

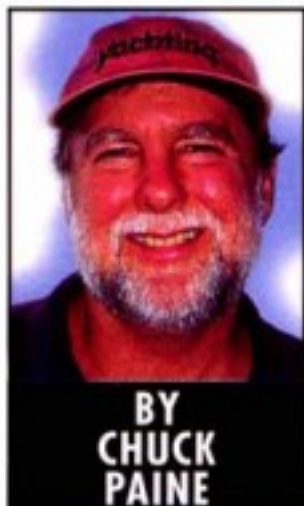
Nestor Dingy

Yachting



DESIGN

NESTER DINGHY



BY
CHUCK
PAINE

MY FATHER-IN-LAW, FRANK, SPENT HIS working life as a surgeon. It was a great career, but with one serious drawback: he couldn't build boats. With lives in the balance, it just wouldn't do to be passing those highly skilled digits within millimeters of whirling saw blades. Now retired, he can indulge his passion for woodworking. A few years ago he went looking for the ideal design for a nesting dinghy to carry aboard his cruising sailboat, and after an exhaustive search, he built Dave Gerr's Nester. Residing as she does atop the family boat, she's a rowboat I've come to know and love.

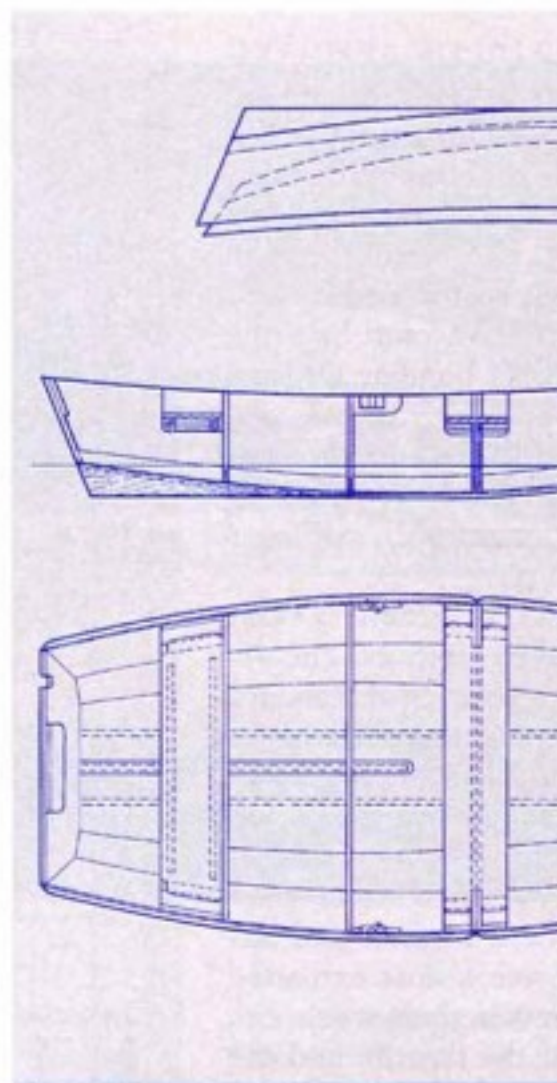
You've come to expect a design review of a substantial powerboat on this page, but there's nothing like a good dinghy to make the cruising life a pleasure.

The advantages of a nesting dinghy are many. Stuff one half inside the other and you should be able to find a usable deck space to stow her, even aboard a relatively small boat. You'll need a space at least 5' 10" long by 4' 6" wide. Each half is lighter, therefore easier to lift on

IN A PINCH, WE'VE HAULED A MIXTURE OF SEVEN GROWNUPS AND KIDS AND THE ODD DOG—DON'T TELL THE COAST GUARD

board, than the whole of a one-piece dinghy. Still, you'll want a three-point bridle off a halyard on a sailboat, or a crane of some sort on a motor cruiser. Since she's easy to get on deck, she actually ends up there, so you sail faster and tell fewer of the old "swamped dinghy" stories at the yacht club bar.

Once in the water and buckled together, Nester becomes an 11' rowboat or an outboard-powered tender, not just your lowly dink. This is where Nester really



Buckled together, Nester is an 11' rowboat.

LOA 11' 0"
LOA (Nested) 5' 10"
Max. beam 4' 6"
Beam/length ratio .409

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no longitudinal members at all except themselves and a gunwale strake and she's liable to bang into things. The cab-o-sil thickened epoxy fillets, co

