

In the 60's, DIY magazines often showed boat plans for plywood on frame and houseboat plans seemed to be very popular. The topsides were typically vertical to maximize interior volume and to make building easier.

We asked designer Emile Ajar to draw a small boat in that style but for stitch and glue.

In such a small boat, it is impossible to fit decent size bunks in the cabin that is already furnished with a galley, steering station and an enclosed head but why not take advantage of the very large cockpit covered with canvas and turn it into a roomy cabin when on anchor?

Check out our Building method tutorial (for the HB20), in our [How-To Section](#)

<b>Specifications:</b>		
<b>LOA:</b>	18'	5,49 m
<b>Max. Beam:</b>	8'	2,44 m
<b>Draft:</b>	6"	152 mm
<b>Displacement:</b>	1,375 lbs.	625 kg
<b>HP:</b>	10 to 50	8 to 39 kW
<b>Material:</b>	Stitch and Glue	

This new design has many advantages:

- Stitch and glue material: faster, easier, stronger than plywood on frame.
- Full 8' width. This gives us cockpit benches **and** a wide bed under the awning.
- Simple, straight panels. No curved bottom or bow.
- No wood beveling as in plywood on frame.
- Extra storage room in cockpit and under sole: a fixed fuel tank is possible.



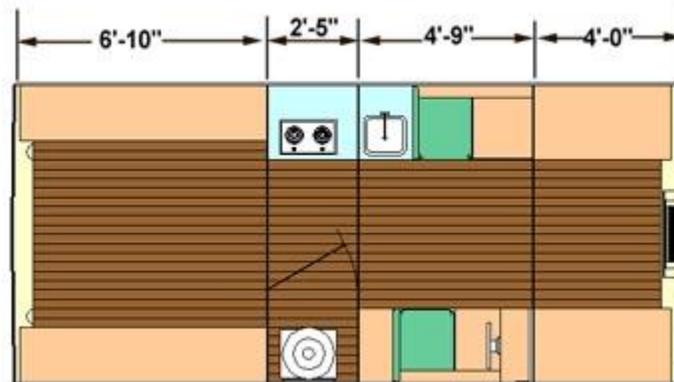
If you can build a bookshelf, then you can build this boat. It does not require special materials or complicated building skills. All of the wood is readily available from the local lumber yard and an epoxy-fiberglass kit is available from this web site.

The HB18 is **easily trailerable** without an expensive boat trailer. The flat bottom hull can be hauled on a utility trailer. At just 1,100 lbs, it is easy to pull with a compact car.

It operates in shallow water. The **draft was kept to 6"**.

The HB18 can be made unsinkable with **foam flotation**.

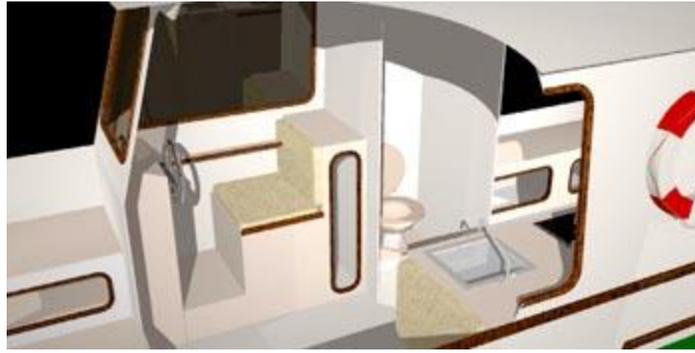
With the recommended engine(s), the HB18 will go at **25 mph** in protected waters.



The **forward cockpit** is mostly for use while on anchor. It can be fitted with a landing ramp for easy access to the beach.

