

## Aqua Cat – 18' Power Catamaran Overnighter

3 October 2004



G'day;

Here are a few photo updates for my Aqua Cat project. The building is going along well. Frames are all built and encapsulated in epoxy. Building form is together and anchored firmly ashore. I am using spruce framing and gaboon (mahogany) ply.

The timber is easily worked, compared to the local hardwoods that I'm used to dealing with. All framing and longitudinals are 4/4 net thickness and that makes for some challenging chine bending, let me tell you.

The bow-piece/stem assembly and transom are also in place and hard aground. Runner keels are installed and the last chine log went on today, this operation is somewhat clumsy when building solo.

More photo's and updates will follow. Thanks for the great plans and for your informative website.

Best regards,  
Daniel Bucklin



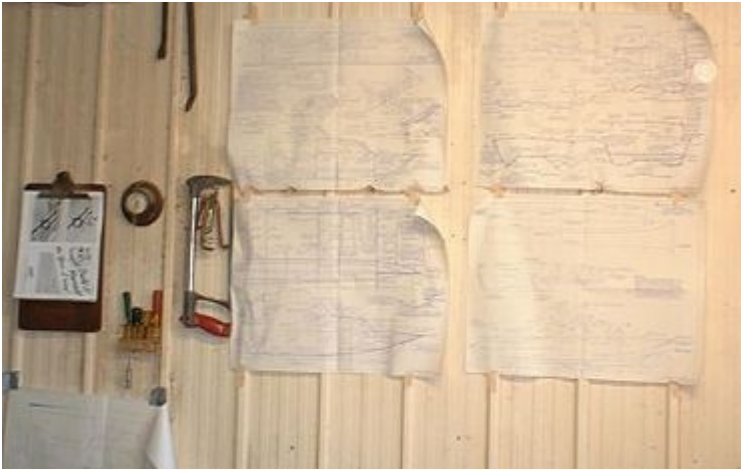
Frames in place on building form.



First chine log installed as a mate brushes on some more epoxy.



Transom in place and some assistance being given from a mate.



It's so handy having the plans up on the shop wall for easy access.



Here I am fitting the final chine log, at last.

Here are some more pictures of my Aqua Cat project for your review. Here you can see the side planking is on as Lola poses for a photo. She's not much of a wood worker but she likes to watch and she's a great listener.

The side planking looks great, I love the lines of the hull. Here you can see the anti trip planking is just about installed.

I'm a little squished when working on this side of the boat but no major problems so far.







As you look from the transom you may notice that the frames have been notched to accept the tunnel keel and anti trip chines. The plans state that this needn't be done when using the 3/4" material that they specify, however, I am using 4/4" spruce and if the frames don't get notched then the members won't line up with the transom and lay flat and level.



The anti trip planking is now complete for this side. Pictured also is the builder with his favourite hand plane.



The inner anti trip planking is going along nicely.



It's been some time since I sent you folks any pics so I thought I'd get you caught up. In this one you can see the bottom planking is installed with pressure applied from above. I found this method quite useful and it wasn't necessary to soak the plywood in hot water to make the bend around to the stem. Anti trip chines and tunnel keel are also installed here.





The tunnel planking went on quite easily. The after section is parallel and square while the forward sections were made using a simple template cut from thin craft-wood (MDF). All the edges and screw heads were then smoothed over to accept the fibreglass cloth. The bottom got 3 layers of cloth along the seams with a single layer for the topsides.



Finally the paint went on. My fibreglass job could have been better but considering my total lack of experience it came out OK. I had lots of filling and fairing to do before the paint went on and this was my least favourite operation. I have now applied 3 coats of 2 part polyurethane gloss that will be cut and polished once it has cured.

27 July 2009 Update

Picking up where we left off, I am happy to supply you with some updated construction photos of my Aqua Cat project. It has been quite a while between drinks (boat-building) and I have to admit that the project was put on hold for a couple of years while I was stricken with a terrible affliction called JOB.



Sadly I still suffer from this mallady but I am determined to finish her off and I have recommenced construction in earnest. Here we see a nice painted hull just before turning.





Here we see a group of friends gathered to assist me in flipping the hull over. I thought that many hands would make light work, and I was right.

We rested the hull on some soft stuff while a level resting place could be prepared. I really didn't want to scratch the paint that I spent so much time on.





Back under the covered shed she goes. I have arranged some railroad ties covered with carpet to support her for the rest of the construction process. All perfectly level, of course.





A team photo. Did I mention that we served free beer?





Here we see the framing for the twin berth. Doesn't that look cozy?



Here is a look at the cockpit framing. I had some 200 year old cedar laying around so I used that instead of plywood with a capping strip. The cedar is really nice to work with and if you can salvage some, by all means, do so.





Here we see a cabin side installed. A cabin beam is being used to get the cabin sides to match up vertically. It gets screwed to the doubler on the inside of the carling for now.



Here is the windshield going together. This is a tricky part of the construction and I wanted to get it right. I over-built everything and I think it will be quite strong. The plan is to have tempered safety glass made for the windshield and toughened glass for the sides.





The winscreen is complete and the doublers are being fitted here. You can also see the cabin sides, bulkhead and cabin beams installed as well. Everything is coming together nicely.





Here is a picture of the cockpit coaming installed. I see that other builders of this design have omitted this item but I can't understand why. This part raises the freeboard and helps to keep water out of the cockpit. It also looks kind of cool.