

# Paddle Wheel Boat

*Here's a boat that's a barrel of fun for the kids and you can build it for less than \$35.*

**By Hal Kelly**

**B**UILDING this boat will really put you in solid with the small fry—if you will give them a chance to play with it when it's finished. And the job takes no more than a weekend for anyone who can cut wood along a line. You don't even need power tools, though they're great for doing a fast job.

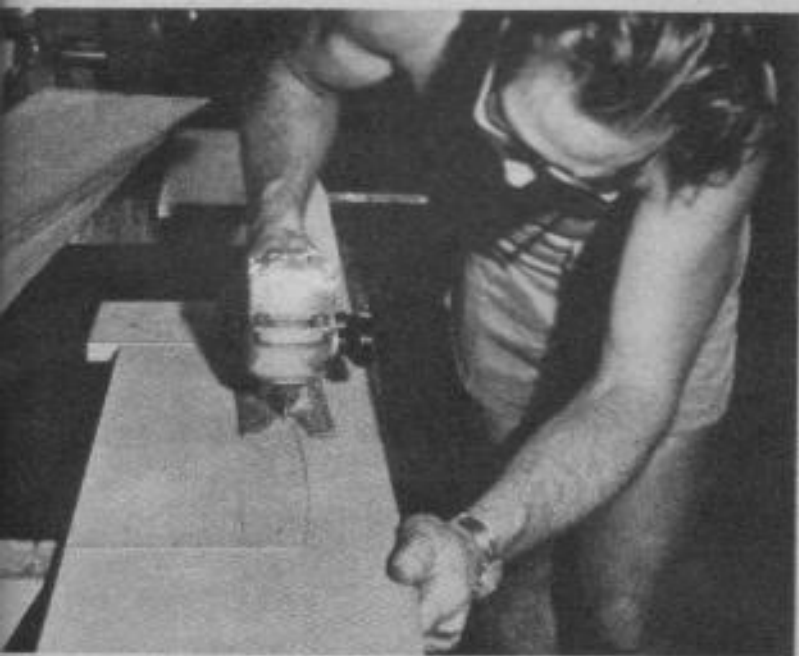
When it comes to moving the boat, Junior needs only a few minutes of practice before he's in complete control. A four-year-old can do it and my own six-year-old can make her go faster than an adult can row a boat. There's no front or back—she goes just as well in either direction—and she'll spin around



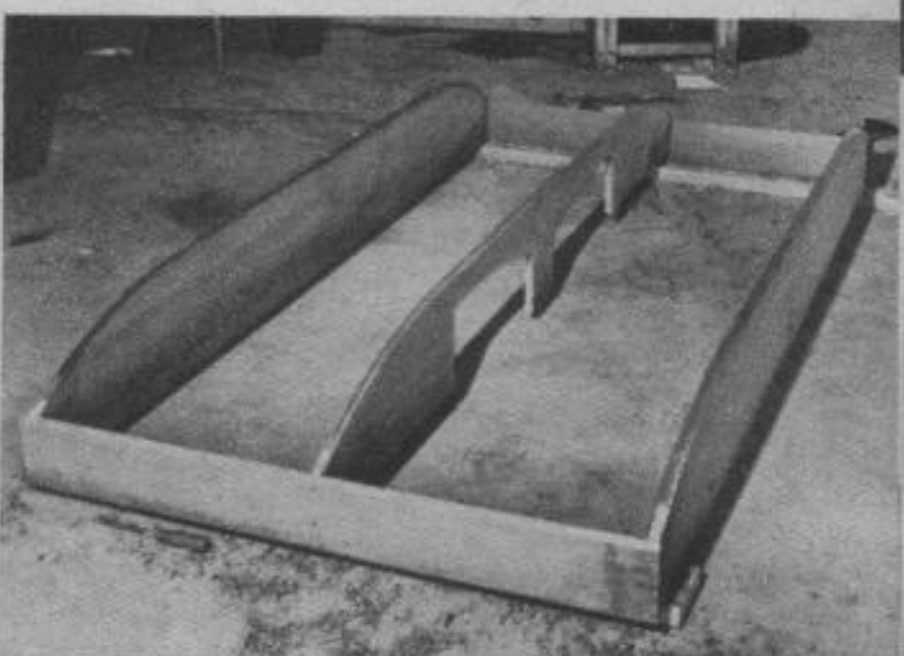
**SIDES** and center piece have same curves but are cut separately; it's too awkward to join the three and cut them together.



**WHEN CUT**, the three are joined temporarily and planed to equal shape; check with square to be sure sides are 90° to edges.



**SABER SAW** is used for making cutouts in center section; this tool can be used for all the cuts if band saw isn't available.

