

# FEATHER PRAM

design

no. 51

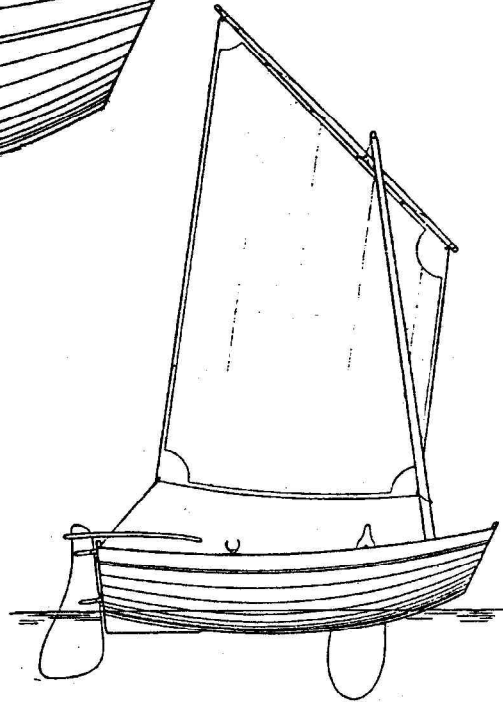
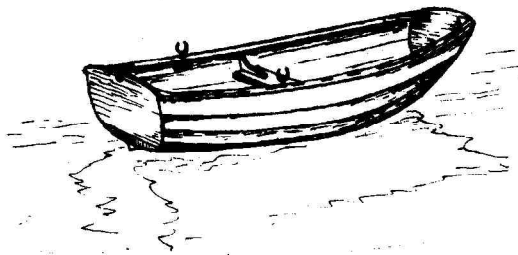
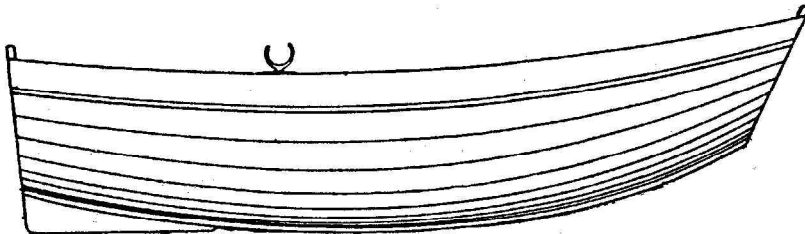
LOA: 6' - 8"  
2.03m

Beam: 3' - 9"  
1.145m

Depth: 15"  
380mm

Weight: 40lbs  
18kg

Sail area: 26sq ft  
2.42sqm



Type: round-bilge pram    Optional rig: standing lug with leeboard    Capacity: 1 or 2, sometimes 3

## BUILDING INFORMATION

Construction: glued lap clinker plywood  
Options: traditional plank (construction plan included)  
- strip plank - cold-moulded  
Building time: 68 hours    Rig + 32

## COST

Materials £300    Rig + 250

Plans: 4 sheets with Building Procedure

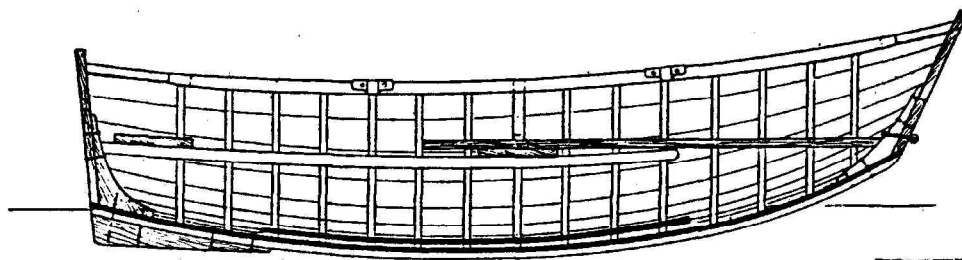
In spite of the success of the plywood prams, there is still a demand for conventional prams of the straight traditional type.

The FEATHER has been designed as a minimum size tender for a small cruising yacht, which can be stowed on deck, or towed astern.

