

MAKE YOUR OWN OARS

These plans are provided free for all to use and distribute and are not for sale. They were created as my thanks to Jacques Mertens of Boatbuildercentral.com and all builders who take the time to post and help others in the forums.

Simple Oars - by Spark Geissler Created 10/1/01 Modified 10/30/01

Use a light, dry and straight 2 x 4 with very small or no knots (You might have to do some digging through the pile.) Rip two lengths that are 1 1/2" square. Trim the four sides of the lengths at 45 degrees to make them octagons (see Fig 1). Trim each one to 7 feet long.

Figure 1

Cut four 2" by 28" by 3/4" pieces of spruce or similar strong light wood. Cut angle on each one as shown below to the 6" mark. Notch the shafts about a saw-blades width (or a sixteenth inch) on 2 opposing sides of the octagonal shafts for 28" as shown. Position blades onto notches and epoxy and clamp.

Side view with blades attached before trimming shaft thickness

Taper shafts over the 6" dimension down to the thickness of the blades with grinder or saw. Cut or grind shafts flush with the blades thickness

Shape the corners with a grinder or sander

Profile at the 28" point

Taper edges by grinding or sanding down to approximate 3/8" thickness

Profile at the tip

7' - Trim from either end or both for desired length/balance

Round the handles if desired. Varnish or epoxy and varnish to finish.

Cover blade tips with 5" length of fiberglass tape before trimming to length.



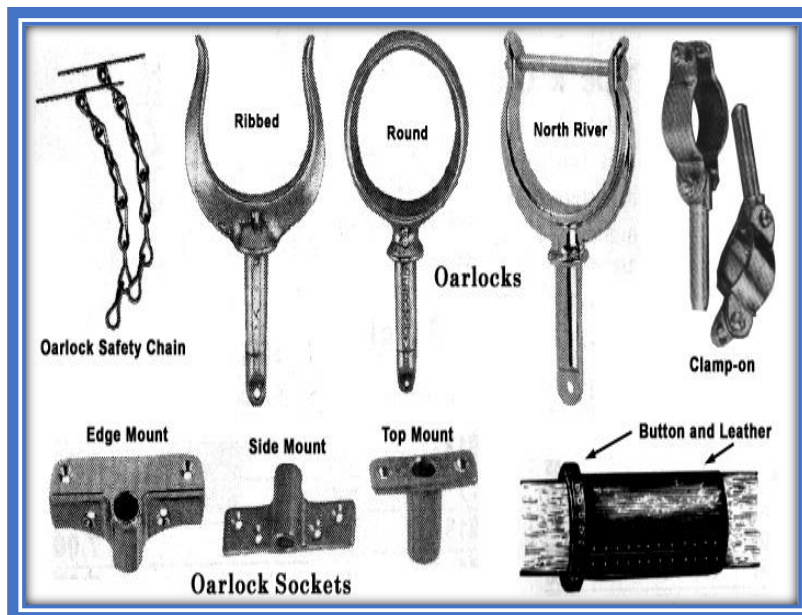
MAKE YOUR OWN OARS



MAKE YOUR OWN OARS



Oar Hardware Considerations



There are 4 types of oar locks - ribbed, round, north river and clamped. Ribbed and round will require oarlock safety chains, so you don't drop them into the water. They will also need oar buttons to keep them in position and leathers to protect them from wear.

The North River type keep the oarlock in position and the oar perpendicular to the water. The advantage of the clamp-on oarlock is that they are moveable until you can find a position that is comfortable for you. They also keep the oarlock in position and the oar perpendicular to the water.

There are 3 basic types of oarlock sockets - edge mount, side mount and top mount. For most of the Bateau boats, you'll probably use the edge mount or side mount. The edge mount may provide more horizontal shear strength as it is screwed from the top and sides.

All of these parts also usually come in stainless, bronze, brass, or zinc-coated.