Skinning the boat

The entire boat is covered with PVC canvas, the same one used in trucks. The gluing is performed with PVC glue. The method used is the same followed for Tom Yost in his boats (www.yostwerks.com) You will need to do tests gluing some little pieces of canvas in order to acquire practice in the labor and performing different dilutions with acetone as the glue you can obtain may be different to the USA one. Two pieces correctly glued should be impossible of separate by hand. If you attempt to separate its with pliers or some tool, the canvas base textile will break or deform but it will not separate at all.
Here some tips that may help when gluing:

1) Clean both surfaces to be glued with methyl ethyl ketone or acetone if you can't to obtain the first one. Don't moist the canvas in excess with none of these product because the PVC may unstuck from textile base
2) Apply at least two coats of glue, (three is better) on both faces to be glued and let it dry between coats. You can help drying with heat gun, but don't apply excessive hot as it may degrade the glue. If the glue is sticky then is necessary to let dry it a bit more.
3) If you note white stains when apply the coats, it means too much humidity in the ambient. It is not good but not matter of worry. Preferably, choose dry days to do the labor.
4) When put both face to be glued together, apply hot with a hot gun in his **minimum range**. Hot gun are dangerous for this labor as if excessive hot is applied, then it can degrade the PVC canvas and it may unstuck from the textile base. I noted that a good "hair dryer" is better for this labor because with it is almost impossible to overheat the canvas.
5) Before glue two faces, be absolutely sure of the exact position of both as after glued is almost impossible unstuck them, but if you make a mistake, try to unstuck both parts by applying hot thoroughly and pulling slowly until separate the parts. After this, apply glue again in both faces and glue as usual. To press both faces together I use a wood roll.

To cover the hull, I followed exactly step by step Tom Yost's method. The stern and stem are a bit different because them has more curvature than the Yost's designs then some wrinkles may appear when you glue these parts.
The hull covering work consists in lacing the canvas and performing the stern and stem strips gluing. When it is finished, you need to make the sponsons before start with the deck part.