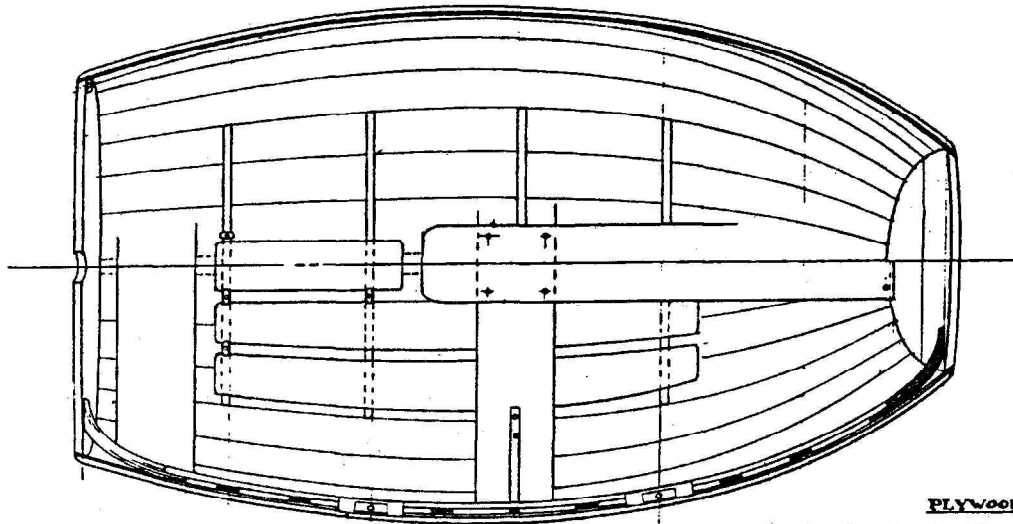
She handles well one-up, and with the forward rowing position can safely take a passenger, if carefully handled. It is even possible to transport a third person - for a moderate distance in smooth water.

This is really a case of trying to get a quart into a pint pot (-or 1136ml into a 568 ml pot if you insist). However it has been found that such tiny prams can work surprisingly well, if properly designed. They offer a safer and more versatile and far more attractive alternative to the small inflatable.

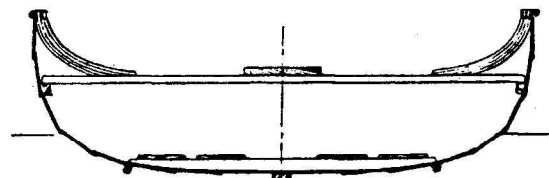
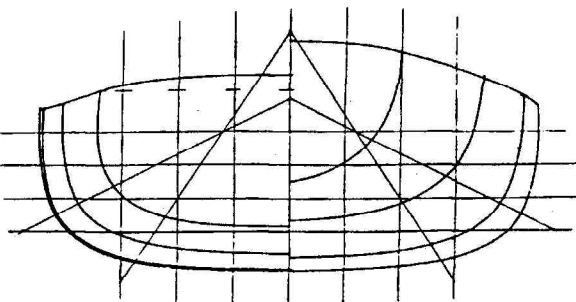
Many very small prams look like larger prams scaled down. This may mean they lack waterline beam and length, and therefore stability. The FEATHER has a larger bow transom, a fuller deeper keel line for waterline length, a flatter bottom and good firm bilges for stability.



TRADITIONAL HULL



PLYWOOD HULL



Construction is frameless glued clinker plywood, using 4 or 5mm plywood - 5/32 to 3/16", using the standard Building Procedure, which however is considerably simplified by the lack of a stem and keelson. Thus she makes an excellent project for a builder who wants to have a go at this construction method, with a minimum investment of time and materials.

Likewise she will be ideal for trying one's hand at traditional boatbuilding. For this purpose, full construction plans and scantlings are provided on the drawings. There are eight strakes to a side; this allows for 1/4" - 6mm cedar or spruce planking. The same upside-down building set-up can be used. However, there are no complete instructions for clinker building, but there is a list of relevant magazine articles and books which fill in the details of steaming ribs, rivetting etc.

A sail plan is included. This is not usual in such a small pram, but she does sail very well. The rig also makes the boat into a good little sail trainer for young children.

There is no room in her for a centreboard case, so a leeboard is used instead. This is a single asymmetrical board, on a lanyard made fast amidships. It is flipped over to the new leeward side when tacking.