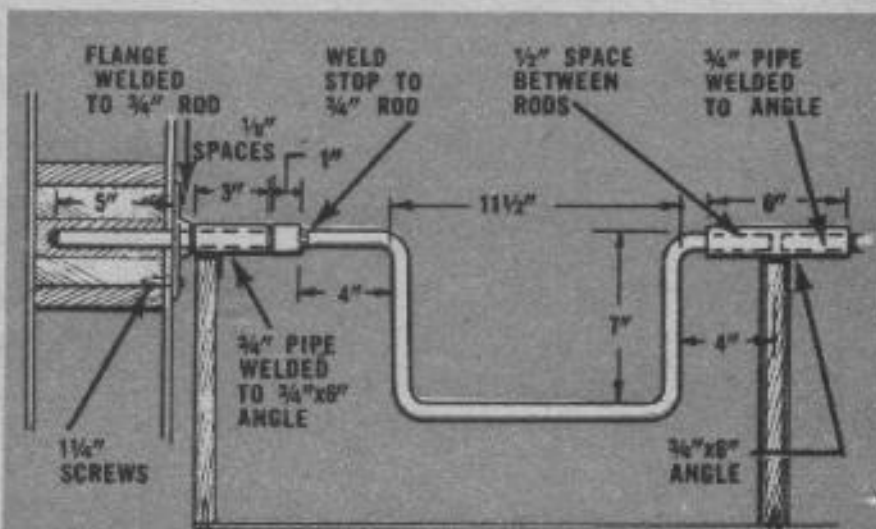


**FRAME** is assembled with glue and screws; the end pieces are dadoed and rabbeted to take center section and sides respectively.

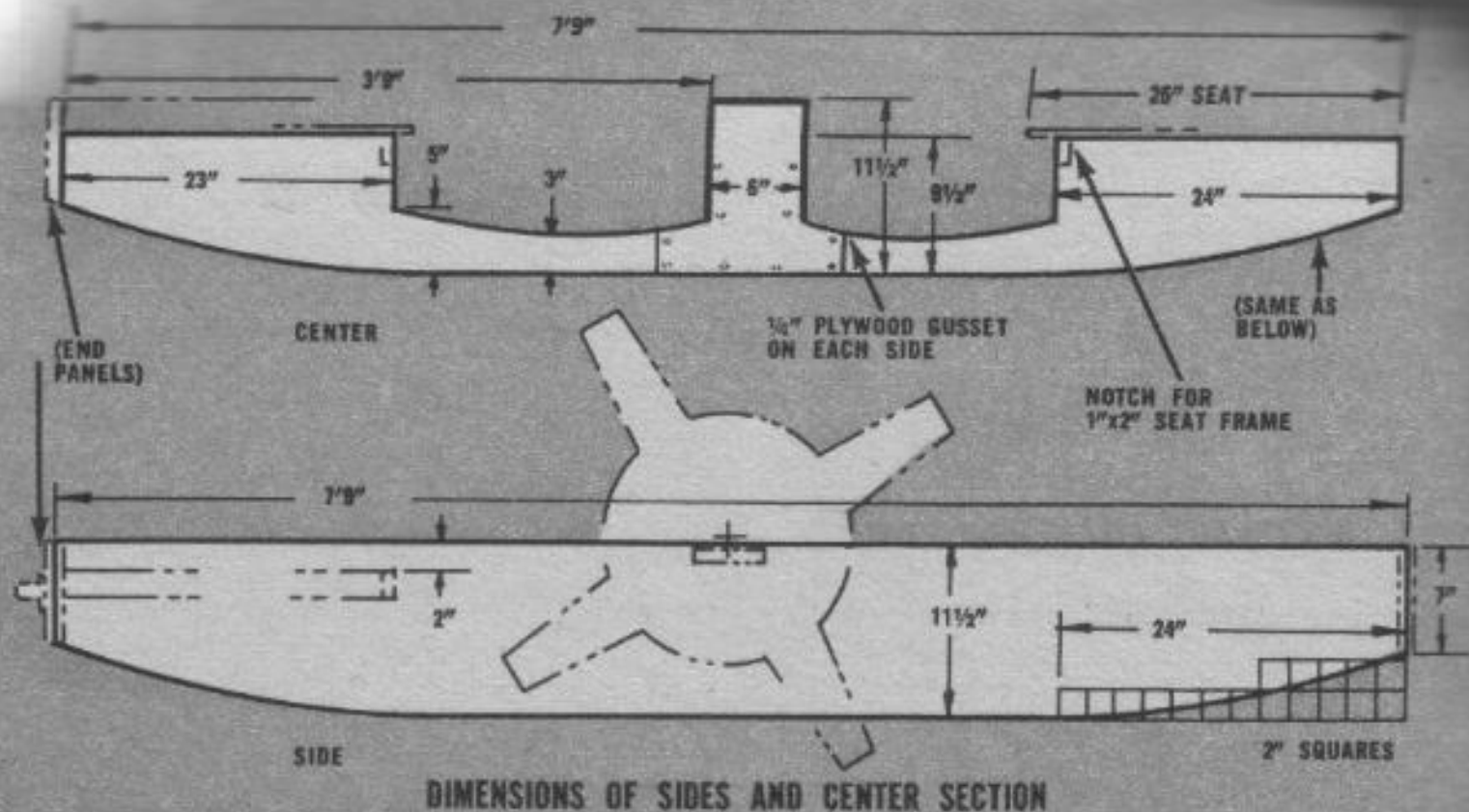
on a floating leaf if the cranks are turned in opposite directions. It's great fun and a safe boat, too.

