

How-To-Build-A-Canadian-Bateau

This boat is suitable for Running Any Rapid and for Fishing and Hunting.

This boat has been used through North America for every purpose – sport, commerce and pleasure.

It is made from 12' to 84' long, but the latter is an extreme size, 36', 45' and 52' being more usual lengths. They are easily built, being constructed very much the same as a punt, except that they are sharp nosed at bow and stern, and have a very great rise both in the floor and on the gunwale.

Fig 60 gives the plan and elevation of one, and Fig 61 the section at midships on a large scale.

To simplify matters, the same dimension of material is used throughout, that is, it is made either all of 1" or $\frac{3}{4}$ " stuff, and if very small, say 9' or so in length, $\frac{1}{2}$ " is thick enough. There is one exception, and that is in the wedge shaped piece, to which the ends of the side planks are nailed, which is usually cut out of thicker wood.

Fig 62 shows how this joint is made.

No ironing is used in these boats, hard wood being used to protect it from wear, and natural knees or forks cut from the woods to give it strength.

Small boats are usually propelled with a single bladed paddle, and are exceedingly handy and manageable; large boats are rowed and steered with a paddle, and under these conditions a Canadian boatman will run any rapid that it is possible for a canoe or boat to live through.

As shooting boats they are exceedingly handy, as they are very steady, and draw little water, and in mud flats and marshes they may be wriggled over any ordinary banks with the help of a pole.

Follow the directions given for making a fishing punt, and using a little judgment for the bow and stern, a Canadian bateau is the easier of the two to construct.

Extracted from Practical Boat Building and Sailing for Amateurs by A. Neison and D. Kemp published 1903

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