

Photo Essay of How to Build a Juneau Grand Banks Dory



Plans for this boat are available online at:

<http://www.spirainternational.com>

Building the Juneau Grand Banks Dory



The Juneau, like all of the Spira International framed boats, is begun by building the ribs. These are laid out on a rib jig, then the rib members are cut from stock sized lumber and attached together.

After the ribs are assembled they look something like this:



Next, a strongback is built. This is simply a rigid beam used to keep the components of the boat aligned while they're attached together. It also serves to raise the boat up to a comfortable working height.

The ribs are then blocked up to their proper heights and temporarily fastened to the strongback.



The keelson is added and attached to the ribs. This is the main longitudinal member of the boat. It ties the ribs together.

The chine logs are added next. These form the joint where the sides and bottom meet and provides a watertight attachment surface. They also serve as a pattern to cut out the bottom once in-place.



Next the sheer clamp members are added. These form the gunwale (upper edge of the boat sides.)

The completed frame is then faired, that is, angled so that the sides and bottom of the ribs provide conforming surfaces so that the planking has the widest possible gluing area.



The planking is then cut out by sitting the stock on the boat and tracing out the rough shape a bit oversized. This is then clamped in-place and trimmed to accurately fit the framework.

Once covered, the project really starts looking like a boat!



The screw heads are filled and the surface sanded to fill all voids and cavities.

Everyone in the family is welcome to help out in the sanding, but make sure you use the proper safety equipment!



Keep at it until you're satisfied with the smoothness of the hull.

A closeup of the fine craftsmanship of this builder by showing the smooth seam where the transom meets the sides.



Once the hull is smooth, saturate the outside and inside with epoxy. This strengthens the wood and makes the hull watertight and weather resistant.

Several coats are sometimes needed, allowing each to cure fully and sanding between coats.





A coat or two of good quality epoxy or polyurethane paint and your home crafted boat takes on the appearance of a professionally built craft.

Flip it over and paint or varnish the insides for a finishing touch that will really wow the onlookers.



The completed hull, ready for adventure!

Said the builder, “Here’s the launching. I was ready to tug hard but it moved along so nicely. Everybody had to give it a try and they all liked it - it's so easy to row! It was a great day. Thanks.”

