

design

GRANNY PRAM

no.44

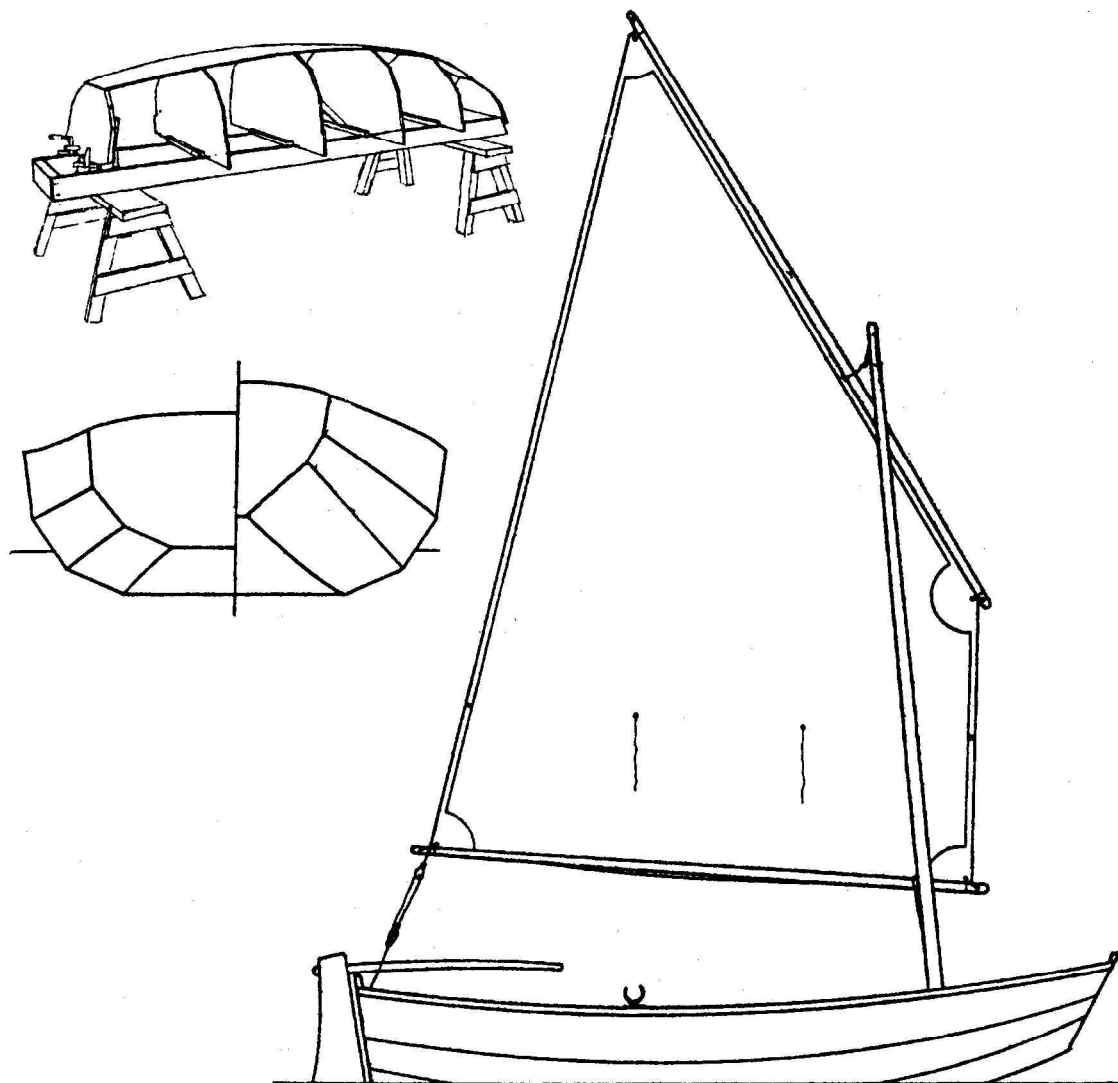
LOA: 9' - 4"
2.84m

Beam: 4' - 1/2"
1.23m

Depth: 17"
430mm

Weight: 75lbs
34kg

Sail: 43 sq ft
4.0 sq m



Type: flat bottom pram – clinker sides **Optional rig:** balanced lug **Capacity:** 1 to 3, rowing 1 to 4

