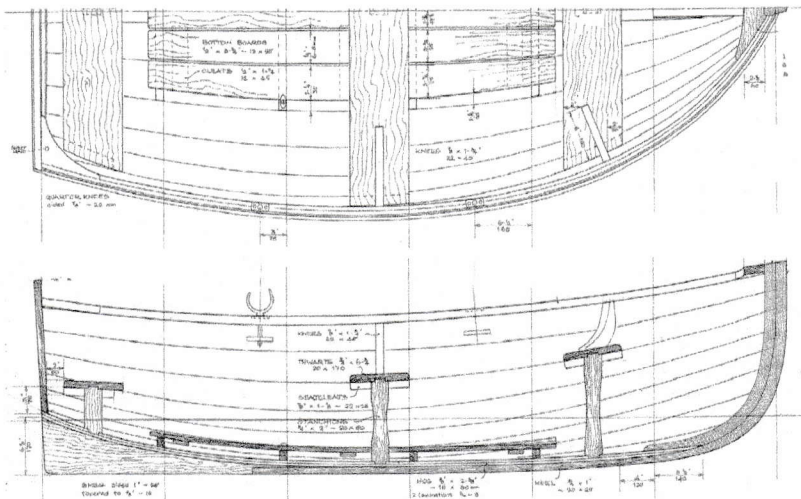
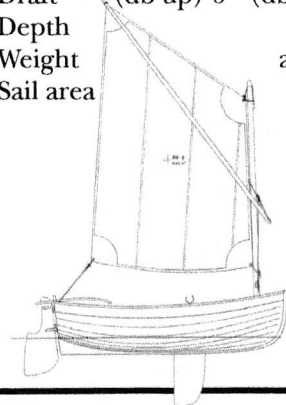


7'2" Auklet

by Iain Oughtred

PARTICULARS

LOA	7'2"
Beam	3'11"
Draft	(db up) 6" (db down) 2'2"
Depth	18"
Weight	about 50 lbs
Sail area	30 sq ft



Iain Oughtred's Auklet represents the absolute smallest end of the yacht-tender genre. At 7'2" she is just long enough to accept full-sized people—any smaller and she would become a toy, a child's plaything. Auklet is all business, however, and if you're in need of a reliable tender for your pocket cruiser you could do far worse than this tidy packet.

A tender must be capacious enough to carry a useful load—crew, groceries, ice, or perhaps a kedge anchor against a foul tide. Oughtred has given Auklet generous carrying capacity with substantial beam; at 3'11" wide she is more than half as wide as she is long. These proportions might lead us to expect roly-poly looks and performance, but we'd be wrong; Auklet carries her heft with grace and aplomb. In addition to capacity, the generous beam contributes to confidence-inspiring stability.

Once a dinghy shrinks below a certain length, the smart money says a pram will deliver better performance. But the smart money would be at risk when considering Auklet. Her apple-cheeked bow contains as much volume

and buoyancy as a typical pram bow, and it exhibits considerably more character. Her bilges are shapely, just the right blend of flat floors for stability and soft curves for easy motion and efficient rowing.

Oughtred calls for lapstrake plywood planking with epoxy-glued seams but he offers alternative constructions of traditional lapstrake or carvel planking, or cold-molded or strip-planked skin. We'd be wise to stay true to his first suggestion, however, to take advantage of its virtues of easy access to materials, dimensionally stable hull components both afloat and ashore, and attractive traditional appearance. It's also surprising how the edges of the lapstrake planks contribute to initial stability when climbing aboard; they grip the water and prevent "dishing".

This little yacht won't be all things to all people. If you can tolerate greater length you will have a boat that rows and sails better, is easier to build because of her more gentle curves, and has greater carrying capacity. But as a tender for a very small yacht or as a child's first boat, Auklet will prove to be a trusted companion.

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DESCRIPTION

Hull type: Round-bottomed, transom sterned
Construction: Glued lapstrake plywood

PERFORMANCE

Suitable for protected waters
Intended capacity: 1-2
Trailerable
Propulsion: Oars

BUILDING DATA

Skill needed: Basic to intermediate
Lofting required: No

PLANS DATA

No. of sheets: 6
Supplemental information: 17 pages
Level of Detail: Above average
Plans Format: Print
Cost per set: \$102
Related Publications:
Clinker Plywood Boatbuilding Manual
How to Build Glued-Lapstrake Wooden Boats