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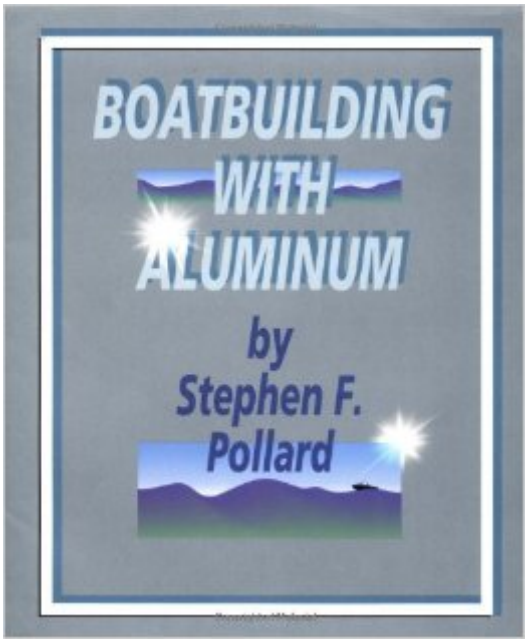
Boatbuilding With Aluminum



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Synopsis

Aluminum may be the best possible boatbuilding material: it’s economical, lightweight, maintenance-free, nearly impervious to corrosion, less easily damaged, and more easily repaired than any other material used for building boats. It can be cut and worked with conventional woodworking tools, and, using the author’s special techniques, can be welded with readily available equipment using standard household current. Only a lack of information has kept aluminum from becoming the backyard boatbuilder’s material of choice. In Boatbuilding with Aluminum, readers learn aluminum fabrication, welding, and lofting through the construction of a 20-foot McKenzie River drift boat. More advanced aluminum-forming techniques and large-yacht construction are covered in detail, using specific examples, to enable readers to build aluminum boats of any size. And they will learn from a master of the craft. Stephen Pollard has built hundreds of aluminum boats--from large ocean racers to water-jet river boats--and has pioneered many of the techniques used in modern welded aluminum boat manufacturing.

Book Information

Hardcover: 280 pages
Publisher: International Marine/Ragged Mountain Press; 1 edition (July 1, 1993)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0877423776
ISBN-13: 978-0070504264
ASIN: 0070504261
Product Dimensions: 7.6 x 0.9 x 9.5 inches
Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds
Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (28 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #2,207,915 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #76 inÂ Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Ships > Boat Building #155 inÂ Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Sailing > Instructional #270 inÂ Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Ships > Repair & Maintenance

Customer Reviews

When I first received the book, it looked like a text book. Within the first two chapters though, I was hooked. Mr. Pollard coveys a vast amount of information in a very easy reading style. I wish all "how to" books were as easy to read and understand.

This is the only book of it’s kind that was actually written by a hands on boat builder. The easy to follow book is a must for the novice aluminum boat builder.

Steve Pollard does an excellent job of explaining how and why construction practices are recommended. And he writes with clarity and brevity.

Was an interesting read. Kind of makes me want to build a boat. I’ve learned a lot from the book. The author is very pragmatic in what he shares with the prospective builder. Basically enough to let the would be builder know what they are in for without overwhelming them. The author doubtlessly knows much much more, but has taken pains to share enough to make the novice successful without drowning them. I’m not sure without wasting a suppliers time how to even guess what it would cost in supplies. Given where aluminum prices are I would guess it’s more than I hope for ;)I would recommend this book to anyone who even thinks building their own boat would be fun or interesting. You won’t regret the purchase even if you are like me where it was just a quick read to inform myself more about aluminum boats and their design.I know that the author is basically saying buy a good welder so that isn’t a point of frustration. Given you will be saving tons of money building your own boat why skimp. I would just say the author’s advice about welders is a bit dated in this regard. Buying Miller or Lincoln is good for the uninformed but costly. There are many options for import Chinese welders that now offer huge bang for the buck, very reasonable quality for the guy building one boat. Don’t get me wrong, a nice Miller would be great, I just think you can find an import mig with spool gun that offers IGBT pulsed welding for 1/3 the cost of Big Blue or Big Red. That a lot for the guy building just one boat.

I like this book, very much. It starts with the basic introduction about the merits of Aluminum in boat building, sets forth the technical content (planing hulls), and goes on to describe virtually every skill you need to complete a project. Now, it doesn’t give you designs or a hand-holding walk-through, but it does present enough information to adequately prepare you to obtain designs & material, cut, and fabricate a pretty decent boat. Additionally, the welding section offers some good advice on the basic welds and how to prevent issues. Furthermore, it has a small section on typical boat failure points that I have found very useful in redesigning my river boat console (which is why I purchased it in the first place).A good price and good read for anyone even thinking about fabricating their own small powerboat.

Steve Pollard is the author. Steve is a very talented and knowledgeable designer and builder of aluminum boats. He owns Specmar, which is a company that sells designs and NC cut files for building aluminum boats up to about 50'. I am a boat builder and have used many of his designs and built his boats. I have the highest regard for Steve, his knowledge, and his professionalism. Buy this book if you are interested in aluminum boats! You will learn a lot.

In my quest to learn, about boats now, I was look'n for a book to teach me about building boats with aluminum. This is the one, full of excellent information, practical examples and worded in such a way that anyone with a desire to learn, a good imagination and good skills can dulicate the teachings and apply them to their projects.Maxey....It's Only Metal (I.O.M.)

Good book to have if you have an interest in boat building of any sort, particularly metal boats. It's not an easy read and by no means complete, but it is very useful if you've already started on the path of boat building and have some basic knowledge about the subject.

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