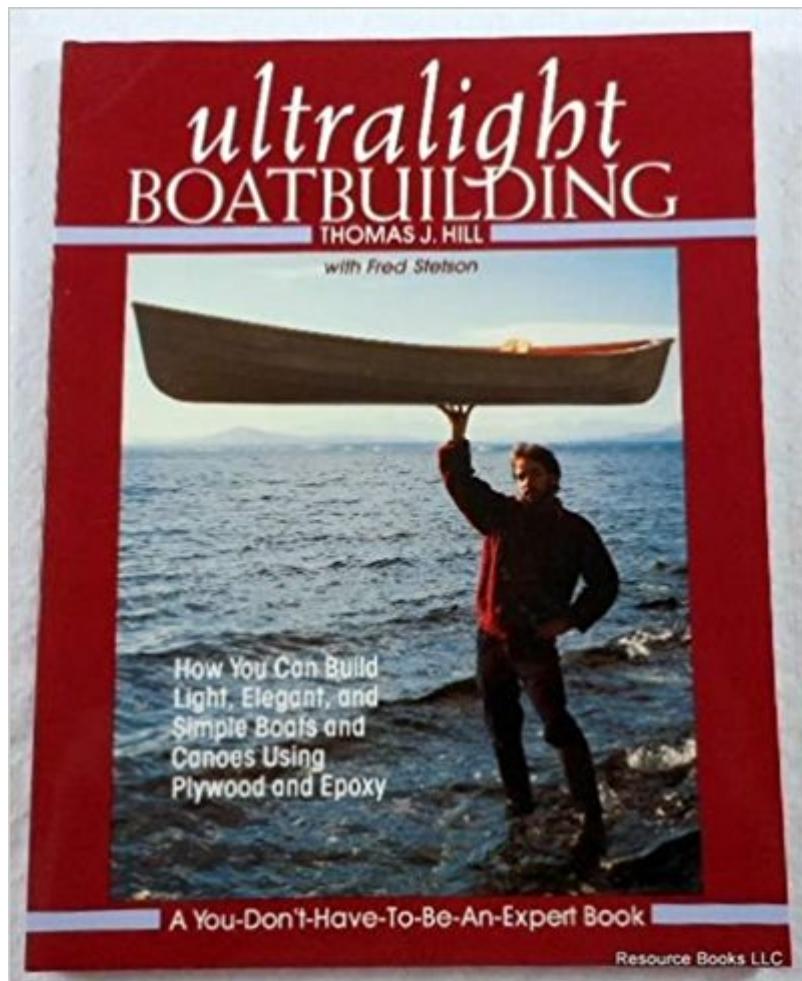


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# Ultralight Boatbuilding



## Synopsis

Demonstrates each step in the construction of canoes and small boats, offers advice on tools, materials, and techniques, and explains how to expand naval architect drawings into full-scale plans.

## Book Information

Paperback: 134 pages

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## Customer Reviews

I bought this book to help me build my first stitch and glue boat. My first boat build ever. Well written and very informative. The boat turned out great. This book was a big help.

Im building the long point skiff. And figured be good companion book to go along with plans it was a wise choice this book clears up a lot of the unsaids in the plans highly reccomended

There is lots of talk of theory, techniques, tools, materials used, but you cannot find any plan in the book that would bring all the author's writing together. He offers drawings for a hypothetical skiff and photos of one canoe and one flat bottom boat supposedly being worked on for examples of his subject chapter of the moment (ex. lofting, planking, painting, etc.) In my opinion this is a perfect example of an author writing subjectively about a type of boat building who is not this type of boatbuilder. It is stated that the author "reckons he has built more than a hundred boats..." but he didn't even show how to build one of this type. His Appendix B are a catalog of photos and drawings of other boats built by other designers and of course Appendix C has the ordering sources such as "WoodenBoat". The reader must take the author's techniques and apply them to someone else's

plans and instructions. Sincerely, R. Simpson

This was the first book I purchased on the topic of building clinker ply boats, and I wasn't terribly impressed. If I was building one of the two boats he describes, it would probably be more useful, but it doesn't cover anything about round bilged dinghies. It goes over a flat bottomed skiff and a round bilged but very lightly built canoe. The author only covers one way of doing everything, and his methods usually struck me as tedious. For example, to spile a plank he clamps an entire 2'x16' sheet of plywood to his building jig and then the shape out from underneath. I found John Brook's "Building Ellen" article in woodenboat magazine issues number #156, 157, 158 to be more helpful than this entire book. While I don't have John's book, if it's anything like the article it is probably much more useful. I'd recommend buying Iain Oughtred's book "Clinker Plywood Boatbuilding Manual" instead. It covers a whole variety of techniques, including Tom Hill's, and also covers a much wider variety of hull types (prams, dories, round bilges, etc).

I've owned this book for several years and find it to be a very usable guide to building light and durable boats fairly quickly. Having just spent six years of occasional weekend work building a larger plywood boat, I think that Hill's approach is one of the best. He tells you all you need to know about this construction method and you don't need special skills or tools to make one. It is not at all, as one reviewer said, just an ad for Hill's plans. He does offer some that you can purchase at the back, but the majority of the book is about how to build a boat in this method -- setting up the molds, cutting and attaching the planks, etc. Overall, a very good book.

If you're an intermediate to advanced wood worker Tom Hill speaks your language. His description of plywood lap strake construction truly does sound the lightest and strongest of the small boat building methods. If you don't like the idea of sloppy joints held together with fiberglass tape and you love the sound of a finely tuned plane you'll love this book. The section on lofting is simple, understandable and not at all scary. The tips for tool usage are innovative and fairly sure-fire. I came away knowing I could build a great boat with the plywood lap strake design described here. It is frustrating that the plans for the boats described are not included, (the plans are available from the designer who's address is listed) but anyone dabbling in just the basics of lofting could design their own boat from what is in this book. The method is challenging but not intimidating. It'll get you excited about building a boat.

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