

How to Build a Small Fishing Skiff

An Ideal Boat for an Outboard Motor

By C. E. BRADLEY

IT takes only a few warm sunny days early in the spring to start the fisherman overhauling his outfit and making it ready for the approaching season. As a rule his mind at that time generally wanders to some far distant spot way up the lake or to a certain rocky and weedy cove way over on the other shore.

He remembers the dandy bass fishing he had once or twice just above that group of rocks and how the white perch fairly jumped out of the lake to meet his flies in mid air just beyond that old ice house runway. What pleasure those trips really did give. He goes on thinking how kind it was of friend Jim to loan his fishing skiff on these several occasions. Then he gets enthused. My! wouldn't the joy be complete if this season he had a boat all his own! Just imagine how Al and Tom would enjoy an invitation occasionally!

For a fisherman in just such a mood, this article is intended and written. A

sort of "starter" for building a serviceable little fishing skiff for ordinary inland lake fishing. This little skiff with its twelve foot length and four foot two and one-half inch beam is just the type and size a couple of pals can enjoy to the limit.

THE construction details have been carefully planned to be as simple as possible. The frame construction



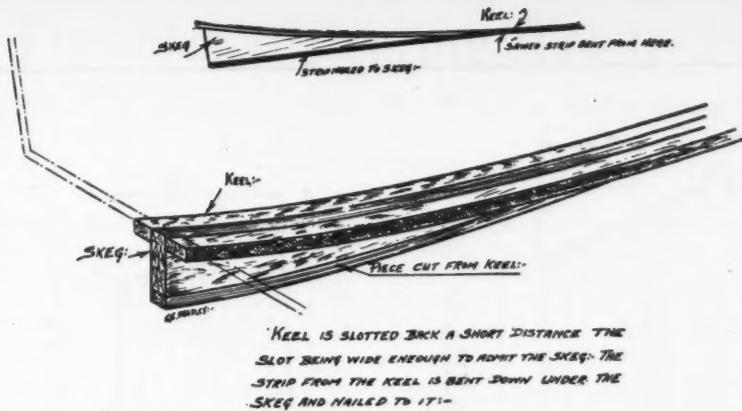
type of skiff as pictured in the accompanying drawings is a far easier type of boat for the amateur to build than the single board, bent-sided skiff. Any real handy chap, such as fishermen are for the most part, can readily tackle the job of building and make a real creditable job of it too. First of all, study the drawings carefully and go over the list of material, as follows:

Frames—White Oak, $\frac{3}{8}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 34" length; Side Stringers—White Oak, $\frac{3}{8}$ " x $1\frac{3}{4}$ " x 14' (2 pieces); Chine—White Oak, $\frac{3}{8}$ " x $1\frac{3}{4}$ " x 14' (2 pieces); Stern Board—Cypress, $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x 18" x 3' 6" long; Side Planks—White Pine or Cypress, $\frac{5}{8}$ " x 12" x 14' (4 pieces); Bottom Planks—White Pine, $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 6" x 75' (running feet); Keel—White Oak, $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 4" x 14' long; Deadwood—Spruce, $1\frac{1}{4}$ " x 10" x 5' long; Stem Piece—White Oak, 3" x 3" x 24" long; False Stem—White Oak, 3" x 3" x 24" long; Seats—Cypress, $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 9" x 16' length; Half Round Molding—White Oak, $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (2 pieces each) 14'.

The frame molds can be easily made just as shown on the frame construction detail drawings. The stern board should be sawed out and planed true to the dimensions given, also. The edges of the stern board against which the bottom planks and side planks fasten will have to be beveled slightly. The beveling will

have to conform to the curvature of the boat and is required in order that the bottom and side planks will lay fair along the edge of the stern board. This beveling can be done after the frame is assembled and when the planking is being put on.

The stem piece can be sawed out triangular-shaped after the pattern indicated in the sketches. With the component parts of the frame completed the assembly or setting up of same can be proceeded with. A level cellar floor makes a good place for this. First, however, you should make sure that the exit door from the cellar will permit the passage of the boat. This, of course, will have to be sideways, that is, the boat will have to be "up-ended" so that the beam is lengthwise with the height of the door, for very few cellars are provided with a doorway over 50 in. wide.



BE very careful to set all the frames central and plumb to the drawing dimensions, for upon this depends the general appearance of the boat. Fasten everything with good quality galvanized screws, in an upside down position as shown by the drawings.

