

CCI Flat Panel Technology



Competition Composites Inc.

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IMAGINATION!

Back in post war Europe, Popular Mechanics magazine launched an idea that was to become the water fun toy for generations. The Sea Flea. It was targeted at home build out of plywood, strap on a small outboard and away you go. They were everywhere for decades at cottages around the country, then almost overnight, they vanished to be replaced with wet bikes of various types. By now, most old sea fleas are either nourishing grass or dusty in rafters somewhere.

At **CCI** we decided to prove out our flat panel composite construction technique by building the simplest and first of these sea fleas: the MiniMax. Design was to be an exact copy of the Popular Mechanics design published over half a century ago, just replacing the plywood with foam cored fiberglass panels. It worked! Tortured fiberglass panels were tested and performed better than the equivalent plywood in terms of strength, flex and puncture resistance. Not to mention, lightness of the panels. Our Sea Flea weighs in at about 40lbs compared to a wooden version at 75lbs, and it will never rot.

What is on offer: a foam cored fiberglass panel kit cut on a CNC machine to build the MiniMax sea flea. It is "almost" flat pack, except that CCI have already built the bottom panel and curved bulkhead together, removing the toughest part of the build (that tortured slit in the bottom panel). Estimated build time could be as low as 20 hrs depending on level of finish required. Cost for this is \$850 plus packaging and shipping.



Above: CCI's Sea Flea in action.

At right: filleting seams for internal structure.

Bottom right: Infusing front bulkhead.



2012-11-16



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