

design

MOUSE PRAM

no.45

LOA: 7' - 9"
2.36m

Beam: 3' - 11"
1.195m

Depth: 16"
413mm

Weight: 62lbs
28kg

Sail area: 38sq ft
3.53sqm



Type: flat-bottom pram, clinker sides Optional rig: gunter with daggerboard or leeboard
Capacity: 1 to 3 Sailing: 1 to 2

BUILDING INFORMATION

Construction: glued lap clinker plywood -
flat bottom - 3-stake topsides
Options: none
Building time: 64 hours Rig + 40

COST

Materials £350 Rig + 275
Plans: 5 sheets with copy of Classic Boat
how-to-build series

The MOUSE PRAM has been drawn up after a long study of prams of various periods, countries, and methods of construction. A simplified clinker plywood hull was decided on, so that amateur builders with no boatbuilding experience would be able to put together a strong and attractive boat in a short time, and with minimum cost.

Besides being better looking, this hull shape is actually less work to build than either the 'traditional' chine plywood, which has many more parts to be fitted together, or the stitch-and-tape

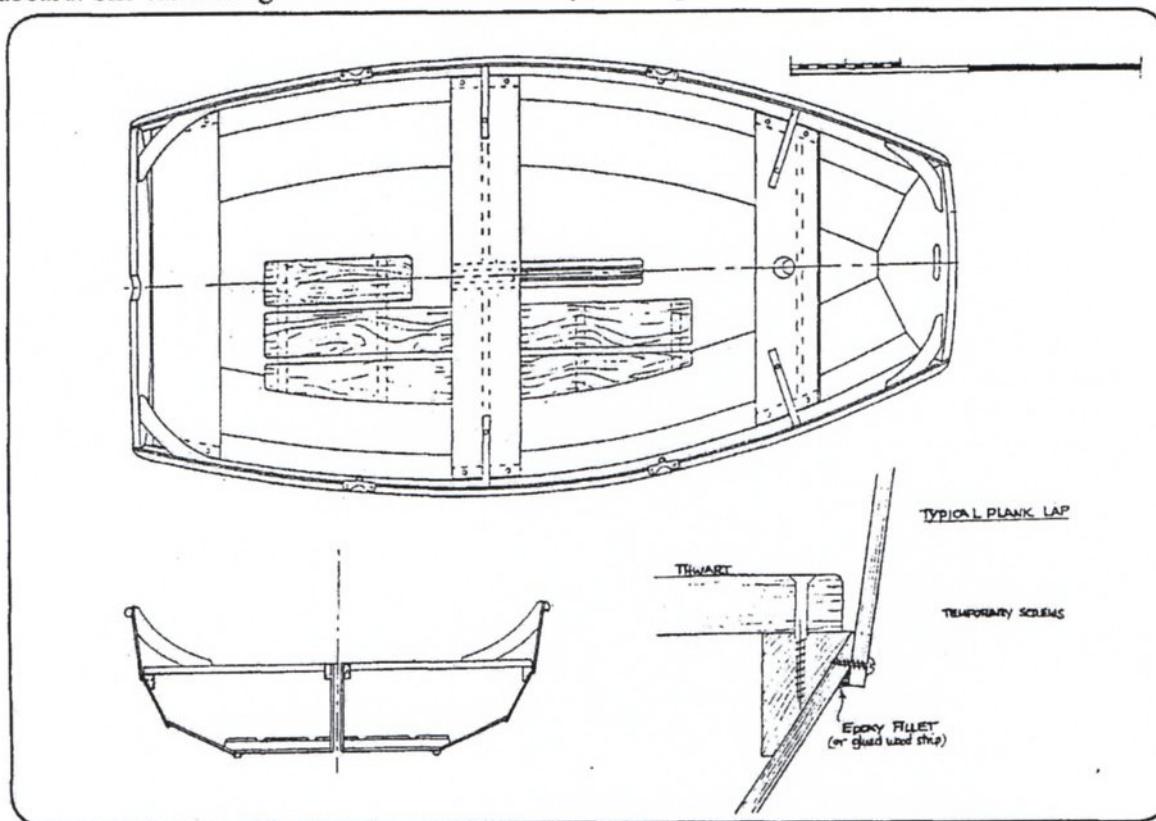
method, which is simple enough but is a time-consuming and messy process.

The boat has no frames, and no laminated parts; a minimum number of components.

Altogether this construction method gives an attractive and useful hull, which will be about as safe as such a boat can be, will be a pleasure to own, easy to maintain, and will last a long time.

The bow is rather deeper than usual; this give the hull a longer waterline and helps to minimise pitching. But being a narrow vee shape with a reasonable rake it does not present a broad flat area to push into a short chop. The bottom is not too wide, so the waterline beam is moderate, when lightly laden; this means she can row quite fast for her size. With more weight aboard, the reserve buoyancy of the rounded sides adds a good measure of stability.

Sailing performance is certainly better than is generally expected from a small pram. The rig is the high-peaked gunter, which is in effect an efficient bermudan sail, but with the practical advantages of the short spars. The boat is lively and responsive, can turn in her own length and is well balanced and light on the helm on all points, with a light crew or two 12-stone men aboard. She can manage a third adult confidently, although there is not a lot of room to spare.



The MOUSE makes an excellent training boat, and can give a good introduction to the art of sailing. Reef points are shown on the sail plan, and are recommended to light crews. If the reefing system is set up, and is practiced before it is needed, this greatly increases the range of conditions which the boat can safely be used in. If she ventures some way from home and is caught out in a sudden blow, it can make the difference between getting home safely and being stranded.

Options include the choice between a conventional dagger board, or a leeboard which takes up less room in the boat; bottom boards, which allow the crew to sit comfortably low in the boat when under sail without sitting in a puddle; there is a fixed rudder or a lifting blade. Built-in buoyancy can also be fitted, although most owners will probably prefer the simpler and lighter open hull, with buoyancy bags installed under the thwarts when necessary.