No jig is necessary for construction. The sides and center section are cut to the dimensions shown and, since they have the same bottom curve, are clamped together for planing. They must match exactly on the underside, with the edges square to the sides, so that the bottom will lie flush on all three. When this is done, the end pieces are cut to size and then dadoed at the center and rabbeted at the ends to half their depth. Then the whole frame can be assembled with waterproof glue and 1 1/4-inch, No. 8 screws. Addition of an exterior plywood bottom completes the

hull except for the center gussets, the seat framing and the seats. Before adding the seats, apply one coat of white Firzite and two coats of exterior enamel.



**FORM AND INSTALLATION OF CRANK**



**BOTTOM** is  $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. plywood which is glued and screwed down, starting at the center and working alternately toward each end.



**PADDLE WHEEL** sides can be cut with a band saw in one operation if four pieces of  $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. exterior plywood are sandwiched.

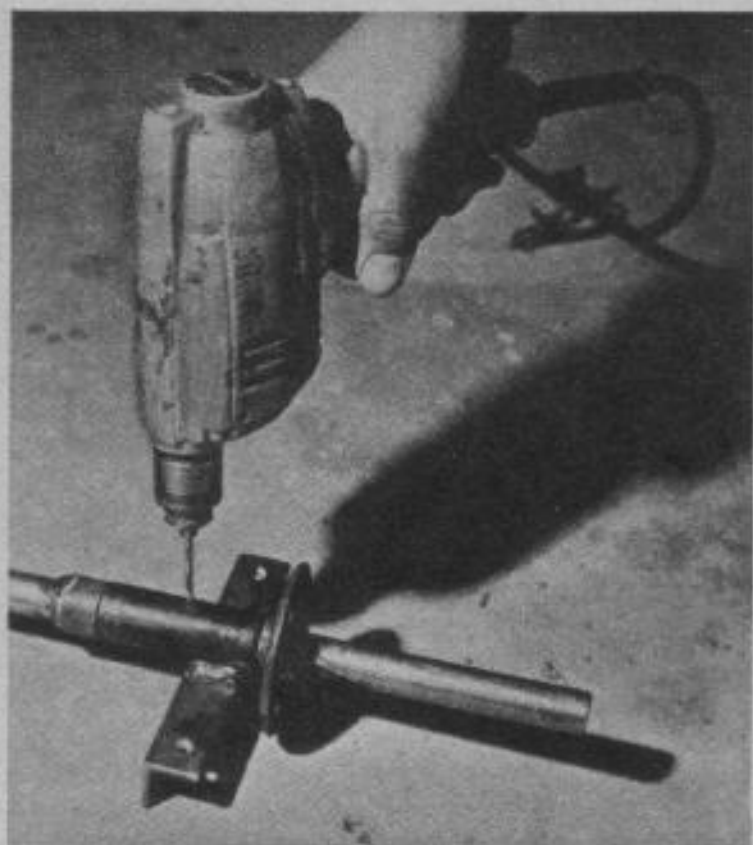
**LARGE-SCALE PLANS**  
are available. Send \$2.00 to MI Plans Service, Fawcett Building, Greenwich, Conn. To speed handling, please specify Plan No. B-241, Paddle Wheel Boat.



**PAINT JOB** is begun before seats are in place. All woodwork gets a coat of white Firzite and two coats of exterior enamel.

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**OIL HOLE** is drilled in the center of each crank bearing. Note stop welded to the shaft.

flanges and the stops are welded to the rods, be sure that a  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch space is allowed between them and the pipe bearings. My total cost for the crank material and labor was under eight dollars.

Study the drawings and photographs and get to work. You'll look far and wide before you find another project which provides so much fun for kids at so little labor and cost. •



**CRANKS** are installed. Each is slipped into center bearing, then fastened to side plank.

