

## **Building a Mirror - Utter Chaos (GBR 70362)**

A Jig consisting of a simple centreline and cross-sections at the Measurement Points, enabled a reliable shape to be developed. Such a Jig is far easier to use than the original concept of building the boat upside down. It need not be very expensive, and could be formed from cheap plywood, or MDF.



The Main Panels were fixed to the Jig, requiring minor reshaping of the supplied panels to make best use of the tolerances within the Mirror class rules. All the top boats now follow a similar principle of flat aft sections and maximum curvature, and hence buoyancy, towards the front. It is practical to make the jig to match an existing boat's measurements.



The 1st pieces to be fixed are the bulk heads. These form the shape at the front of the boat and it is preferable to glue these prior to taping the seams. Note that a string line has been set up to ensure the boat remained straight throughout the building process. The centreboard was also fixed at this stage, Like most fast mirrors we fixed this as far back as possible under the rules.



**This photo shows the rear deck support glued into place and the seams taped prior to fixing the rear deck. The tank is also coated in epoxy.**



**This photo shows the forward tank and bulkhead prior to fixing the fore deck. The battens that support the deck are in place and all the taped seams.**



The side tanks just prior to deck Fixing. Note that the bulkhead needs to be fixed directly in line with the thwart.



**This Pictures shows the boat prior to fitting the decks. By this stage all the bulk heads and thwart had been glued in and all the seams taped. The temporary strut at the front held the bow in shape prior to fixing the decks. You will see that all the tanks have been coated in West. 3 coats were used as there is no 2nd Chance!**



The final step is fixing the decks to the hull. By this stage all the internal structure is complete and the tanks coated in epoxy. The fitting of the decks suddenly makes the kit look like a boat.

However, to make it pretty the hard works starts now!





**And the builder finally gets a “thumbs up” from the helm!**



**Phil Rust, builder and father of National Squad helm Chris.**