

THE MANY TRADE-OFFS of MODERN BOATBUILDING METHODS

| | Screw & Glue | Stitch & Glue | Strip-built | Strip-planked | Glued Lapstrake | Skin on Frame |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Skill Required | Minimal | Minimal(ish) | Minimal | Intermediate | Intermediate+ | Very minimal |
| Hull shape produced | Boxy or somewhat boxy. | Multi-chine shapes, from slightly slab-sided to quite refined. | True round, complex shapes. | True round, complex shapes. | True round, complex shapes. | Similar to Stitch & Glue—multi-chine shapes from somewhat slab-sided to quite refined. |
| Gluing Required | Minimal; sometimes uses less toxic non-epoxy glues when cheap construction is prioritized. | Lots of gluing and filleting with epoxy and fiberglass tapes on seams. | Lots of glue, but can be mostly non-toxic Titebond III or similar waterproof wood glues. | Lots of glue! My 18' boat took 66 strips total; 64 of them needed glue on both sides. That's roughly 1/2 MILE of gluing! | Significantly less gluing than strip-planked or stitch & glue; more than screw & glue. | Minimal to no gluing whatsoever! Many SOF boats are lashed together without screws or fasteners. |
| Fiberglass cloth | Optional; easy to apply because of flat surfaces. | Glass cloth inside and out is typical. | Glass cloth inside and out is essential—the cloth provides nearly all the structural strength. | Optional. (My boat is glassed on the exterior, but not on the interior). | Optional. When glass cloth is used, it's usually just for the garboards (the bottom planks that connect to keel). | Polyester or nylon cloth creates the hull; no fiberglass is involved. |
| Strongback and temporary molds required? | None | None | Yes | Yes | Yes | None |
| Sanding and Fairing Needed? | Minimal | Lots and lots and lots! | Lots and lots! | Lots and lots! | Minimal(ish) | Less than minimal |
| Main Advantages | Cheap, fast method; low skills required. | Decently complex shapes; no strongback needed; goes 3D quickly. | Beautiful round shapes; simple to understand. | Beautiful round shapes; simple to understand. | Beautiful round shapes; less fairing/sanding. | Very cheap, simple, SUPER lightweight, no exposure to messy toxic glues. |
| Main Disadvantages | Simple boxy shapes. | Lots of gluing, fairing, sanding, and fiberglass work. | Lots of gluing, fairing, sanding, and glassing work. | Lots of fairing & sanding. Heavier hull. | Relatively fussy/slow planking work. | Lots of hand sewing; sailing rigs put additional stress on hull, requiring more/heavier framing. |