

Laker 13

By: "Hairy Mick"



PRODUCT DESCRIPTION:

<u>Design</u>	Laker 13 Kayak
<u>Overall Size</u>	13' x 26.5" (4.0 x .67 m)
<u>Estimated Hull Weight</u>	30-45 pounds (14k - 20K)
<u>Capacity</u>	110 - 250 lbs on board. (50k - 113 k)
<u>Intended Use</u>	Day touring and recreational paddling.
<u>Stability</u>	Moderate: Not as stable as a canoe or wide kayak, but very fast for it's size.
<u>Cost</u>	Cost ranges from about \$225 for a basic hull to \$600 for an ultra tough, very lightweight version.
<u>Time to build</u>	25-50 hours
<u>Required builder skill level</u>	A beginner with past woodworking skills and patience can make the hull with very good results.

ABOUT THE BUILDER

Mick, alias "Hairy Mick" has built several JEM Watercraft boats, starting with a Swamp Girl, moving to the Wadefish SOT Kayak. He lives in Australia with his lovely wife, Robin. Both have been heavily involved in paddle craft all of their lives, from surf skis, to canoes & kayaks. Until recently, most of Mick's paddling experience has been in open ocean and surf conditions.

REVIEW OF BUILDING THE BOAT

This boat is relatively easy to build. It requires only three 8' X 4' sheets of ply to complete the hull and decks and there are no complex or difficult bends in the hull requiring "torturing" of the ply panels.

The hull is symmetrical in that the front panels are identical to the back ones. This makes for quick and easy mark out. Only one bottom panel and one side panel to measure and mark. Trim them to size and use them as templates to mark out the other three of each. - easy.

Stitching and filleting the hull is quick and easy. There are only four panels to stitch together and again - no hard torturing of the panels to shape - easy.



Installation of the decks is likewise quick & easy and is only limited by the builder's imagination. A little care is advised here because this is the most visible part of the boat.



I have installed a rear bulkhead and hatch in both of the Lakers I have built. This enhances their usefulness and I think is well worth the little extra effort.

I fish from all of my boats so I set mine up according to my needs. This involved mounting 5 flush-mount rod holders. The design of the boat lends itself very well to customisation. Like wise, I made my hatch to neatly take a small 11" X 13" plastic tub to hold my tackle while fishing. The large cockpit works very well. I can straddle the boat, sit in the seat and then put my legs in.



My seat is installed as shown in the plans, with the addition a 1" foam pad on top, and a store-bought kayak back band. I find this to be very comfortable even after hours in the boat.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW

This is, without a doubt, the best recreational kayak I have ever paddled! She is fast, surprisingly fast for a boat only 13 feet long. Manoeuvrability is excellent yet she tracks straight and true. Weathercocking is minimal to non - existent which is very rare in a short recreational kayak.

STABILITY

This boat has a shallow 'V' bottom so she may feel a little "tippy" to those unaccustomed to such a hull design, at first. This is an illusion. The paddler is actually sitting on or below the water line and the boat is in reality, very stable. Most paddlers would very quickly become accustomed to the feel of this boat and relish the liveliness and responsiveness.



I am 6' and 200 pounds. With the addition of foot braces and thigh pads as displayed in my build thread, it truly is possible to wear this boat. This enhances the joy of paddling such a fun boat many times over.

Laker is so, good, I took her out in small surf- loaded with fishing gear just to see how she would do. She did very well indeed! The addition of a quality skirt or spray deck and a water-tight hatch would qualify this remarkable boat as a surf, or mild white water job!

I originally built my Laker as a "loaner" boat. One that I could lend to my friends who wanted to come paddling with me. She is now my favorite general-purpose boat and I have a shed full of very good kayaks and canoes.



My wife Robin, who is strictly a recreational paddler and who owns two superb store bought boats has paddled my boat. She was so impressed with it she has asked me to build her one just like it.



In summary, there is nothing not to like about this boat. It is easy to build, very, very good to paddle and it impresses the heck out of every one who sees or paddles it.