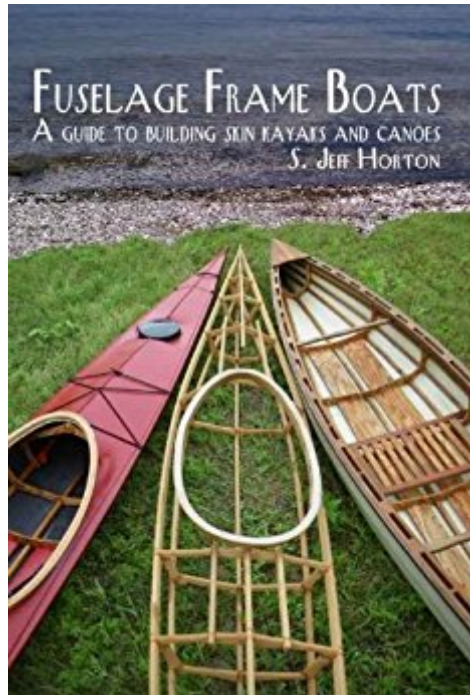




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Fuselage Frame Boats A Guide To Building Skin Kayaks And Canoes



Synopsis

Tired of struggling with that heavy plastic kayak? Are you looking for a lightweight boat but not willing to take out a second mortgage to buy it? What if I told you that you could build a boat weighting less than 35 lbs for \$300 to \$500? You can and in my new book I will show you how. This style was very popular in the 1950's and 1960's and many boat plans appeared in magazines such as Popular Mechanics and Popular Science. Even though it is no longer fashionable in the magazines, the fuselage style of construction is still probably the most cost effective way to build a small boat. Recently I have seen a renewed interest in this type of boat construction. People are rediscovering the advantages of Fuselage style Skin Boats. Fuselage frames boats cost very little to build. A sheet of marine plywood, a lightweight wood such as cedar for the stringers, a few yards of a synthetic fabric for the skin and something to waterproof the skin. Materials for a basic 17' kayak cost around \$300. Adding a seat, deck rigging and adjustable footrest would add another \$100 to \$150 dollars depending on your preferences. For somewhere around \$400 you can build a high performance, 30-35 lbs boat. A composite construction canoe or kayak of similar weight would cost thousands of dollars. This book will walk you through the process of building your own Skin on Frame canoe or kayak. I start by addressing the space needed to build a boat as well as tools needed. There is a detailed section on laying out the frames from a table of offsets. Progressing to how to assemble the frame, skinning the boat and through all the steps to preparing your boat for launching. Included are offsets for three of my boat designs. The StoneFly canoe, Curlew, a 15' Sea Kayak and new sea kayak design Pouco Barta.

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Customer Reviews

I have this and the Morris book. This book is very practical with lots of straightforward advice and explanations. In some ways it is more helpful than the Morris book. The Morris book is wonderful as it explains general boat building and techniques based in historical context. But when it came right down to the tiny details of building my first sof canoe this book was more useful. I am a competent wood worker but had no prior experience in this sort of build in terms of boat building, steam bending, lashing, and skinning. I am building the Rushton IGO from Dave Gentry's plans (also recommended). I opted to go the steam bent ribs direction instead of the plywood frame, because I think it looks nicer and I wanted to learn steam bending (which turns out to be completely fascinating! Who knew wood turns rubbery). I will probably build the Vardo kayak from this book next. This book has plans and techniques for kayak and canoe. Cons: the images are pixelated and difficult to make out the detail. Could be formatted better to differentiate the sections better, like switching back and forth between kayak and canoe.

I caught the S.O.F. (skin on frame) boat bug years ago and it has worsened to a full blown infection in the past few months. While doing my research and trying to decide on a boat kit to build I found the www.Kudzucraft.com website and, wow, did I ever receive an education. I really enjoyed Jeff's' down to earth style in his how too videos. When I saw his book I had to get it and I was not disappointed. The book is written in the same down to earth style. He shares many great and helpful ideas and techniques that make it possible for even the rank amateur a boat builder. If you are thinking about going down the S.O.F. path I would recommend that you get this book but before you start reading it you go to the website listed above and watch the how to videos so that while you are reading you can have Jeff's great Southern drawl in your head. Do this and enjoy. I, very much, enjoy the technical type drawings and diagrams that are found in this book but others may like more "glossy" type pictures. A great book overall.

Good reading would have been better if the author had gone from one design type then the other instead of skipping around.

BEWARE!! This book will destroy your free time, spare money and alienate you from your big boat friends. These boats are so easy to build and so fun that you'll find yourself desperately struggling between building boats or out paddling. Jeff is a down to Earth man who does a good job of detailing the process. If you run into snags he can be found on various boat building forums as well as facebook. If you want the best combination then buy this book, study up then visit his website and order a set of full size plans to make the build even easier!

An introduction to non-traditional skin-on-frame construction. Non-T, by the way, uses widely spaced sawn plywood frames instead of closely spaced bent ribs. Mr. Horton has some very nice designs available (<http://www.kudzucraft.com/>),

Great

This book delivers all the information needed to build one of these very light and durable kayaks. The information is straight forward, and easy to digest, and will have you building a successful boat straight away. If you have been interested in this type of project, then this will guide you through the process from beginning to end. Useful links to the authors web site in the book, where the author shares additional information.

Pretty much an elongated ad for the authors product line. In desperate need of a proof reader.

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