

HOW TO BUILD A SCOOTER.

BY FREDERICK K. LLOYD.

The rudderless amphibious ice yacht called the "scooter" is a product of the sailors of the Great South Bay, Long Island. In former years, when the bay would freeze over solid, the regular ice yacht was a very familiar sight. Recently, however, the mild winters produced so little ice fit or safe for sailing that the sport almost died out. The conditions caused by these winters have been met successfully in that new and ingenious type of ice boat, the scooter. Roughly, the scooter is a Baruegat "sneak box" mounted on runners.

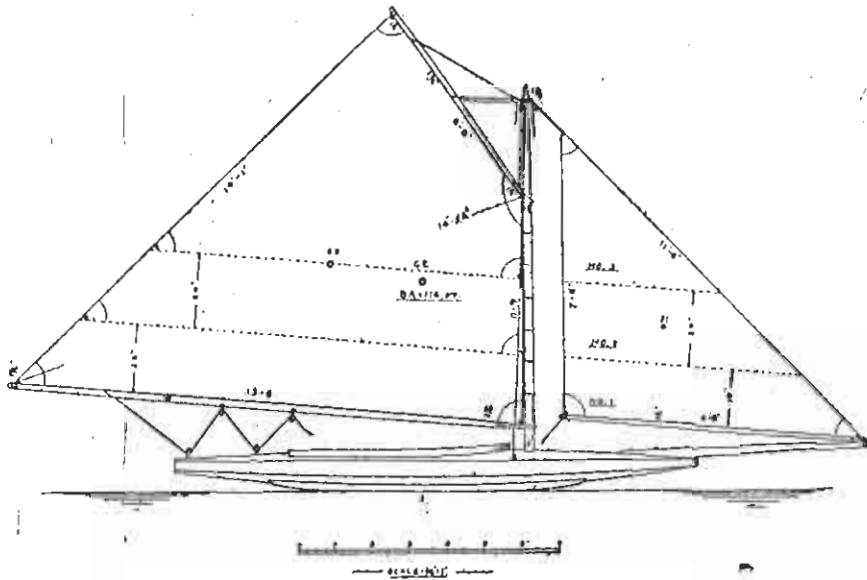
This craft will sail in the water as well as on ice, consequently the sailor does not fear soft ice or air-holes, but sails merrily along taking ice or water, whichever happens to be in his course. They are sailed without a rudder by simply trimming the sails and shifting position in the boat so that the point of contact of the rockered runner upon the ice is just under the center of effort of the sails. A single occupant sailing the boat sits about amidships, and holding the jib sheet in his hand pulls in or slackens until the boat heads just as desired. When two are in the boat they spread their weight about an equal distance from the center; one shifts as required, while the other tends the sails.

A pole with a spike and a line is carried, a slight scratch of the former being sufficient to get the boat on her course, while the latter is used to pull the boat out of the water in case the wind dies out. An oar is also carried to steer while in the water, but this is

not necessary when crossing an air-hole less than forty or fifty feet, as the speed of the scooter, with a good wind, is sufficient to carry her across and out on the ice again in jig time. This ability to pop in and out of the water constitutes a novel sensation and makes scootering a very fascinating sport.

be from 80 to 130 square feet, according to speed required and local weather conditions. The sail area in the plan is 114 feet and should make a good average rig. The construction is fairly heavy, making a serviceable boat. For pure racing it could be lightened considerably. Study the plans carefully before beginning work.

The first step in constructing the boat is getting out the side planks and springing them around "molds," which are simply temporary forms, to hold the elemental construction in place until it can stand alone and keep the boat in shape. The inner side planks are of 1/2-inch white pine and of the dimensions shown in Fig. 4. The molds are next made of 1/2-inch pine and dimensioned according to Fig. 4. The curves are arcs of circles and care should be taken to get the sides perfectly plumb, or else they will throw a twist in the side planks, and the upper edges will not lie in the same plane. The transom is 1/2-inch oak and the stem of oak, size as shown in Fig. 2. It has a double rabbet. The inner is for inside plank and the other for the outer or covering plank. Screw the side planks to the stem and spring them around the molds and screw to transom. The molds are spaced 2, 4, 7, 10, and 12 feet from the stem head. This gives the rough form. Put the boat upside down on three saw horses and spring on the oak keel, which is 4 inches wide and 1/2 inch thick. This makes a fair line for the frames, which are next put in. Make them of oak 1 1/2 inch thick and 1 1/2 inch deep, increased to about 2 inches along the center line of bottom in cockpit. They are spaced 10 inches on top



