



Canoe Building Courses - Canoe Details & Specification

Introduction:

At Overwater Boats we are currently using the Selway Fisher Prospector open canoe design for our courses. This is one of the most successful open canoe designs around and makes a great boat for tandem and solo paddling on lakes, rivers and moving water.

The Prospector design has its roots in the canoes used by fur traders and trappers in Canada and North America.

Overwater Boats canoes have successfully completed descents of the Spey, Tay and Tweed and in 2011 & 2012 our canoes finished 2nd and 3rd in the Tay Descent race on the from Dunkeld to the Sea at Perth.

Our canoes paddle really well unloaded, and have plenty of capacity for touring and wild camping trips.

Our customers use their canoes on lakes, rivers, moving water and whitewater upto grade 3. On the website there are pictures of our canoes in action on lakes and rivers, and a video of one of our canoes descending Blacks Boat Rapid on the River Spey.

The hull has 5 panels each side giving a lovely rounded shape, there is a fair amount of rocker for manoeuvrability. This is well compensated for by the sharp entries at bow and stern which give excellent tracking and help give the boats a great turn of speed.

Dimensions: length 15'8"/4.75m; width 35"/0.88m; mid hull depth 14.5"/0.36m; weight approx 30kg

If you'd like to build a different canoe design please get in touch - we will do our best to accommodate your requirements.

Hull Specification:

The hull has five panels each side giving a well rounded “traditional” Prospector shape.

The hull panels are cut from Robbins Elite Okume/Gaboon Marine ply - this ply is used because it is of very high quality - and because it offers a significant weight saving over other lower quality marine plys.

The joints between the panels are filled both sides with thickened epoxy resin.

Internally the joints between the panels are reinforced with woven glass fabric tape impregnated with epoxy resin.

Externally the entire surface of the hull is encasulated with woven glass fabric, again impregnated with epoxy resin.

Fixtures and Fittings:

Hardwood, ash, is used for the seats, thwarts, yokes and gunwales. Ash has a lovely appearance, particularly set against the pale/reddish plywood, and excellent strength and bending properties.

Bonding - for example of the gunwales to the hull and of the seat frames - is with thickened epoxy, this genuinely gives a joint stronger than the wood itself.

Few mechanical fixings are used. Where components need to be held in place whilst epoxy sets stainless steel screws are used. Removable components: seats, thwarts and yokes, are fixed with stainless steel bolts.

Our canoes have two seats set for tandem paddling, a kneeling thwart set for solo paddling, a shaped carrying yoke as the centre thwart, and carrying handles front and rear. The front seat has a hole and a socket below to take a mast for sailing.

Construction Options:

Seats, thwarts etc can be positioned to suit as part of the course. The following items are available as optional extras on our standard specification:

Keel and bilge runners can be provided to protect the hull from abrasion. For white water use it is recommended that thicker/additional woven glass fabric is applied inside and outside the hull to provide greater strength and abrasion resistance.

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