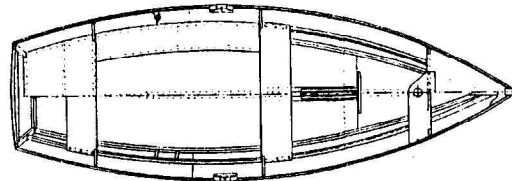
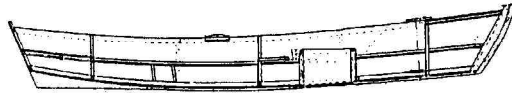
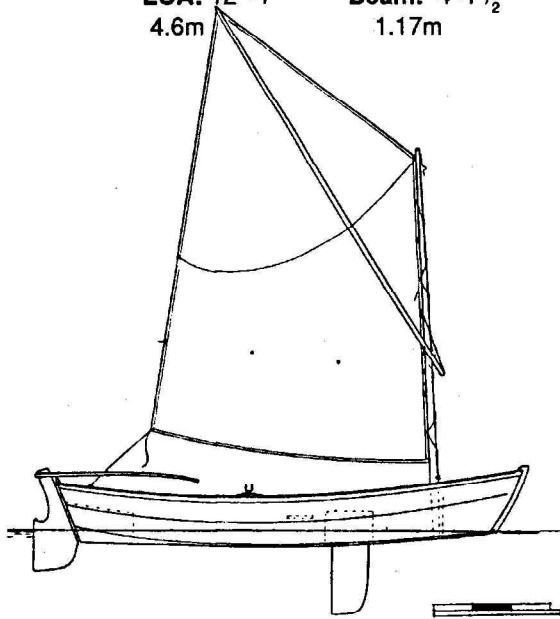


LOA: 12' -1"  
4.6m

Beam: 4'-1½"  
1.17m

Weight: 130lbs  
60kg

Sail: 60sq ft  
5.57sqm



Type: fat-bottom skiff Sailing rig: sprit sail Capacity: 1 or 4

#### BUILDING INFORMATION

CONSTRUCTION: chine plywood – flat bottom

OPTIONS : traditional plank

BUILDING TIME: 120 hours + Rig 40

COST:

Materials £ 450 + Rig 400

Plans: 3 sheets with instructions

**F**lat-bottomed boats have an air of practical simplicity, and a feel of functional 'boatiness' that contrasts sharply with modern styles.

Although some kinds of flat-bottom boat were quite common in parts of Somerset and on the south coast, especially in the areas of mud and sandbanks, the American 'skiff' type seemed to offer more potential for an all round useful boat, which will sail and row well and be suitable for outboard power and has a bit of a rakish style about it. There are not many boats which successfully combine these different functions; however it is perhaps not likely that a flattie will be able to do all these things spectacularly well. With the PIKE, we seem to have achieved a good compromise: wide enough on the bottom to be quite stable under sail, yet not too wide to kill the rowing performance. An efficient daggerboard ensures better than traditional windward ability.

Flat-bottom enthusiasts point out that when the hull is heeled it becomes in effect a vee-bottom and does not pound. This is so in smooth water, but in my experience it is not always smooth, and, although a round-bilge hull will sometimes meet waves which will give it a good thumping, flat areas will always be more susceptible to this. But having a reasonably fine entry the PIKE does not have a great problem, and can be pushed to windward with full sail in a F4 - up to around 16 knots - without becoming impossibly wet or uncomfortable. This is in reasonably sheltered water of course; these are not real seaboats. But they have turned out to be highly successful for their intended purpose. Which is more to do with single-handed or family sailing on estuaries or rivers; a spot of fishing, with the sail brailled up out of the way, or outboard; or a bit of rowing exercise. Exploring inlets and creeks; hauling up on the beach for a picnic. Owners are delighted with their performance and handling, general comfort and usefulness; several say that they get lots of admiring comments from the onlookers.