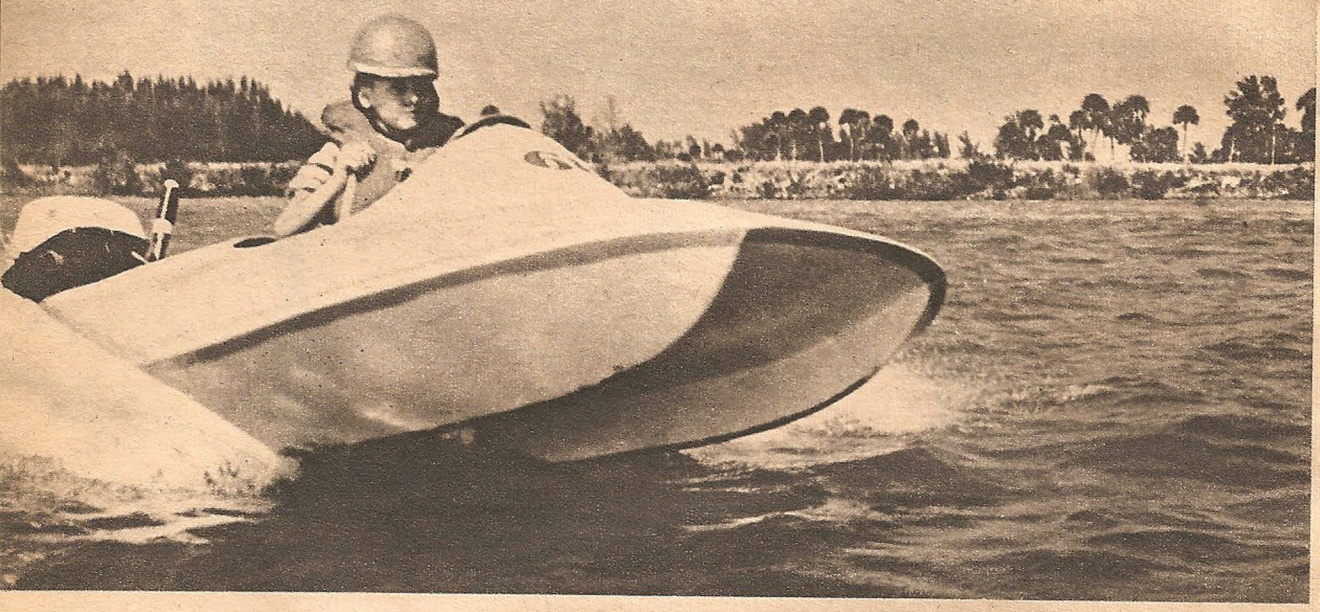
Build this Miniature 3-Pt. Hydroplane



HOW about an exciting, new, easy-to-build boat for the younger set? This sharply-styled 9-ft., 3-pt. suspension miniature hydroplane designed by Hal Adamson is unsinkable because of its Plyfoam and fiber glass construction, weighs only 68 lbs., and will do about 25 mph powered by a remote-controlled 6-hp Johnson outboard.

Construction is simplified by a unique method of glassing most of the foam while it is lying flat on the floor. The forward deck is glassed after it is formed into shape, however.

The method used in the formation of the foredeck is quite interesting. Strips of foam about 1-in. wide are laid over a temporary Homasote form. The surface takes shape as the strips are joined to each other by means of wooden toothpicks. Annular underlayment nails hold the strips to the form itself. To the uninitiated, such construction may seem unsound, but once the resin permeates the surface and the glass cloth is applied, the joints become as strong as the solid foam. The sandwiched 3/8-in. foam with a layer of 7-oz. glass on each side is at least as tough as a sheet of solid 3/8-in. plywood.

Since the 3/8-in. Plyfoam is available in 36x36-in. sheets, the easiest way to work is to make one long slab 36 in. wide by 24 ft. long. A garage floor or unfinished basement floor is recommended. Lay the sheets down onto a sheet of polyethylene (available at most hardware stores and lumberyards) to protect the floor, then use a staple gun or household stapler (with base swung out of the way) to join the sections. Staples are not needed for mechanical strength, but only to hold the sheets together while glassing.

If your floor space does not allow for a 24-ft. stretch, make the layout in two or more sections splitting the sheets between patterns.

Prepare a sheet of glass cloth about 1-in. larger than the foam and have it close by, readily available. Now mix up a batch of resin, about two quarts, and