

Replacing The Bearers & Sub Frames In An Old GRP Boat



Do It Yourself
-with F&B!

If you make the decision to gut your boat and rebuild the sub frame, then putting it back together will be a big job, make no mistake about that.

You will have to be very organised and planning is a central part of that. Of particular importance is a good work area. This would have to be the biggest problem I have had to overcome, as I do not have a proper work area.

The solution was to create the necessary space on weekends and pack it all away during the week. While I am the first to admit that it was a real pain, at least the work was done. However without proper planning and preparation it would have been a disaster. Good planning will also help see the job completed even if you have all the space in the world. So you will need two game plans - one for the boat, and one for the project.

We talked about the plans for the boat in F&B #31, so now let's talk about the set for the project. First list all the tasks that need to be done as headings in the order that they would need to be completed. Under each heading try and list all the sub tasks. For example, under "Remove Old Bearers and Floor" you may have:

- Remove all fittings and motor.
- Remove boat from trailer and support on floor.
- Roughly cut out all old timber.
- Grind away remains with large grinder.
- Finish up with a small grinder.
- Take removed floor etc to tip.

This list should grow as the job progresses and you think of things that need to be added. Under each



My neighbours may think I am mad, but as I have no proper work area, I create the space I need each weekend and then pack it all away again. Here the aim was to keep direct sun light off the bow area. This rig provided the necessary shade and amusement for passing traffic.

Here all the timber for cross members and side supports in the hull are cut ready to fit. There was a good day's work just getting this lot right. The preparation is without doubt the most important part of any job. Half way through a pot of resin is not the time to find a piece is missing or doesn't fit.