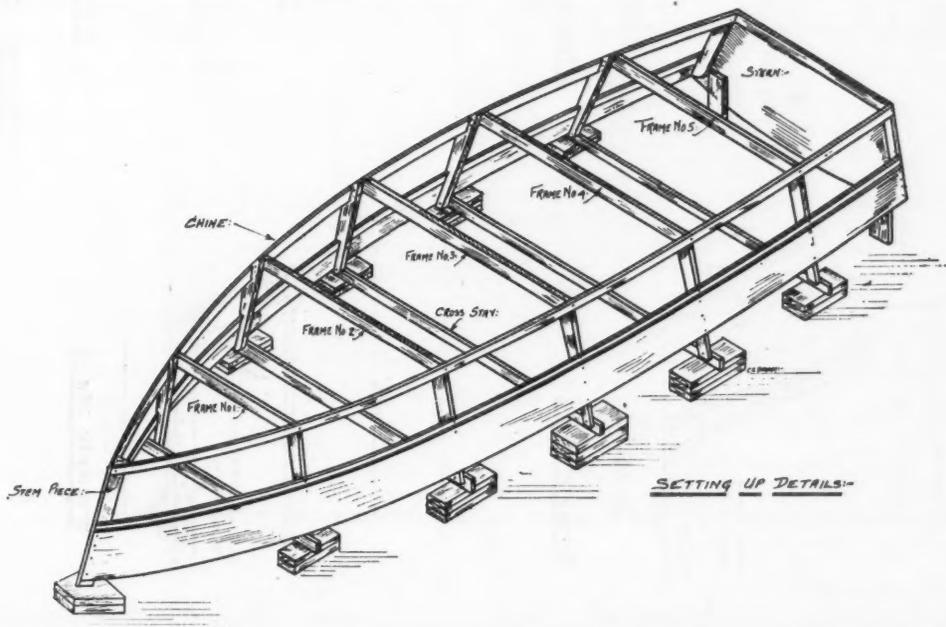
After you have satisfied yourself with the assembling of the framework, the planking can be fastened on. This is really the most fascinating part of the work. The side planks are first sawed out to somewhere near what their "developed shape" actually is. The developed shape of each plank can be secured by taking a template or pattern of each plank on a strip of wall paper—and, by the way, it is well to provide yourself with one or two rolls of inexpensive wall paper for the making of these templates.

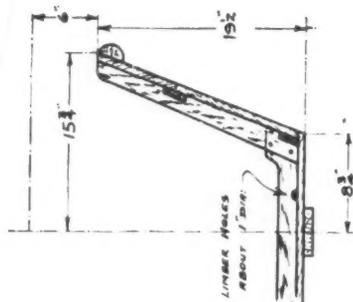
In fitting the planking, take special care to see that the seam or joint is closed at the inside even if it does not quite meet at the outside. If the seam is tight at the inside, caulking cotton can be forced in the open crevice at the outside in order to close the seam and make same water-tight if required.

The bottom planks are nailed with galvanized boat nails or screwed with galvanized screws to the bottom edge of bottom side plank and chine piece. These are simply 6-inch wide pine strips laid fair and true across the bottom. After all the bottom planks are fastened on, the keel piece and deadwood or skeg can be fastened on the bottom. This is very simple work and needs no explanation other than that shown by the sketch showing detail of same.

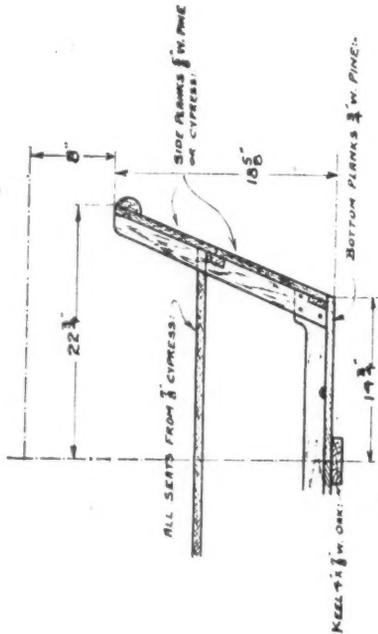
THE boat can now be turned right side up and the seats and decking put in place, and the knee pieces fitted to the stern board and oarlocks fitted in place.

The half round mouldings should be fastened along the top edge or sheer at
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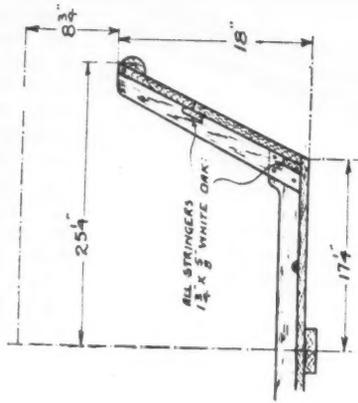




