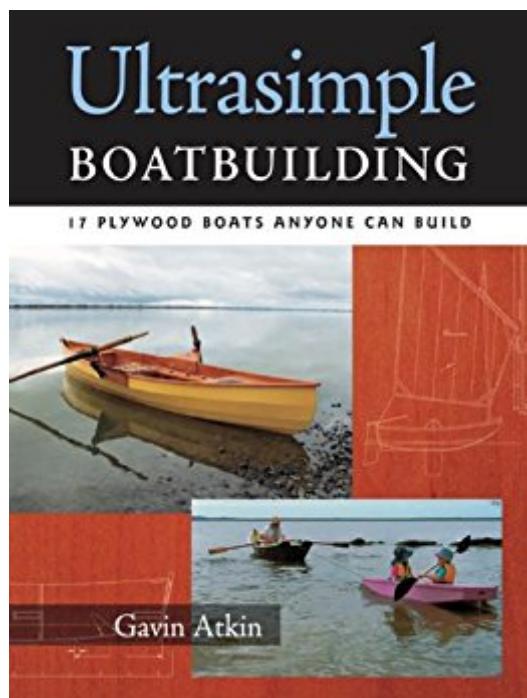


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# Ultrasimple Boat Building: 18 Plywood Boats Anyone Can Build



## Synopsis

The first complete how-to guide for building the latest generation of quick and easy boats! In *Ultrasimple Boatbuilding*, renowned designer Gavin Atkin shows you how to create elegant, seaworthy plywood boats with a minimum of time, experience, and expense. Using clearly written and illustrated step-by-step instructions, Atkin explains the basics of stitch-and-glue construction, tools, materials, shop safety, and more, as he helps you choose and build the simple boat of your dreams.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a good book to get someone started in boat building. It starts out with easy to follow explanations of the tools and techniques needed to build very simple but useful plywood boats, such as the author's "mouse" series. He outlines three different methods of assembly using, timber joints, fiberglass tape and epoxy, and polyurethane glues with open mesh type fiberglass drywall tape.

With the latter two methods, the hull panels are temporarily stitched together with adhesive tape, zip

ties or wire ties. He gives detailed explanations on each of these three methods. He also provides thirteen of his own designs, which include his popular "mouse" series, two powerboats, and three sailboats. The smaller "mouse" boats are probably tiny enough to store in an apartment, which might make them appealing for those who have no outside property to store their boats. He also shows examples from other ply boat designs, both well known, such as Bolger and Michalak, as well as less well known ones. The only quibble I have is his method drawing the various panels which make up the hull. His method, though workable (it took me some time to figure it out) is not standard in the boat building world. So, anyone who gets used to his method might be lost at sea when trying to draw panels from another designer's work. Other than that, I think it's good enough to earn a permanent place on my bookshelf.

Forty years ago I stupidly sold my last boat. I have missed it every day since. It was my sixth and best boat, a Chrysler Lonestar. Three of these six boats I built myself, one I shared the work with my father. Building a plywood boat is a bagatelle particularly using the stitch and glue method. The seventh boat is built by this method. In the process I have bought six books from though all of the information that I needed was free on the internet. The books are "Go Build Your Own Boat" and "Build The New Instant Boat" by Harold Payson, "Boats with an open Mind" by Philip Bolger, "Boat Building For Beginners" by Jim Michalak, "Ultra Simple Boat Building" by Gavin Atkin and "Understanding Boat Design" by Ted Brewer. There are separate reviews for each of these books. "Ultra Simple Boat Building" by Gavin Atkin is an excellent book for the home builder and I give it five stars. It features 17 very complete plans and instructions for a number of small plywood boats. The diagrams and dimensions are easy to read. Adkin's designs have flotation chambers which are a great safety feature. He explains Epoxy stitch and glue and polyurethane stitch and glue. He also includes a technique called simplified chine log construction. This method places a frame member outside of the hull along the chine. Bolger used this technique in Tortoise and justified it on grounds that it made the boat easier to clean and protected the plywood chine. He believed that it was hydrodynamically satisfactory. For small slow moving displacement hulls he is probably correct. For faster powered planing hulls I have my doubts. It is not completely clear that it really simplifies the construction over say placing the chine log inside the hull in the conventional manner. No matter, the resultant boat will probably be satisfactory. Most of these boats are small and narrow with low sides and are suitable for quiet waters. I know of one individual who takes one

off shore here near Los Angeles where it is paddled like a kayak. He has not yet drowned and probably will be okay. Adkin also included plans for a "Puddle Duck Racer" which would be a great choice for someone who enjoys camaraderie and mild competition. I am intrigued by "Dogsbody" which of the offerings in this book is my favorite. One should pay attention to the recommended loadings of Atkin's boats for it could be catastrophic to over load them. Adkin presents a method, not his own apparently, of building a skiff that requires no plans. I found this intriguing because I and a partner once (1953) built a boat using a very similar method. That boat was assembled using glue and light framing with brass screws. I think it cost less than \$20 at the time. It saw frequent service with a 5 hp Johnson outboard and lasted at least 10 years when I lost track of it. Adkin offered a piece of simple advice. When going to the store always buy a clamp. You cannot have too many clamps. I think Norm Abrams (This Old House) once made a similar recommendation.

I thought this was an excellent book. The idea of building your very own boat can be a little overwhelming to many people. Gavin did an excellent job at letting us know that we need to get rid of the idea that it is too hard. He lets the reader know that he/she really can build one of these little boats, and he is right (imo). You don't need to purchase this book just for the plans since the offsets are already offered on the internet free of charge. If you need some encouragement, though, or want to learn how to do each step of building these boats, get this book. It is a good book to read from cover to cover, but it can also be used as a reference that explains how to complete certain tasks. Gavin also does an excellent job at letting you know that your boat doesn't have to be a 'perfect' work of art or craftsmanship to be a fun project to both build, and to enjoy on the water. Yes, I recommend this book to both those new to boat building, and those who have a little more experience. I believe the book offers something for both groups, and makes a person want to get out and build one of these little beauties.

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