# the Tammie Norrie

# the oars

by JONATHAN WHITE

**After finishing varnishing the oars I bought leather from the saddle shop and also enough waxed thread for the stitching.**

With careful adjustment I cut the leather 12ins long and fitted it to the loom (shaft) so it is a tight fit. There are various calculations to position the leather but generally I found 36ins from the grip end is a rule of thumb for dinghies.

I laced the leather putting a pencil mark first to match each hole prior to using an awl then pushing the needle through. Pliers are a help.

I used a simple cross stitch in preference to a herringbone stitch as that stitch can get a progressive creep unless you are careful. As you stitch keep an even tension on each of the threads to ensure no slack.

I made oval badges out of scrap brass and had them professionally engraved ($40) and then double taped them to the shafts. Job's done.

Costs

| | |
|---|---|
| Badges engraved | $40 Mr Minit Man |
| Brass | scrap |
| Sandpaper | $10 |
| Leather and twine | $15 |
| Total outlay to make the oars with about 20 hours of labour. | $197 |

Tips

- Pieces of leather handy under clamps to protect the wood.
- Plastic teaspoons handy for small glue jobs
- Moving an oar about be careful as it is easy to bang it into things
- I held the tips of the oars in place with glue and positioned with brads. When the glue cured I removed the brads, replacing them with toothpicks to plug the holes, cut them off and sanded to finish.

### The Stems ... Inner and Outer

We move onto the construction of the stems. These can be made out of solid timber but I prefer laminating. I purchased 3mm thick by 1 5/8in wide Hoop pine fine sawn 20m length. These came in five metre lengths so take care when transporting.

### Marking Out

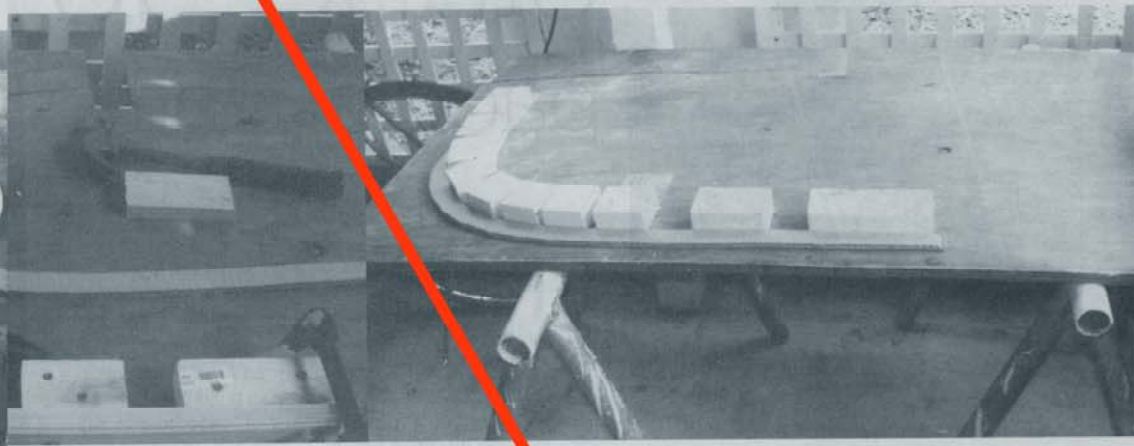
I spread out the appropiate plan of the stem on top of cardboard from the local retailer. I held the plan in place with pins and then pricked through with needles onto the cardboard every inch or so to get the curve right. I removed the plan and with a pencil and ruler joined the dots. Okay so far. Now get your Stanley knife and cut out the cardboard to the required shape. Compare the cardboard pattern with the plan but it should be exact.



**Here is what one users has to say.**

Australian Amateur Boatbuilder #78

below left to right:
Strips glued up – note Gladwrap, Strips clamped up wet, Blocks ready for being attached to table by Tec screws.



### What Now?

Get an old table or a piece of form ply about half inch thick for laminating the stem.

Screw a number of blocks say 2in x 2in x 3in ... longer when the curve is straighter using your cardboard pattern as a guide ... the technique is to clamp the lengths of strips (which you measured from the plan) starting from the middle and clamping them to the shape of the curve. I soaked the strips in hot water (use the spa or bath) allowed to dry thoroughly after a couple of days. The strips will now be dry and will reduce the risk of cracking. Before glueing up make sure you place plenty of Gladwrap on the table (or duct tape) and over the blocks. You don't want to have a stem permanently attached to the table!

Epoxy all the inner faces of the strips. One at a time and place them ready for clamping up. Do not put glue on the outfacing strips.

Did you wear your goggles/mask huh! Clean up with white vinegar. Leave for a couple of days and then remove. It is suggested to tack some wood on the ends of the stem to prevent straightening.

### The Outer Stem

The procedure is the same setup as for the inner stem but you place the outer stem strips around the inner stem which is in place on the blocks. Put plenty of Gladwrap around the inner stem to prevent it being glued to the outer stem.

The knees for the boat is the same procedure as for the stem ... ie: cardboard pattern from the plan, cut to shape, screw blocks to suit on to your table. Don't forget the Gladwrap!

Tips

- Use Tec screws with the square in the head of the screw. I find it better than phillips head screws
- Don't mix up too much glue at a time
- Make sure you have enough clamps. I used 10 for the stem jobs
- An old table from a garage sale is a good investment for the job
- Two by three pine from Bunnings
- Allow about two hours total time to make stems.

Costs

| | |
|---|---|
| Wood for blocks | $2 |
| Hoop pine strips. | Marine Timbers – $60 |
| Tec screws | $5 |

**Your Health**

I use BoteCote as I don't react to it. I had a serious reaction with another epoxy causing severe swelling of my eyelids and subsequent medical attention required. I can't stress enough to work in an airy environment, preferably with a fan blowing fumes away, goggles/mask/gloves – rubber type. Perhaps you are lucky and don't react but be strongly advised to take all precautions.

The transom is next. Good luck.