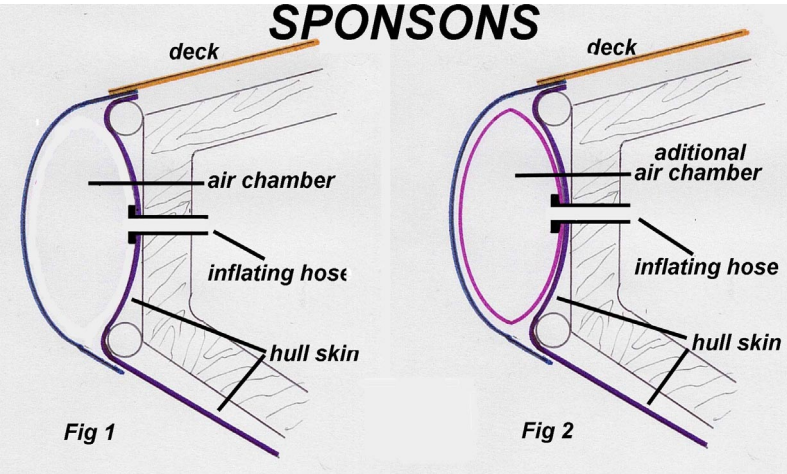
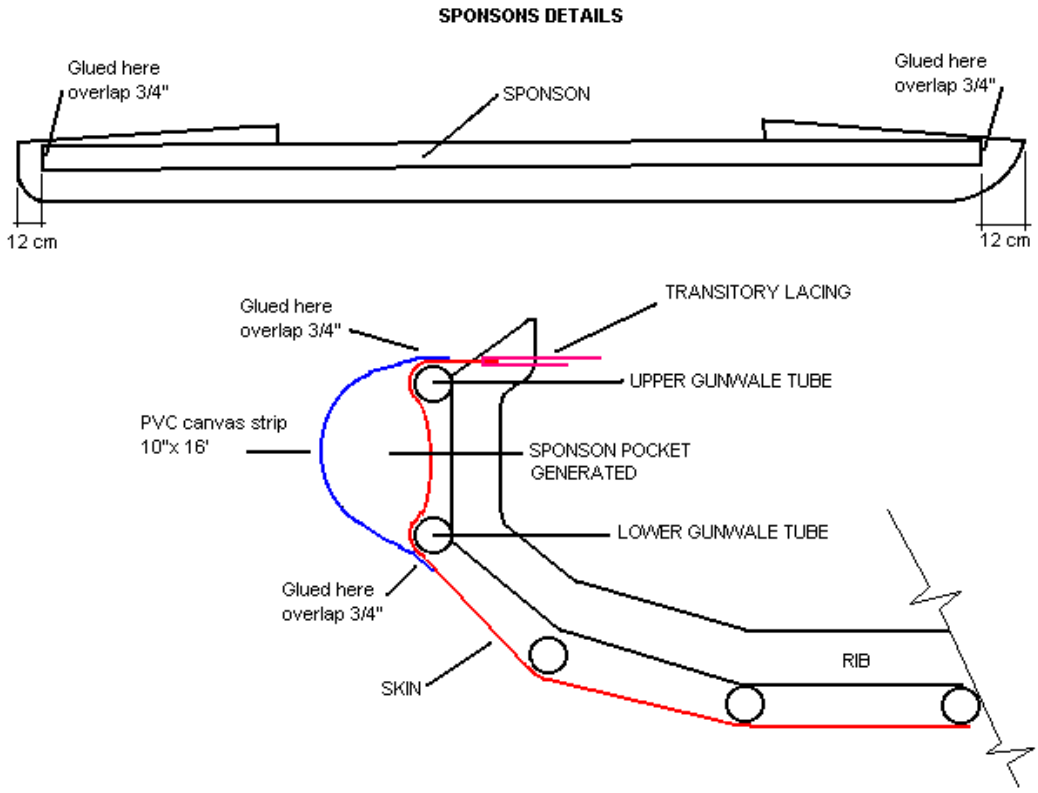
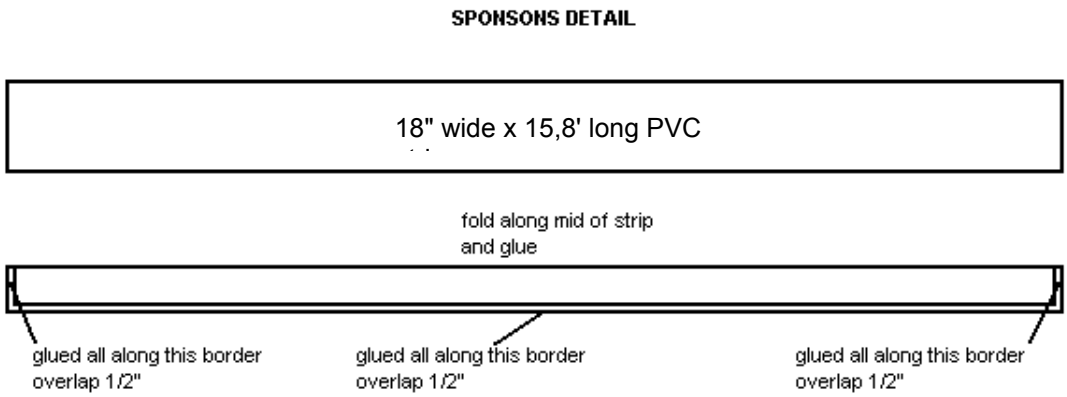


Fig 1 and Fig 2 shows two methods to do the sponsons, I used the first one but the Fig 2 is best because it permit to repair sponsons if they has some air leakage. I prefer the second one and I recommend it to you. To make this, you must build the sponson pocket first and latter the air chamber from a strip of PVC canvas about 18" wide by 15,8' long, folding it along the mid line and gluing the three borders. Before glue borders, it's necessary to put the inflating hose. To build the sponson pocket see the following drawing:



To build the sponsons see the following drawing:



The inflating hose is situated between ribs # 4 and rib # 5 but as I say, before gluing the borders, it's necessary to put the inflating connection. I built the connection from sponsons to hoses with bicycle tire valves. I made the hoses with PVC crystal tube about 2' long. In the hose tip I put a plastic plug tied with a piece of cord to the hose to avoid losing it. To reinforce the canvas in the point where the hose is connected I put a couple of discs of PVC glued inner and outer side of sponson wall.

To put the sponsons in the sponsons pockets, practice two cuts in the inner side of skin, near stem the first one and near the stern the second one. In the site where the inflating hose must be situated, practice a circular hole about 1 1/2" in diameter. Slide a piece of cord along the sponson pocket to help to introduce the sponson into it. Tie the cord to the sponson and slide it into the pocket by pulling from the cord. If you need to take out the sponsons follow the inverse process.

The following pics shows how the connection is made. This pics aren't of my sponsons but are of my floating bags, but the method is the same.

