

L'IL NIP  
CAT SKIFF 8



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## L'il Nip- 7' 10" Cat Skiff

### Designer, Mark Gumprecht

L'il Nip is a small dory-hulled catamaran skiff built out of sheet plywood, and is a very easy boat to build. It takes 3 sheets of 1/4" mahogany plywood and 1/2 sheet of 1/8" mahogany plywood to build. Many grades of plywood will work. Okume plywood would be the best, but is also the most expensive. Luan mahogany door skin available at many building supplies will work just fine if epoxy coated and painted.



## INSTRUCTIONS

1) Lay out and cut all frames from 1/4" plywood. You'll need two of each. Add a cleat to the top of each frame so you can screw it down on the bench. The cleat on the transom is cut with a 12-degree angle. Mark the location of the seat on the frames. Lay out and cut one of the hull side panels from 1/4" plywood. Fair out the edges with a block plane. You should be able to get two side panels out of one sheet, and have enough left over for the bottom of the hull.

2) On your building bench, draw a centerline, and measure the distance from the bow to the frame locations. Draw a perpendicular line, and mount each frame. Hold the frames square to the bench with scraps of plywood. See if the side panel fits and lines up with the marks on the frames. If it looks okay, use it as a pattern and cut out the other three side panels. Wire the bows of two panels together, and bend around the frames. The front of the panels should be resting on the bench, and on the centerline. When everything is lined up, scribe the panels at the transom. Take the panels off and trim them. Put thickened epoxy between the panels at the bow, and bend the panels back around the frames. Apply epoxy to the edge of the transom and clamp the panels in place using masking tape. Lift the panels at frames 1 and 3, and put epoxy on the edge of the frames. Frame 2 IS NOT GLUED, as it is a temporary frame. You can use a few small finish nails to keep everything lined up, and pull them out later.

3) Using the leftover piece of 1/4" plywood from cutting the side panels, lay the bottom panel on, and scribe it. Cut it out, and do any fairing needed to the bottoms of the frames and transom.



Apply thickened epoxy to the bottom of the frames and side panels, except for frame 2, and attach the bottom panel using masking tape to hold it down.

4) When the glue dries on the first hull, remove it from the bench, and build the second hull using the same procedure.

5) Remove the second hull from the bench, and turn the hulls over. Remove frame 2, marking the location of the seat cutout first, and cut off the rest of the frames at deck level. Apply a nice radius of thick epoxy inside the chine, put on a strip of 2" fiberglass tape, and wet out with epoxy. Apply a fillet of thickened epoxy where the frames and transom meet the side panels.

Round off the corner where the sides meet the bottom, and fiberglass the bottom of the hulls with 6-ounce cloth and epoxy resin, going up the hull sides 2 inches. When dry, feather out the glass on the hull sides.

6) Transfer the location of the seat cutout to the outside of the hull, and draw a line between frames 1 and 3 using a batten. Make sure you have a right and left hull! Cut out the side panels for the seat between frames 1 and 3. Glue a 1/2" x 3/4" stringer to the inside of seat cutout, using spring clamps to hold in place. When the glue dries, bevel the stringer so it is level.

7) Now you are ready to join the hulls together. Set the hulls side-by-side on a flat surface, and line them up so they are 26 1/2" apart on centerline. Tack-nail some wood strips at the bow and stern to hold them in alignment. Rip 1/4" plywood to the height of the seat cutout at frames 1 and 3, minus 1/4" for the thickness of the seat plywood, and fit between the sides of the hulls. Glue 3/4" square mahogany cleats to the top and bottom of each beam, then glue the beams to

frames 1 and 3, lining the beams up with the top of the frames, with a 1/4" space between the bottom of the beam and the seat stringer. Make sure the hulls are lined up, and let the glue dry. Fit the 1/4" plywood seat so it goes under the fore and aft beams, and scribe it to the seat stringers. Glue the seat in place to the bottom of the beams and the seat stringers. Screw the seat to the bottom of the beams using 3/4" flat head screws.

