

# Little Grebe



## A NEW ROWING SKIFF FOR EASY HOME BUILDING

### DIMENSIONS

Length: 13'4" (4.06m)

Beam: 4'0" (1.22m)

Draft (loaded): 5" (13cm)

Hull Weight: 115 lbs (52kg)



**Little Grebe** is a development of the very successful sailing skiff **Sandpiper**, designed originally for building by family groups over the four days of the **Boats 99** boat show. Beam and freeboard, which gave the earlier boat the ability to carry sail, have been reduced, and she is intended as a pure rowing skiff, combining good performance under oars with stability and space for relaxed outings with a picnic. Elegant enough for any Thames backwater on a fine Sunday afternoon, she can also cope with two large fishermen and an angry pike.



In spite of her sleek appearance, the emphasis in **Little Grebe's** design was on simplicity and speed of building. Easier to construct from scratch than many boats completed from kits, she is well within the abilities of those with modest experience of handling woodworking tools, but no knowledge of boatbuilding. The prototype was built single-handed in 51 hours of work, ready then for painting — with extra pairs of hands it should be possible to improve on this time.



Economy and lightness can be achieved by the use of plywood for all the hull components - three sheets of ¼" (6mm) ply are needed. Alternatively, items such as the transom and thwarts can be cut from solid timber, slightly simplify-

ing the building process, and greatly enhancing the appearance of the boat if the interior is varnished. Softwood (Douglas fir or similar) is used for the framing and longitudinal members.



Construction is as easy as possible, requiring no special equipment. The hull is put together without any need for a building frame or jig, and there is no lofting (the drawing out full-sized of components from the plans); the side panels are bent around pre-fabricated frames, and strength and rigidity are added by solid chines and gunwales. The flat bottom is then put on as a single panel. The flare of the hull is constant, and the frame bevels therefore unchanging. All joints are simply butted, glued (preferably with one-shot polyurethane glue), and fastened with bronze ring nails or brass screws as appropriate.

**Little Grebe** can accommodate three adults - two can row, with a passenger on the stern seat. A single-handed oarsperson will find her fast and responsive, thanks to her light weight. She is also easy to transport and launch, for the same reason - she is not too heavy for a roofrack of an average car, or a lightweight trailer can simplify launching.

Plans are supplied as a single A1 sheet, with full building instructions keyed to the plans. An article with step-by-step illustrations of the building of the very similar **Sandpiper** ap-



peared in Practical Woodworking magazine, and copies of this item, reproduced with permission, are included with the plans to serve as an illustrated construction manual.

**Price of Plans** (including postage, packed in a strong postal tube): £30.00 (£32.00 outside Europe)

For further information, contact:

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Note : Not to be used for construction. Scales reduced and some information omitted.

