



PRELIMINARY
PROFILE & ARRANGEMENT
SAILING BARGE
MUD TURTLE - HOUSEBOAT

SCALE 1/2" = 1' PLYWOOD/STRIP/GLASS
CONSTRUCTION

LWA 22' BEAM 7'9" DRAFT 16"
Δ 6,600 LBS

DESIGN BY WALTER ANSEL 2/16
141 IRVING ST, MYSTIC, CT. 06355

waltansel@gmail.com

Mud Turtle. A Sailing Barge House Boat by Walt Ansel

I've always loved Thames sailing barges and their Dutch relations. I really don't know why they sail, but they do and some are even fast according to Maurice Griffiths. The designs have lots of beam, shoal draft and moderately high freeboard, all of which seem well suited for a houseboat. The traditional leeboards, strange oak wings hung on the topsides, prevent leeway and free the large cabin space from an intrusive centerboard case. This design is more inspired by the Thames barge with its almost box shaped midsection. It provides tons of room inside a small boat and the ability to sit level when grounded, an advantage when exploring tidal creeks. Slow and steady but able to go anywhere where there is two feet of water. Much like the mud turtle...Time slows down and the salt marshes and backwaters with wildlife, beautiful trees and plants are there for you to enjoy.

So, the design is traditional looking but built of modern materials that should be easy to acquire and easy to maintain. The hull sides and bottom are plywood, and the chine is strip planked. Fiberglass sheathing with epoxy should strengthen and protect the hull. Lumberyard material such as fir or Miranti stair tread would make nice framing and longitudinals. The stem, plank keel and leeboard frame would be the only laminations. Internal partition bulkheads would double as frame gussets in the large open cabin space. There is a double berth, an enclosed head and a quarter berth for company. The doghouse will have plenty of light and headroom, if you have a pop up center slide hatch. It should be very comfortable with the settee and woodstove. (Plan on mosquito screens!) The main bulkhead at the aft end of the doghouse would have large windows on each side for a great stern view.

The mast is tabernacle mounted- hinged for trailering and low bridges on the canal. You should be able to safely trailer the Mud Turtle with a medium sized pickup truck. Displacement is going to be about 6,600 lbs. However I would not load it with all you're worldly possessions as my dad did with his 24' Chapelle sharpie and tow it with the family station wagon. He said that the downhill run was done in white knuckled silence on the west slope of the Appalachians!

The rumble well in the bow should be an enjoyable place to sit and read or sketch while underway. (It's usually the best seat in an English Narrow Boat!) Ground tackle is easily handled from the well and it's the best place to be when motoring. And on motoring, I would use a small four- stroke outboard hung on a bracket on the transom that could swing up, a simple and easy power setup. This would be my theme for the entire boat, keep it SIMPLE AND INEXPENSIVE! Use a composting Air Head for a toilet. An Origo two burner stove (basically marine sterno, where you add the alcohol) for cooking and a foot pump for the galley sink. For showers a solar setup would be just fine. I'd have just enough battery power for lights and a radio. The outboard could have an alternator for charging and a few portable solar panels could make up the difference.

I would favor a fully battened, junk rig lugsail for ease of reefing, handling and also for it's mystery and visual bat wing appeal. I also have access to some great bamboo for battens..... Give me a holler.