8) Add the angled forward fairing in front of the forward beam. Glue in small cleats to the hull sides in the bow and stern deck areas. When dry, fair the deck frame, and scribe pieces of 1/8" plywood for the fore and aft deck. Glue in place using masking tape to hold the plywood down. When dry, sand the plywood flush with the sides of the hulls. Glue a 3/8" x 1" mahogany rail from bow to stern on the outside of the hulls, and then add a 1/4" x 1" strip to the inside of the hull panels between frames 1 and 3 to stiffen the rail.

9) Cut and fit the 3/4" mahogany keels, glue in place, and coat with epoxy. Use some sort of rub strip at the back to drag the skiff around on.

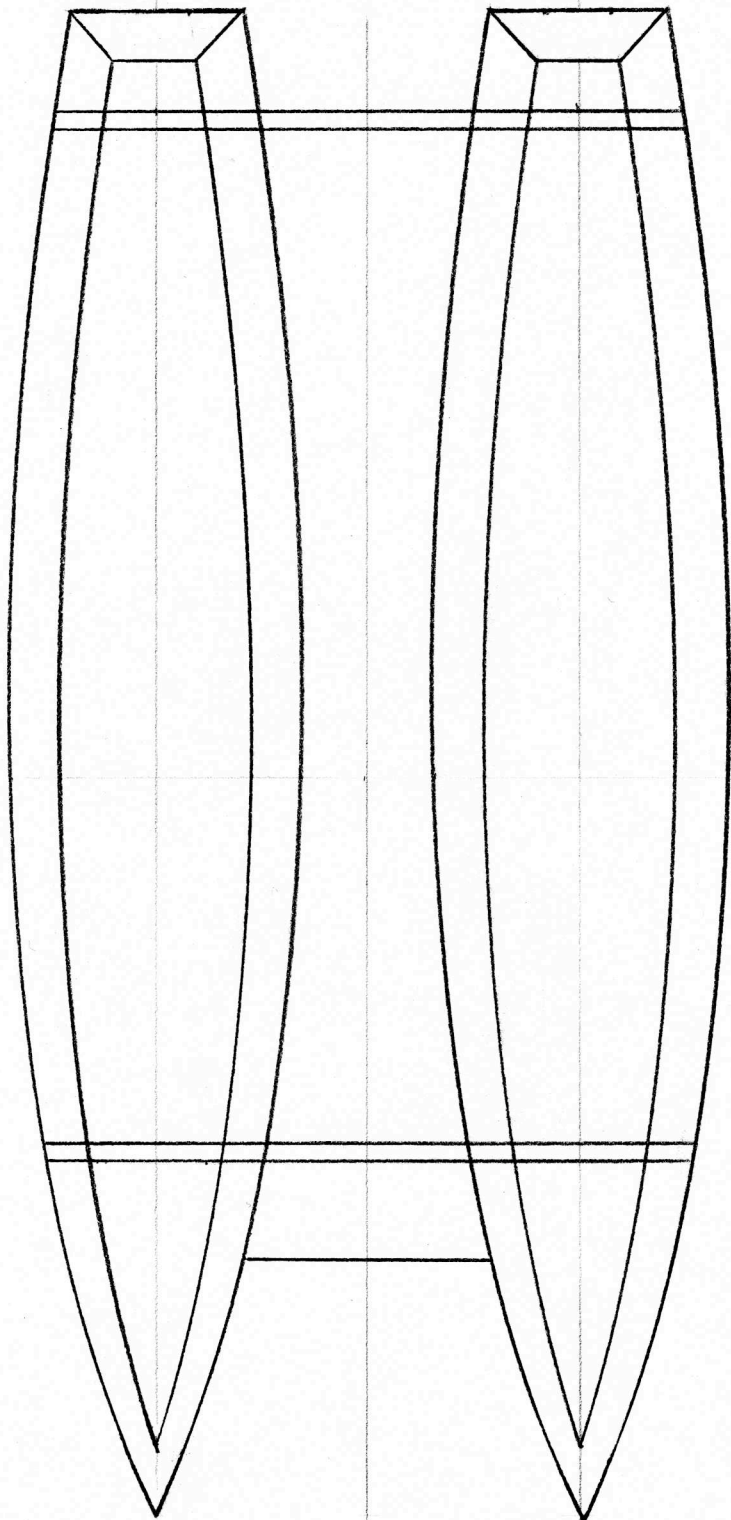
10) Do any final sanding and fairing, and put 2 coats of epoxy on the hulls and underside of the seat. When the epoxy is well cured, sand, and paint or varnish the hulls. Finish the inside with a couple of coats of epoxy or varnish. Make sure any paint or varnish you use is compatible with epoxy.

