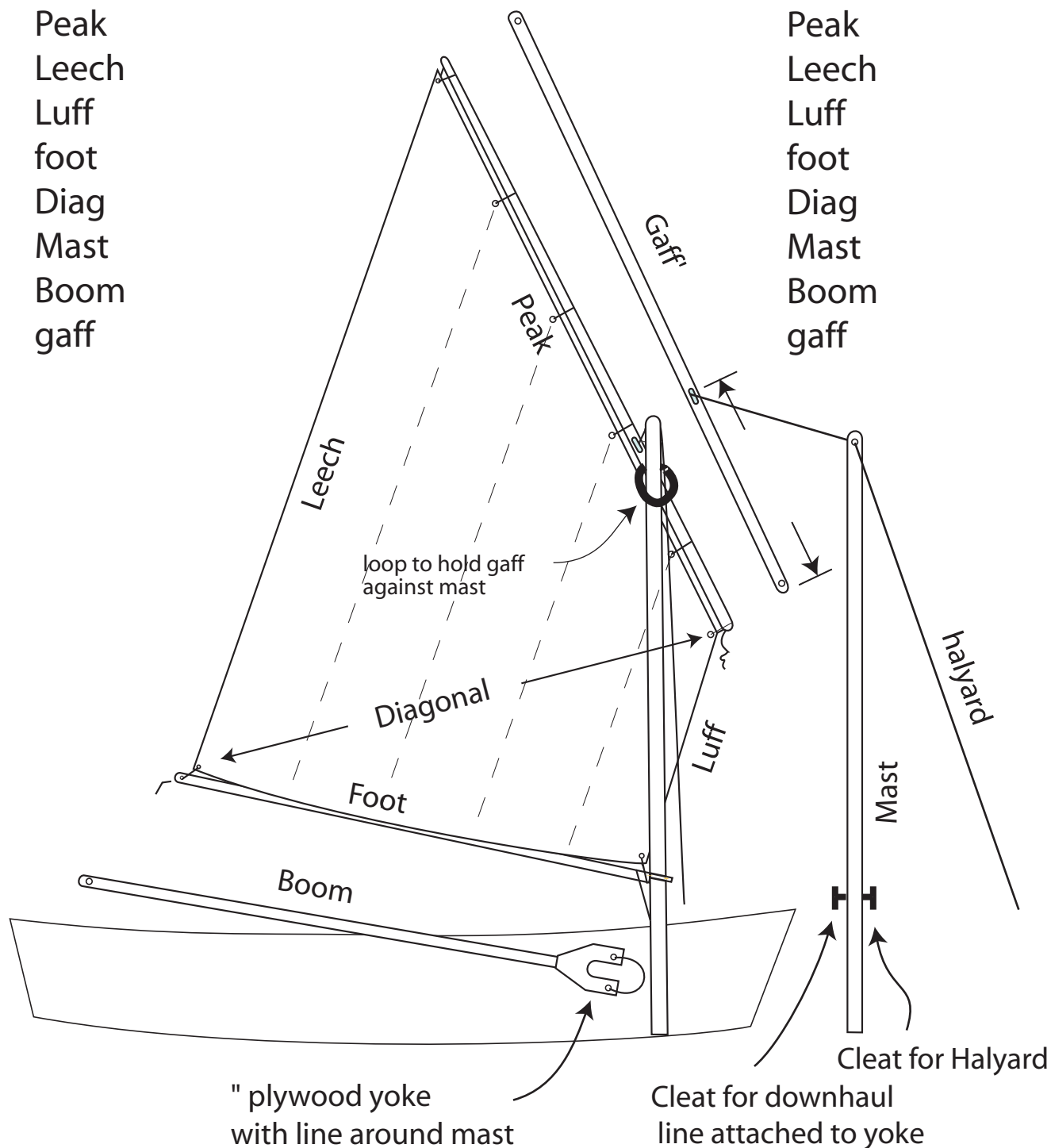
# Sheet #19 ~ an alternative sail plan

26 square foot

32 square foot

Peak  
Leech  
Luff  
foot  
Diag  
Mast  
Boom  
gaff

Peak  
Leech  
Luff  
foot  
Diag  
Mast  
Boom  
gaff



There are many materials from which the spars can be made, including full round closet rod, available at lumber yards.