

The 'Runaway' Project

Part 2 of 4 parts. Story and Pics by Di Ross and John Batty

Hardtop Structure

The hardtop section was constructed alongside the hull, initially upside down, to set the curvature across the roof line. The sides are double skinned; making the whole fabrication very robust.

The tags holding the waste material in the window apertures were released in turn as the structure progressively gained rigidity. This then allowed better access to build in the channels and covers for the aerial, navigation and cabin lighting cables.

Enclosures were also included to later house speakers for the CD player. After completing the underside of the top structure, this section was turned over and rod holders and roof top side hand rails were attached to our requirements. At this stage we considered the mounting points for the canopy extension but delayed this until the structure was mounted to the hull.

The hardtop structure was lowered on to the hull, aligned and tacked in place before adding the foredeck panel section which had earlier been assembled from three pieces.

There was considerable work in welding in the hardtop (which included the main bulkhead) and cabin structure to the hull. Once again the accuracy with which they matched up displayed the merit of the OCEANTECH kit and the proficiency of Wayne's shipwright abilities and that of the Calibre team. It seemed that construction to this point



The Story So Far . . .

As most of the regular F&B readers will be aware, we have been looking for some time to upgrade to a 6.0m boat which could be configured to meet both our on-water needs, and provide a platform for overnight camping at caravan parks as we travel to new boating destinations.

We particularly sought a hull which offered excellent offshore capabilities, two forward berths, incorporation of some galley items, good weather protection and safe roadway access.

Following our test ride in the outboard powered demonstrator boat, we felt SA's Oceantech designer Jon Kemp's Vindicator 610 clearly had the right blend of fine entry, broad shoulders and stem height to deliver a boat that is very capable and one which inspires confidence. This is a typical Oceantech design which retains balanced aesthetic lines (evident to us in their family of boats) with a raised sheer line offering a frontal presence on the scale of a 7.0m metre boat.

After extensive assessment and much deliberation, we finally contracted a BMT package through Calibre Boats, in Adelaide. Our Vindicator 610 will be powered by a Yanmar 4BY180Z sterndrive diesel, cradled in a special Calibre aluminium trailer.

had been achieved quite swiftly; about half way toward the completion time line. This was very satisfying to see it as "our boat" for the first time.

Stowage Inserts

After packing close density foam into the voids, the cabin section was fully sealed up by welding in the top surfaces. Two under berth storage areas and provision for the chemical toilet are provided as well as side shelving. A hatch is provided at the forepeak to access the anchor rope locker should that be necessary and a heavy duty Coastal Glass Hatch is to be fitted for access, ventilation plus natural light.

Equipment mounting plates for the Muir anchor winch and the QL trim tabs have been router cut by OCEANTECH. Both are robust and certainly fit for purpose.

The heavy duty cleats are router cut/CNC machined in house and are welded to the deck negating the need for attachment with fasteners of a different material.

Cockpit Sole

The cockpit sole is 4.0mm plate alloy plug welded to the under floor matrix and seam welded at the bulkhead and transom and to the hull side plate. Along the centre line are three compartments with the front being a storage locker, the centre subdivision for the fuel tank and at the rear the engine enclosure.

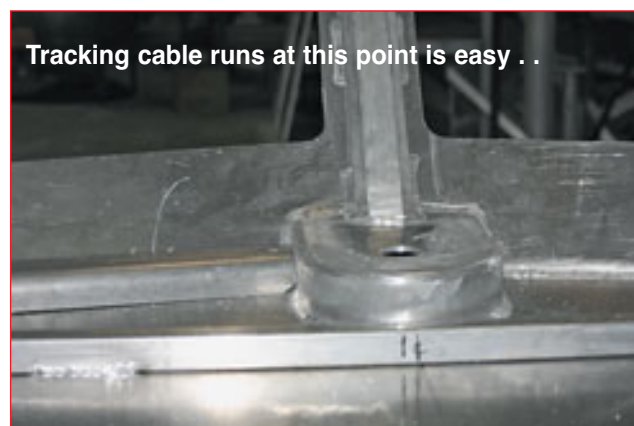
We intend to use forward under floor storage locker as a



Cabin structure starts life upside down . . .



. . . before being positioned on the hull.



Tracking cable runs at this point is easy . . .



but all too often forgotten how important it is.



Watching your own platey emerge from a pile of aluminium sheets is an exciting and fulfilling process - and it's surprising how quickly the boat grows through the first couple of weeks - especially with a 'kit' as good as this



Stowage inserts line the insides of the lockers