

Stitch and Glue assembled without the basket mold.

The Optimist kit can be assembled without a mold but to stay as close as possible to the IODA rules, the builder must pay attention to symmetry and use two temporary molds. If you deviate from the very exact rule measurements, your boat will sail perfectly well and be a perfect trainer or club racer but it may not qualify to compete at the national level.

The hull goes together like any other stitch and glue boat.: all hull skin panels are loosely stitched together, the inside frames are pushed inside to shape the hull and the fiberglass seams are built. The Optimist hull has only two frames.

If a boat is built without a basket mold, this is not sufficient to ensure a correct hull shape.

To properly shape the hull, our kit includes two temporary frames to install in the hull, one behind and one in front of the mid frame.

Those frames are identical to the inside frames described in the basket mold method.

The notes also show marks on the side panels to locate those two frames.

To position all the inside parts correctly, we also include the locater jig described in the basket mold method.

Lamination schedule:

The notes list the type of fiberglass tape and fabric and how to fiberglass the hull.

All hull seams are taped. Most inside parts are welded with epoxy putty or glue. All parts are saturated with epoxy.

Our Optimist kit hull is fiberglassed all over the bottom up to above the the waterline.

The IODA version does not have a fiberglass bottom but uses thicker plywood for the bottom panel.

Our kit boat will have about the same final bottom panel thickness than the IODA boat but is stronger and easier to build.

Finish:

The bottom is fitted with a hog (stringer) behind the mid frame. This is a laminated piece of plywood, the sheet block will be fastened to it.

The hull is fitted with a number of small plywood pads that receive fittings for foot straps and buoyancy bags.

The coaming is made of the rubrail, inwale, breasthooks and coaming cover.

The rubrail and inwale are made from laminated strips of plywood epoxy glued along the sheer line.

Breasthooks are added at each each end and the whole assembly is covered but a light plywood coaming. This produces a sturdy and simple coaming that requires little or no fairing.

Rig and hardware are available as separate kits.

http://www.bateau.com/proddetail.php?prod=Opti_CR