11) The oarlock location is 60" from the bow for one person, and 46" from the bow for rowing with two people. To make a towing bridle, drill a 1/2" hole a few inches down through each of the bows, and fill with thickened epoxy. Sand flush, and drill a 5/16" hole in the middle of the epoxy. Round the edges, and tie the bridle through the holes.

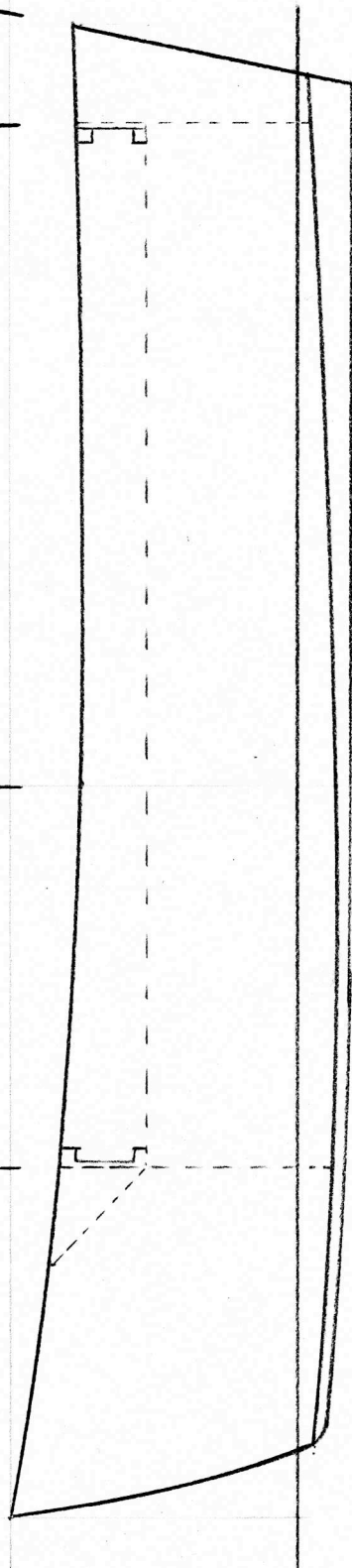
Mark Gumprecht    Any questions or comments- [mgumprecht@att.net](mailto:mgumprecht@att.net)

LIL' NIP

CAT SKIFF  
7'10" x 3'10"

