

## The remaining work



With the hull all framed, the rest of the job—deck construction, engine installation, planking, interior joinerwork, painting—went along more or less as specified by L. Francis in *Sensible Cruising Designs*. If you think that eight years of my spare time was a lot to build a boat like this, I can tell you it was not. I worked a full-time job during those years, and did most of my building in winter. Needless to say, I had to get up early on the weekends!

selectively, it is abundant and cheap, and it is sustainably harvested.

I used Norwegian fir for the planking and European oak for the rest of the boat. The oak has many of the same qualities as American white oak: It is strong and rot resistant, and it holds screws very well. It is ideal for frames, deckbeams, stems, keels, and other timbers. For the mast and boom I used Oregon pine—called Douglas-fir in the United States. Although a little heavy for a mast compared to spruce, it is strong and looks very nice.

Because I was building the H-28 in a relatively small yard, the building shed would be quite dominating and

not much to my wife's liking. So, I produced many of the components of the boat before setting up the shed.

The things I built in advance included: all of the hardware, the mast and boom, the rudder, the hatch and doors, the laminated frames, the stem and stern assemblies, the transom, and the entire backbone including the ballast keel, timber keel, floors, and a portion of the garboard planks. In doing so I needed the shed for only four of the eight years I spent building. It was fun to see how far I could get before I had to assemble the pieces. I knew from earlier experience that if you build the hull first without tending to any of the later details, it's a very long way to the finish line when the hull is

## Timeline

Here's a summary of what I accomplished each year:

- December 2005:** Lofting
- 2006:** Made jigs and patterns for the frames, fittings, boom, spreaders, and lead keel.
- 2007:** Finished the lead keel and the keel assembly, including the floors and garboards.
- 2008:** Built mast, laminated frames, built cabin doors.
- 2009:** Built the companionway hatch, stern and stem, and transom. Built the shed, assembled the backbone structure, erected laminated frames, and hung the sheerstrakes.
- 2010:** Installed the steam-bent frames, deck beams and deck; built the cabin trunk and engine bed.
- 2011:** Placed the engine on its bed, began building the cockpit and planking the topsides, painted and varnished.
- 2012:** Built the rudder, completed the planking and cockpit.
- 2013:** Completed the engine installation, built the accommodations, and installed the systems (tanks, pipes, electrical).
- 2014:** Completed the painting, installed the propeller, launched and rigged the boat...and went sailing!



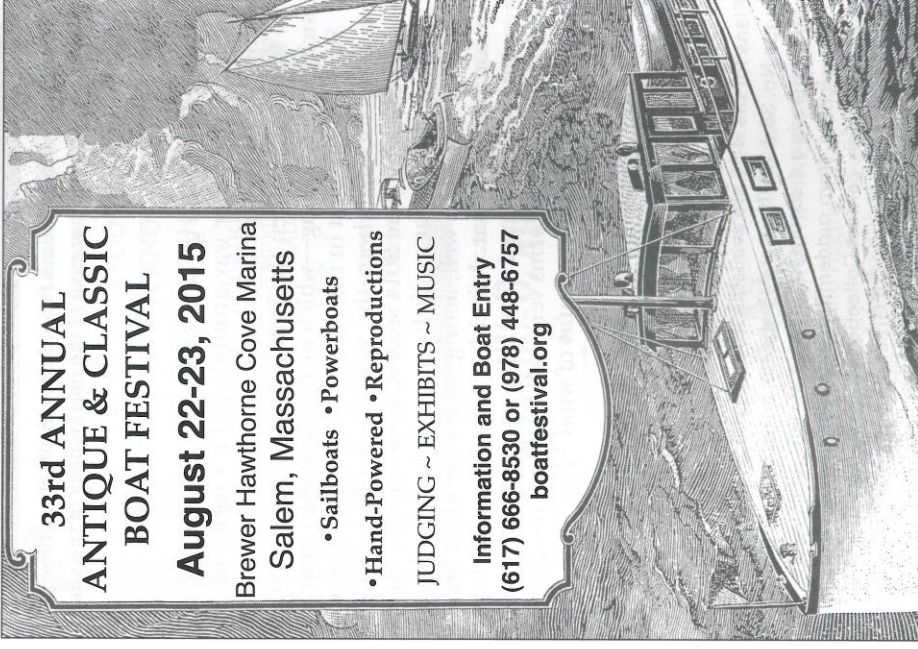
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