



DAN LEE BOATBUILDING

Dan is currently building the full-sized Temptress, a rendering of which is shown here, and funding it through videos.

if I want to. The fact that's an option is pretty incredible."

Thanks to his high online profile, he's had no trouble getting sponsorship from various companies for the materials he needs, including wood from Sykes Timber and Robbins Timber, epoxy from WEST System, and varnish from Epifanes. However, he'll be relying on donations and video revenue for the costs of such an ambitious project.

Another important and steady income stream is

from his Patreon account, which allows supporters to sponsor him by choosing one of four levels of membership: Hull Plank (£3 per month, or \$3.81), Frame (£9, or \$11.68), Transom (£25, or \$32.45), and keel (£100, or \$129.82). And for the casual viewer, there's "buy me a beer," which gives the option of buying him up to five pints of beer, at \$5 per pint, as a thank-you.

An important by-product of this approach to boatbuilding is that it allows, and even encourages, a more

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experimental approach than client-driven boatbuilding. With no owner breathing down his neck, Dan can play with all that CAD and CNC power that he is able to harness and come up with new ideas that not only make good subject matter for his next video but also work in real life.

When I visited him at his workshop, Dan had half a dozen frames built for the Temptress. He showed me the ingenious pegboard system he's developed to locate the various sections of the CNC-cut frames during assembly. The idea came from his first job in the electronics factory when he made electrical circuit boards in which the numbered holes correspond to specific wires. For the current project, the holes correspond to the boat's 13 frames, which are lined up and glued on the board. Once cleaned up, the frames are put back on the board and the waterlines and other information are transferred so they can be accurately lined up on the strongback.

Dan tested this idea successfully with the quarter-sized Temptress model and then scaled it up for the full-sized boat. The builder in the United States then had the idea of putting the board on legs to turn it into a workbench, and Dan then added a grid of holes to create a multifunctional table, which has the shape of the frames embedded within it and which can also be used with special clamps and stops for general woodwork. Clever stuff.

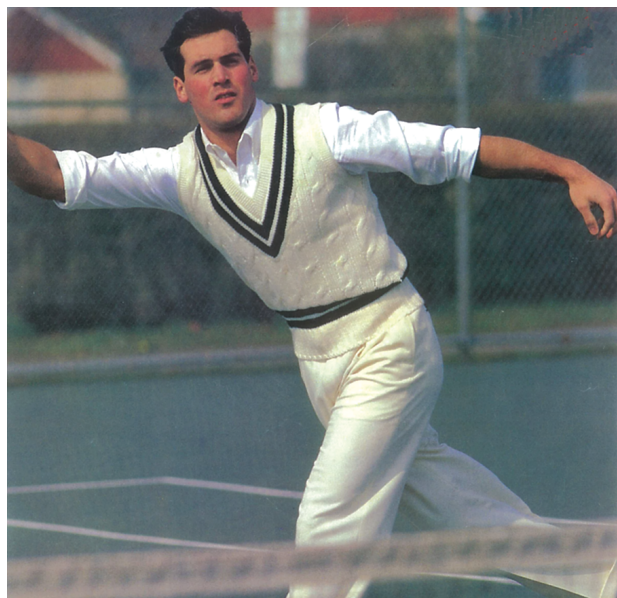
Dan is also experimenting with using the CNC cutter to cut the bevels on the frames and even, in a recent video, the stem. So far, the method is working well, though he realizes it's of limited interest to most amateur builders, who don't necessarily have easy access to a CNC cutter.

It's certainly not boatbuilding as we know it. In fact, Dan estimates only 10 to 20 percent of his time is spent actually woodworking; the rest is spent on the computer. But it's certainly a boon to other fellow boatbuilding hobbyists—which is exactly what Dan intended.

"The business is a blend of all my interests: boats, woodworking, tech stuff like CAD and CNC, and also filming and editing, using my creative side," he says. "I like all the elements; there's not one bit I don't like. But I probably enjoy the woodworking most—being down in the workshop making stuff. It's how I started with all this, and it's what I like best."

*More information at [www.danleeboatbuilding.co.uk](http://www.danleeboatbuilding.co.uk). You can see Dan's videos at [youtube.com/danleeboatbuilding](http://youtube.com/danleeboatbuilding). His supporter's page is at [patreon.com/danleeboatbuilding](http://patreon.com/danleeboatbuilding).*

*Nic Compton is a freelance writer and photographer based in Devon, England. He lived on boats in the Mediterranean until the age of 15 and worked as a boatbuilder for many years before swapping his chisel for a pen and his router for a computer. He sails a Rhode Island-built Freedom 33, currently based in Greece.*



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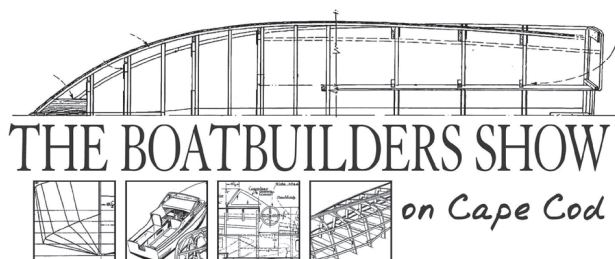
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