BUILDING INFORMATION

CONSTRUCTION: glued lap clinker plywood

OPTIONS: traditional plank – cold-moulded – strip plank

Building time: 80 hours Rig + 40

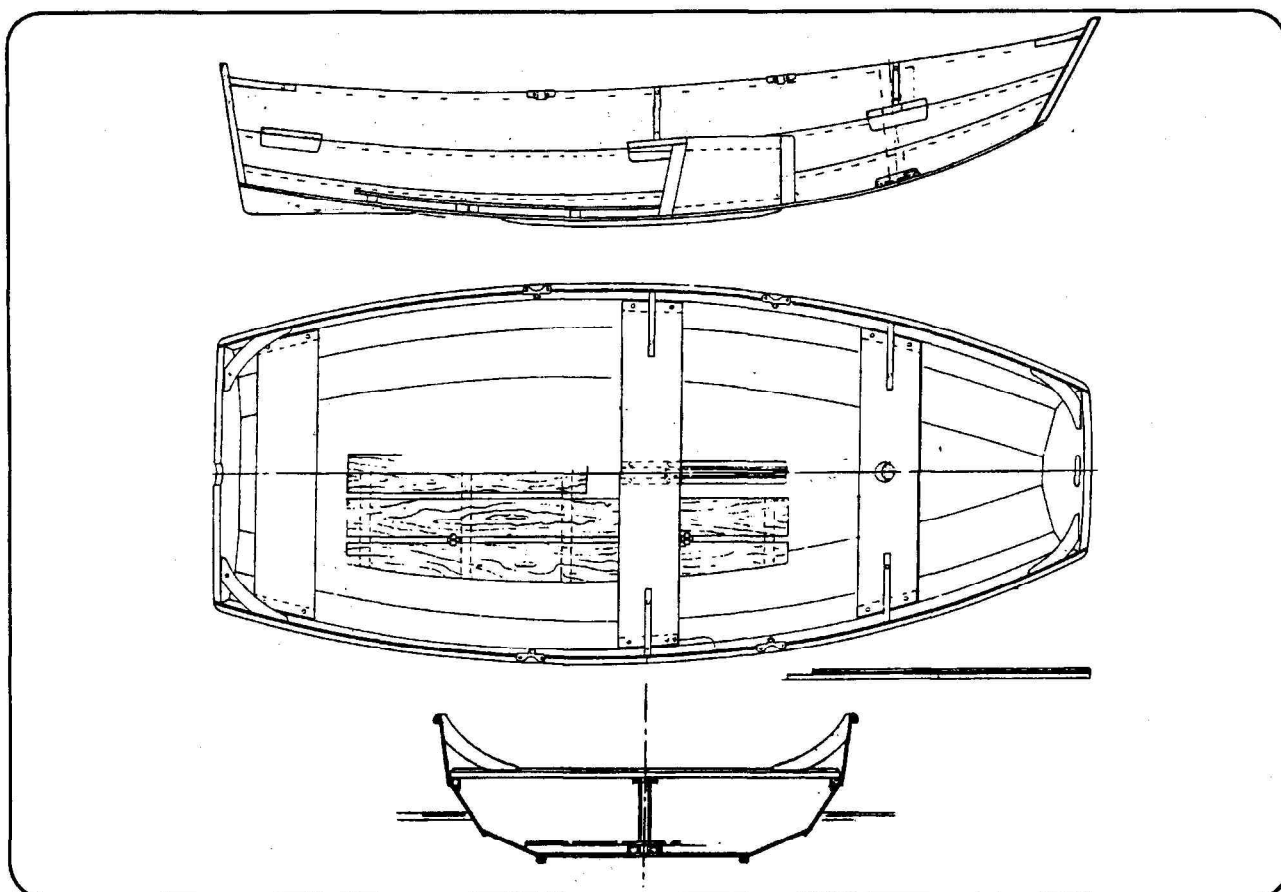
COST

Materials £400 Rig + 300

Plans: 5 sheets with copy of Classic Boat how-to-build series

The GRANNY PRAM is built the same way as the MOUSE, and most of the comments on that design apply to this one.

With extra length comes a proportionate increase in carrying capacity and performance. With the finer and higher bow she handles a bit of choppy water in a very capable manner, either under oars or sail. The sail area is generous; the boat can give quite a lively and exciting sail on a windy day.



But the lug rig is quickly reefed down when necessary, so it need not be too exciting. In an emergency the whole sail can be instantly lowered into the boat - a valuable safety feature of this rig. Another is the way in which the overlapping boom prevents the clew lifting downwind; this prevents the sail twisting excessively, and so greatly reduces any tendency to rhythmic rolling and unexpected gybes. The sail is completely under control at all times, so the best use can be made of its power without unnecessary risks.

The pram dinghy is one of the most difficult of boats to design, because of the limitations of the overall size.

Any boat design is a compromise; the pram is several compromises. She must be light but take rough treatment; perform well single-handed but carry several people safely, tracking well when rowing or towing. In this case, the boat had to be simple and quick to build for inexperienced amateurs. This also makes it inexpensive if professionally built, and efficient for kit production, having a minimum number of parts.

The GRANNY PRAM was the boat that was chosen for an exercise in clinker plywood boatbuilding by Dick Phillips and his students at the Falmouth School of Boatbuilding. His well-illustrated series of articles on her construction appeared in *Classic Boat*, January to April 1990, and a brief sailing report in the May issue. (Minor criticisms here applied to the boat as sailed - only one pair of rowlocks etc - and not to the actual design. Except for a complaint about of the lack of side benches and tiller extension. These could easily be fitted, but are not usual in small prams). These articles provide a very useful overview of the whole building operation, and replace the usual Building Procedure that comes with the plans.

(If you're wondering where the names come from - the prams are all named after good friends).