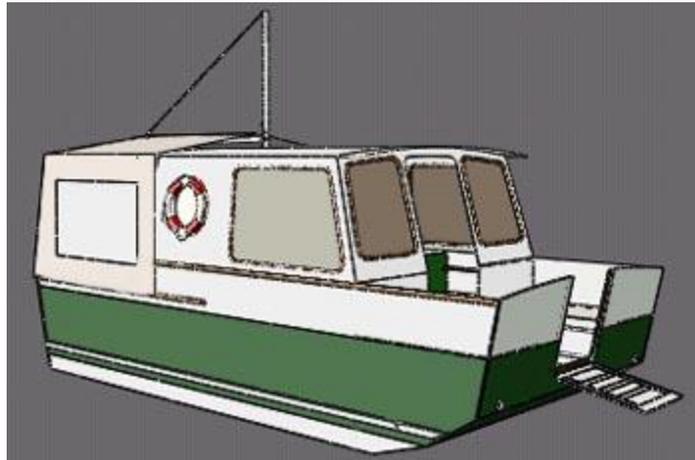


The cabin has **standing headroom**. We recommend a Porta Potti type head to avoid complicated plumbing. There is storage everywhere and the boat has sufficient capacity to fill all those places with fishing gear, beach and camping equipment etc.



The aft cockpit can be enclosed by a canvas tent. The flat sole is 5 'x 6'-3" (between the benches), the width of a queen size bed! Perfect for an inflatable bed. The canvas cockpit enclosure is supported by the boom but a standard pontoon boat enclosure will fit perfectly. Those can be bought at a very reasonable price from most marine stores. Windows may be replaced with screening, or left open.

The outboard (not shown) fits on a bracket to keep the cockpit uncluttered. The plans include specifications for a bracket that can be used at displacement speeds only. If the builder wants an outboard bracket to use at planing speeds, we recommend to purchase a professionally made bracket like the Armstrong bracket.



**Building method:**

We made the HB18 **easier and cheaper to build.**

The building method uses cleats framing wherever possible like under the sole but all outside seams are made of fiberglass and the whole hull is protected and reinforced with biaxial glass fabric and epoxy.

We show camber in the cabin top but it can be build flat. Thanks to the simple shape and vertical topsides, all components are easy to cut and fit: no curves. The main bulkheads and floor frames (under the sole) must stay in place but besides that, the builder is free to customize his boat.

All surfaces are epoxy saturated and the bottom is fibreglassed to above the waterline.



**Required Skills:**

Thanks to its simple and efficient shape, the HB18 is easy to build and epoxy is a very forgiving, gap filling material: no need for delicate tight assemblies.  
 Almost all plywood cuts are square, the bottom uses full sheets of plywood: no cuts required!

**Bill Of Materials:**

*(Excerpts from our BOM)*

We include enough epoxy to cover the whole boat with a saturation coat and fiberglass for the bottom up to the waterline. The epoxy coat must be varnished or painted.

<b>Plywood 4x8' (122x244cm)</b>		
1/4" (6mm)	9	
3/8" (9mm)	12	
1/2" (12mm)	10	
<b>Fiberglass (totals)</b>		
Biaxial tape	101 yards	91 m
Woven Tape	50 yards	45 m
Biaxial fabric	19 yards	17 m
<b>Resin</b>		
Epoxy, total	12 gallons	48 liters

**Cost:**

Please refer to the Bill of materials to calculate the Cost, or see our Kits

We offer **an epoxy kit with free shipping in the US**. Our kit cost less than the same supplies bought locally. See the main page.

**Labor:**

A complete hull with superstructure can be build in less than 100 hours but allow another 100 hours for finishing.

**More:**

Visit our message board, help pages, tutorial pages and read our FAQ: most questions are answered there.

**Plans Packing List:**

Detailed drawings, large scale with all dimensions required to cut the sides, frames and the bulkheads from flat plywood sheets: no lofting, no templates required. All dimensions for cabin and deck. Suppliers part numbers for hardware and accessories.

- B242\_1 Concept plans
- D242\_2 Plywood Nesting
- D242\_3 Construction drawings
- D242\_4 Frames dimensions

- D242\_5 Expanded Plates - Hull, bottom, roof etc.
- B242\_6 Lamination Schedule
- B242\_7 Construction Details
- B242\_8 Typical Door Details
- B242\_9 Motor Bracket
- B221\_c Electrical Notes
- Step by step illustrated building notes.
- A Bill Of Materials is included in the building notes
- Help files reference list and more.

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