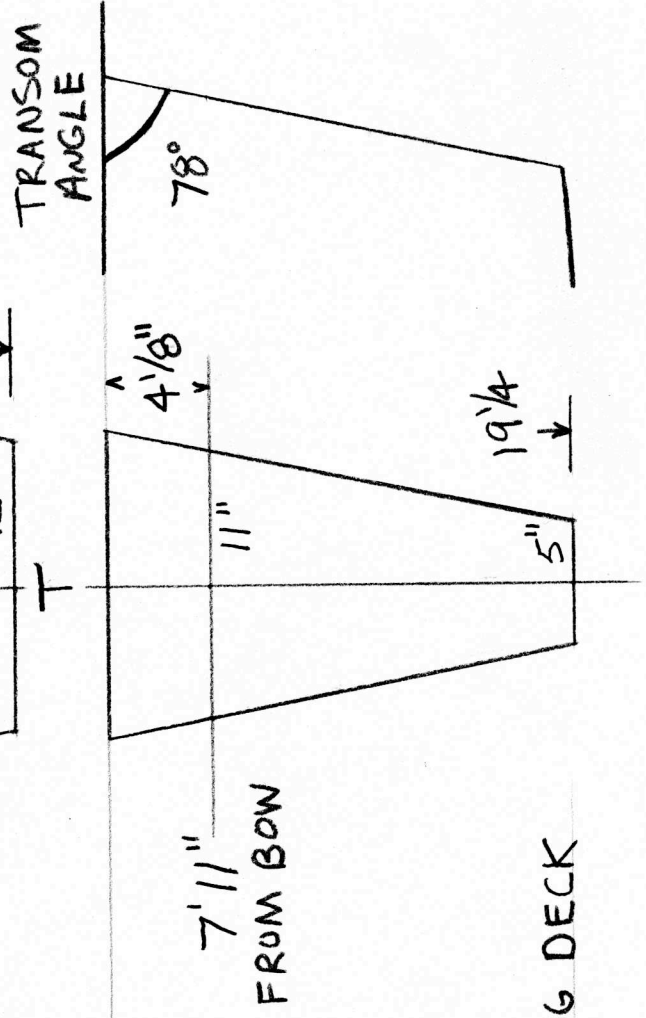
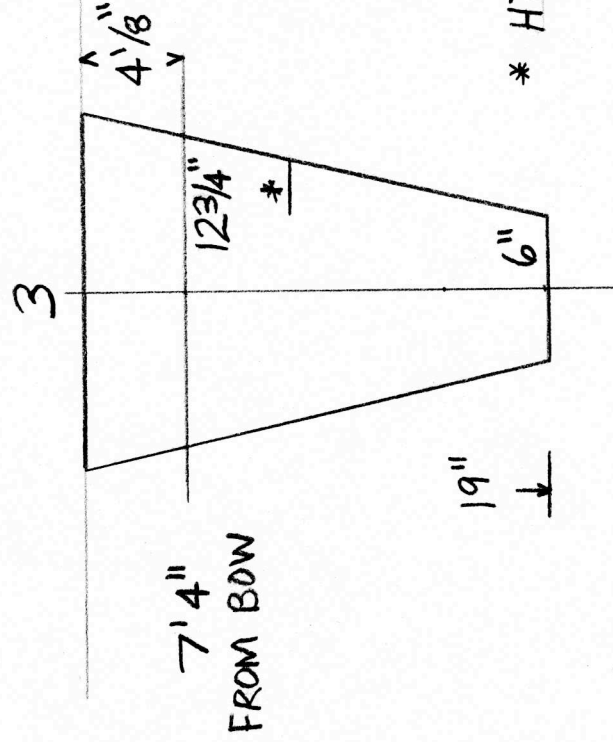
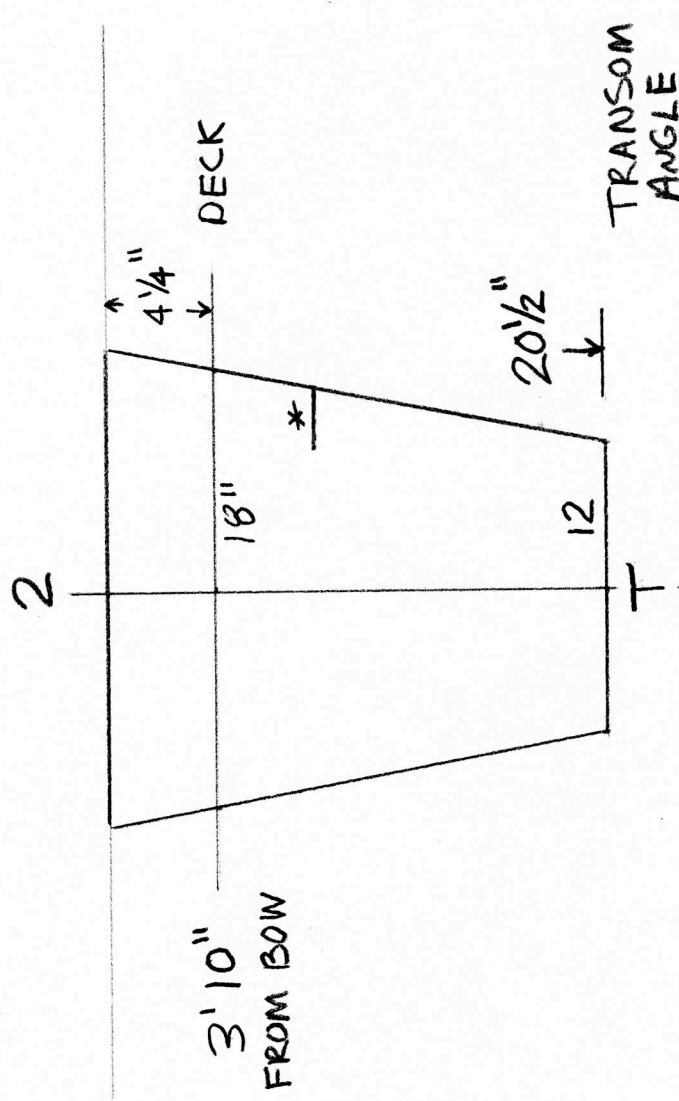
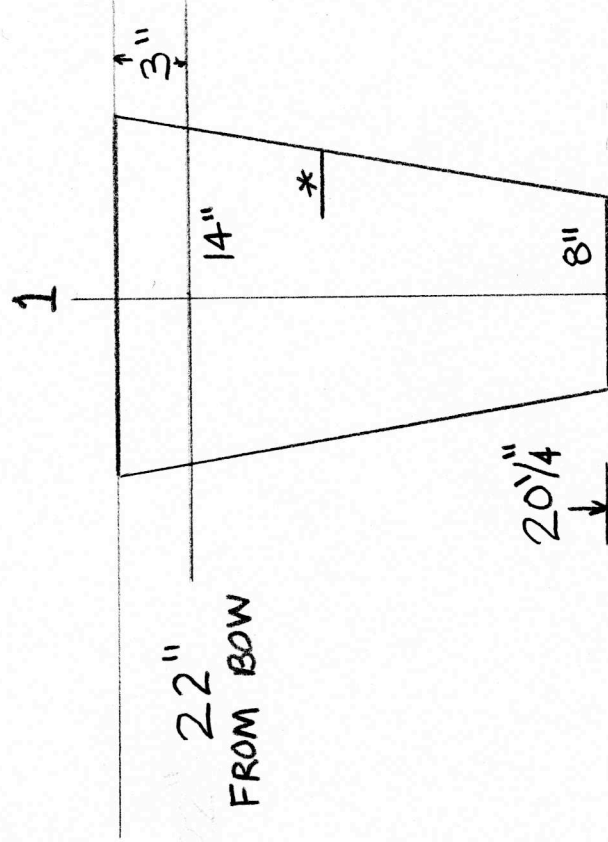