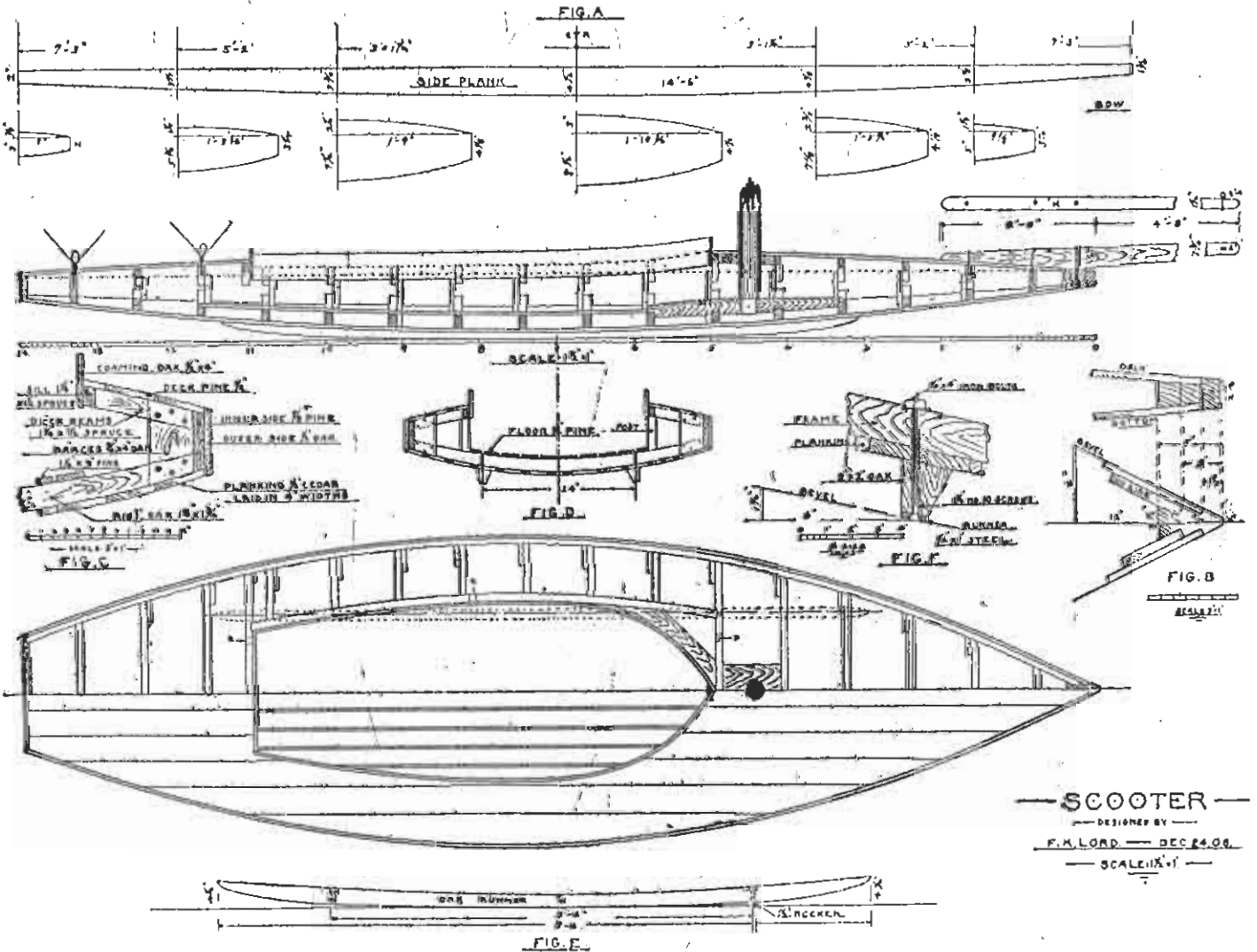
SAIL PLAN OF THE SCOOTER.

Notwithstanding appearances to the contrary, they are a very speedy little craft and can make 30 miles an hour in a good steady breeze, running up to over 60 in a heavy puff.

The cost of a scooter is between \$100 and \$125, but they could be built at home by an amateur for about \$50.

The scooter shown in the accompanying plans is 14 feet in length and 4 feet beam. The sail area may

be from 80 to 130 square feet, according to speed required and local weather conditions. The sail area in the plan is 114 feet and should make a good average rig. The construction is fairly heavy, making a serviceable boat. For pure racing it could be lightened considerably. Study the plans carefully before beginning work.



CONSTRUCTION PLAN OF THE SCOOTER.

— SCOOTER —  
— DESIGNED BY —  
F. K. LLOYD — DEC 24, 08  
— SCALE 1/4" = 1' —