

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.