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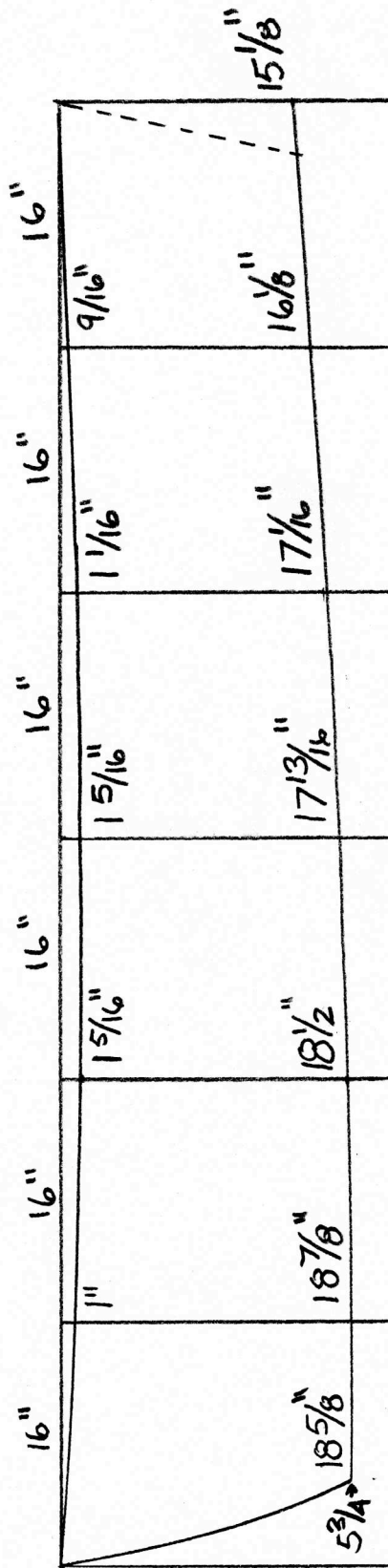
MARK GUMPRECHT 1" = 1'0"

# LIL' NIP FRAMES



MARK GUMPRECHT 1 1/2" = 1' 0"

# HULL PANEL 1" = 1'0"













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