

Photo Essay: How to Build a

# Mission Bay

Ultralight Skiff



Plans to build this boat may be found at:  
<http://www.spirainternational.com/>

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## Building the 11' Mission Bay Ultralight Skiff

The Mission Bay is an ultralight boat that is safe and stable for two or three people to use on protected waters. It is very easily built using the stitch and glue method that edge bonds the plywood into a light, strong hull.



To begin, the plywood is lengthened using an epoxy joint and a simple butt block to allow the sides and bottom are cut out as a single piece.

Next the sides and bottom are laid out in accordance with the plans and instructions. This is not a difficult task and does not require full sized planes. The instruction manual explains how this step is performed in-depth.



Next, the plywood panels are cut out using a saber saw or similar tool. Some builders like the small panel saws because they cut straight so well, but they're more difficult to get to cut nice curves. In any event, the panels are usually cut out slightly oversized then trimmed to size using a block plane.



For half of the bottom and for the second side, the panel you removed is used as a pattern to ensure both sides of the hull are symmetrical.



The sawn panels look something like this when they're complete.

Similarly the internal bulkheads are cut out and trimmed to size in accordance with the drawings and instructions.





Next, holes are drilled along the edges of the plywood and a copper wire or plastic wire tie “stitch” is put in place to hold the structure together.

This is what the hull looks like after these simple steps. This represents less than 10 hours of work at this stage. You can see how easy building stitch and glue boats really is.

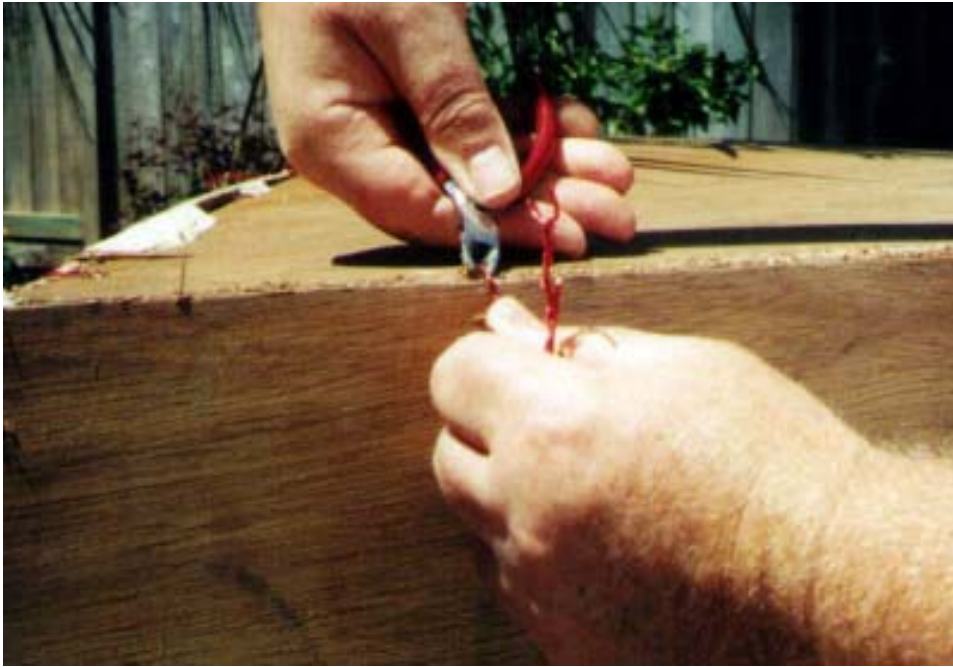


Next, a fillet of epoxy thickened with sawdust, silica, microspheres, talc or other agent is applied to the seams on the inside of the hull.



Over this fillet, fiberglass tape is applied and saturated with straight epoxy resin to complete the edge bonding joint.





Next, the hull is flipped over, the stitches are removed, and the outsides of this seams are similarly filleted and taped with fiberglass and epoxy.

A little sanding and paint, the seats and rubrails are epoxied in-place and viola! A complete stitch and glue Mission Bay rowing skiff:



There just isn't an easier way to build a boat.