The 'Club 500' building notes



Originally produced by *Model Slipway* way back in 1998, it is now produced by *Club 500 Slipway*. This fun to run, low cost, lightweight boat can be used for one class racing, steering competitions (whether timed or not), and as a general runabout. A straightforward, very comprehensive kit with no painting required (except perhaps for the dummy engine moulding if fitted). You will need to add; receiver, 25amp ESC, rudder servo, 7.2v battery pack, plus some Velcro, 2 rubber bands, foam strip, connectors etc.

With a growing interest in these boats within the Club, I hope this article on building it (to be read in conjunction with the instructions supplied with the kit) will help. I would also be happy to talk anyone through any of the building stages if required.

John Doyle

The Build

- I would recommend the Alignment Tool and the clear Hatch Frame/Lid accessories. Instead of the latter you could however opt, as I did, to use clear acrylic / acetate sheet.
- The vacuumed formed parts may have a protective covering. Keep this on for as long as possible.
- Building is mainly 'out of the box', but I did replace the wire frames for the motor mount with short bolts to hold the rubber bands on. Below the waterline, the racing rules only allow the addition of thrust washers to the prop shaft.
- You do not have to fit the dummy motor or the hoop/spoiler.
- Fit a strip of foam rubber to the bow and, if racing, a strip of Velcro to the cabin roof.
- I would recommend gluing the brass inserts into the red centre section of the motor coupling to stop them coming apart. Also use thread-lock when attaching the prop to the prop shaft.
- For convenience, I added a waterproof switch (from *Model Boat Bits*), mounted on the hatch lid. This replaced the on/off switch on my Mtroniks ESC.
- For the modern sealant/adhesive I used CT1 as it is odourless and non-toxic. However, where I refer to CT1 in these notes, Evo-Stik Strong Stuff or similar can be also used. For gluing the internal mouldings plus the styrene strips where mentioned, either 2 part epoxy or thick polystyrene glue can be used.

Cutting and trimming internal mouldings

Look carefully at Fig No. 6 in the instructions. This shows where these need to be trimmed to. Cut roughly to size with cutters, then trim using a sheet of sandpaper taped to a flat surface. Finish off with finer paper and sanding block. Fit rubber band retaining fixings to motor mount.

Marking out hull and deck mouldings for trimming.

Using the dimensions given in kit, mark out before any cutting or trimming is done. Turn hull upside down, block up so that both fore and aft measurements are now the same height. Tape a pen to that height on a block of wood and run a line around the hull. Use a similar process for the deck. The hatched areas in the photos below give a guide as where the trim lines are.



Trimming hull and deck to size.

Again, cut roughly to size with cutters, trim using a sheet of sandpaper taped to a flat surface etc. The aim is to get the deck moulding to slip over the hull down to the moulded 'step' that runs around the hull. When fully trimmed down to size, sand a little off at the top of the hull sides on the bow and stern corners to make these more vertical. This will stop the deck moulding wanting to ping off. The sizeable gap seen all round between the mouldings is normal and will be dealt with at the gluing stage. **Do not** glue deck to hull just yet.



Cut out hatch.

Cut out the rectangle in the deck for the hatch opening. Drill small holes at each corner, then turnover and cut out from the underside. If using the clear hatch and frame accessory leave a 15mm ledge all round. The frame is glued to this ledge. The clear hatch then sits within the frame and on the remainder of the ledge. If you are not using the accessory, cut out leaving 10mm, then glue strips of styrene to underside forming a ledge for your hatch lid to sit on (see photo below).



Note: If you are using the Hatch Frame and Lid accessory or are simply replacing the cut lid with Acetate sheet, where I refer to strips of styrene in this article, you can cut these from your now discarded rectangular piece of deck.

Drill holes for prop shaft and rudder in hull and rudder mount.

8mm drill required. Note: 8mm spanner required for prop shaft locking nuts.

Rudder Mount

You may wish to add some scrap styrene to the top of the moulded mount to strengthen it against the compression effect of the large nut. When gluing moulding to hull ensure rudder will be vertical. The biggest problem is minimising water ingress up through the rudder tube. I eventually discarded the small rubber washer and glued my rudder tube to both the hull and mount with CT1. I filled the rudder tube with Vaseline and fabricated a small 'washer/ gasket' out of some thin foam material to be sandwiched between the top of the tube and the tiller arm.

Motor / Prop-shaft alignment.

Use alignment tool accessory to connect prop-shaft to motor spindle. Stick some thin rubber or similar (I used the hoop side of Velcro) to that part of the motor mount the motor will sit on. Then start aligning motor and prop-shaft. Prop-shaft tube must only protrude between 40 and 45mm from hull. Check the propellor blades as they may differ slightly in length. You are allowed to trim the blades a little as well as smoothing out any rough spots/ edges. Once aligned, mark position of, then glue motor/prop-shaft mount to hull. Finally, glue in prop-shaft tube with 2 part epoxy. Finally, glue a small strip of styrene bent over the tube to both tube and mounting.



Servo Mount

Glue this into the hull as close to the rudder mount as possible. A standard servo (on its side) with a single linkage, or a mini servo with a twin linkage set up, can be used.

Battery Holder

Do not glue in but use Velcro strips along the bottom of the hull. This allows for some fore and aft adjustment to trim the boat.

Strengthening the Hull at Bow Seam

Add one or two layers of scrap styrene strips glued across the bow seam.



Gluing Deck to Hull

Remember to roughen the surfaces first. To ensure correct alignment I first tacked the deck to hull with a little polystyrene cement, or you could use 2 part epoxy. Once set, I injected CT1 down into the gap using a mastic gun and set aside to cure.



Trimming Cabin to size

At first, a most puzzling job as no cut or trim marks are given. However, at the front end, trim down close to the curved bottom line in the windscreen area. For the rear, look at the underside of the base where the dummy motor would go. With a straight edge mark off and gradually trim down towards this level. If the hatch frame and lid accessory are used, do not trim down as far to allow for its height. Gradually trim the cabin sides as you go and angle the front of the sides to match the deck moulding. Keep checking as you go for a good fit all round.



Final bits

Apply vinyl window stickers. I recommend Velcro to attach cabin to deck, not the 'pins' as suggested in the kit. Apply the foam strip around the bow for protection. If you intend to race, add Velcro strip (hook side) to the cabin roof (this will be used to attach racing numbers). Glue a block of polystyrene to underside of cabin so that it will float should it come adrift. Adding the moulded dummy engine also adds buoyancy.

Make a replacement stand or adjust the supplied moulded one to be more stable at pondside. As I do not have woodworking facilities, I made mine from some plastic pipe and eight 90 degree bends, glued and bolted to the supplied stand.



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