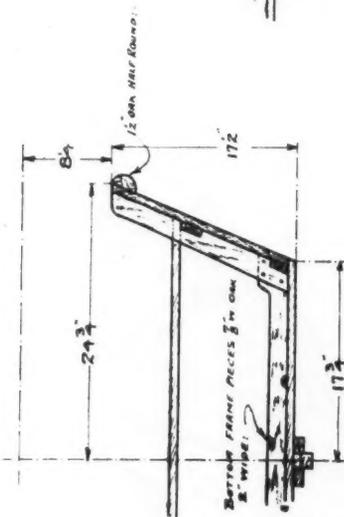
FRAME No. 1



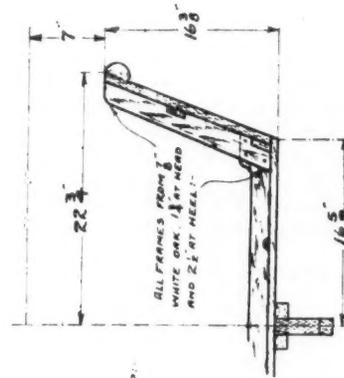
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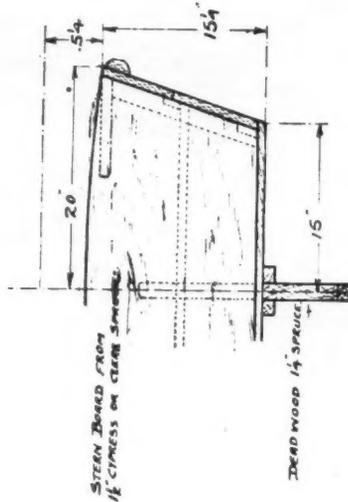
FRAME No. 3



FRAME No. 4



FRAME No. 5



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On a Pennsylvania Trout Stream

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Where the road dipped to pass through what appeared to be a magnificent emerald cave filled with purple shadows, the bird-choir was suddenly hushed, as though awaiting the soloist. From the damp ground by the stream—from the hillside—from the road beneath our feet—or was it from the air overhead? came the sweetest sound bird throat ever uttered. Sweetly solemn with a tinge of sadness, yet clear and rich and full as though the singer had long been uplifted above all earthly things, that wondrous music floated a moment about us like the benediction that follows after prayer. Like an echo from the opposing hill came a response. A moment later the grind of the wheels upon the open highway told that we had reached the homeward road, and regretfully we left the dark-eyed thrushes to breathe their heavenly messages to and fro across the darkened tumult of the stream.

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each side with round head brass screws. The false stem or cut water can now be made to suit and bolted on the stem proper.

THE craft is now ready to receive the finishing touches and after smoothing up well with sandpaper two or three coats of proper marine paint of your favorite color can be applied. Now all that is required is suitable weather and release of the fishing laws and you can proceed to enjoy the fun.

This little ship not only rows easily, but is particularly designed to carry an outboard motor; and a Johnson, an Elto or an Evinrude will prove a very valuable addition, as they have been thoroughly tested and can be relied upon to get you to the most out-of-the-way fishing places. There is nothing more valuable to the angler than a good outboard motor, and nothing more exasperating than a poor one. Therefore get a good little Kicker. Go to it, and here is wishing you luck.

Some day when you are out 'midst pleasant surroundings and having a good run of luck, just pause long enough to have the friend or mate with you "snap a shot" for the magazine editor. He will more than appreciate it, I am sure.



Mosquito, Moose and Mascalonge

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for anything short of a cream puff or a strawberry pie à la mode," and Schmidty rolled a pan down to the water's edge, demonstrating his motto "Efficiency always."

Cleve moved lazily up the trail and ten minutes later we heard the spiteful pop of the .22 Savage—then another and another at easy intervals. I counted ten and then stopped. When Cleve drifted back into camp he literally had his hands full—eighteen feathered beauties.

"Now let's see you clean 'em," he held one up to show where the neck was torn half in two. "Gee!" he continued, "it's like a chicken yard back there and they're dumb as mud—just fly up in a tree and look at you from the side so you can get a perfect head on 'em—it's easier than picking apples."

When the birds were half cleaned Bill's canoe slid into view around the point and ground upon the beach. Bill was sitting in the bottom of the canoe with his feet braced under the thwart. "Come on, you chicken fanciers—give me a hand with this fish—he's eating me alive."

He was a big fellow—rarely indeed, did we get one that would not cover the axe with its thirty-inch handle. Bill had quickly lost our two small spinners and then used the four inch nickled piece with a wire leader and three prong hook. The lakes are full of fish—in Lake Brulé and Trout Lake we found trout—savage strikers and hard fighters. In every lake we fished were mascalonge—ten to thirty pounders waiting for each cast. The hundreds of lakes that we passed through were practically virgin fishing waters—most of them having never seen a spoon.

The sun was resting on the edge of