



Simple Boat Projects

By Donald Boone

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Soon after Donald Boone started boating, he realized what many boaters soon understand. Boats are not perfect! Every boat has numerous items which can be improved upon, given a little thought and effort. After many years of trial and error, Don was finally satisfied with many of the projects he had completed. Shortly thereafter, he started writing magazine articles, discussing these boat improvements. This book has a few of those ideas within its pages, along with many new and innovative ideas for boat improvement. The thirty featured projects take the reader through the improvements in a step-by-step style of explanation. Many of the projects have the tools and materials listed as well. The following are only a few examples of the many well thought out projects: Anchor Storage, TV Antenna, Saving a Defunct Auto-Pilot, Dinghy Storage, Outboard Motor Bracket, Storage. Don has found methods to accomplish a high quality finished product at a fraction of the cost you would expect. Many of the projects not only save money but also improve the enjoyment of life aboard. Completing one of these projects yourself will save you money and increase your enjoyment of any boat. Illustrated.

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Editorial Review

From the Author

This book is for those individuals who are inclined to modify their vessels in some manner; those individuals who are never quite satisfied with a factory-equipped vessel. This of course, includes most of us. The modifications you will find in this book can be performed on your vessel to make it more comfortable, more efficient, or both.

We are all individuals in our own right and as such, what works well for one yachtsman, will not work especially well for another. Boating manufacturers have their hands full trying to meet the needs of all boaters and cannot make everyone happy with any one design. They offer more than one model, but even then they will not meet the requirements of every boater. The only way to get what you want on your vessel is to order a custom boat or to modify the one you have. Modifications are far less expensive, so boaters often make changes to suit their own particular needs. It is the intention of this book to make many ideas available to you that you may not have considered.

Should you have an idea that you are willing to share, please feel free to send it in to the publisher. Be sure to include your boat name. Of course in the case of duplicate ideas, recognition goes to the one postmarked first.

Don Boone acquired his first boat in 1964 and has been sailing ever since. He has been published in a wide variety of magazines, including Cruising World, Heartland Boating, 48' North, plus one other boating magazine from the northwest. His other work has been published in travel magazines, money magazines and recreational vehicle magazines.

His second book, Chess Influences, was published in 1997.

About the Author

On a high mountain lake in the Sierra Nevada range in 1964, a small sailboat could be seen, piloted by a young man starting a life long love of boating.

Since that time, Don Boone has spent years exploring tributaries of the west coast of the United States. Starting in Southern California, ending in Puget Sound, there were years of gunkholing the San Joaquin Delta, inland from San Francisco. Then more years of sailing the Columbia river starting at Astoria, Oregon. Finally, years of splendid cruising in the San Juan Islands of Washington State, including the Gulf Islands of British Columbia.

Don is a constant contributor to several boating magazines. Having lived aboard for several years, he understands the needs of a live-aboard lifestyle. His articles often show others how to do simple projects on their boats, which makes life onboard easier.

His wife Lyn, herself an adventurer, has often said, "What's on the other side of the island?" This has fueled their wanderings over the years and you'll find her mentioned often in his written works.

Don now makes his home in Sequim, Washington.

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From Chapter 1: ANCHOR STORAGE

If your boat does not have a bowsprit where an anchor can be permanently mounted, check out this scenario and see if it isn't all too familiar to you: It's late and you're entering your chosen anchorage for the night. You've made your choice as to where you want to put the anchor down and the boat is now drifting with the engine at idle, the transmission in neutral. You go forward to drop the anchor. First you have to lift the jib or jib bag off the foredeck and fasten it up and out of the way.

You think you have it, but then you must lift the middle part of it farther out of the way just to open the lid on your foredeck anchor well. All this to get at your anchor. Next you lean down into the anchor well, lift out the heavy anchor, lay it on deck, then pull the line and chain out on deck as well. You close the lid and once again lift the heavy anchor off the deck and maneuver it through your bow pulpit dropping it into the water to finish your anchoring procedure. Of course by now your boat has drifted to a new location far from the original area.

The cure for the problem is to not open and close the lid twice just to lay the anchor and its rode on deck. I'm one of those guys who doesn't believe in spending money unnecessarily. You've seen a great variety of anchor mounting devices on the market, but nothing as simple or as cheap as the method I'm going to suggest. Consider this simple method of making your anchor more available when you need it:

Measure the size of your anchor stock and the chain, as you hold them collapsed together in your hand. That is, with the chain lying along side of the anchor stock where the anchor and chain are fastened together with the shackle. Then purchase a piece of white PVC pipe large enough in diameter, to allow your anchor, fastening shackle and chain to slip down inside of it.

Your tool requirements for this project are quite small. You will need a hacksaw for cutting the plastic PVC pipe, a screwdriver for tightening the hose clamps around the PVC, and your stainless steel pulpit tubing. Perhaps you will also need a small pair of wire cutters or a pocket knife for cutting the ends of the wire ties. Use a wood rasp to shape the bottom of the tube so it will conform to the deck. Cut the PVC to length. In most cases this would be from the deck level to the top of the bow pulpit. Also cut any odd angles the PVC tube may need to fit at deck level or the inside of a stanchion of the bow pulpit. Fasten the PVC in an area that works best while you are pulling in your anchor and anchor rode. Stainless steel hose clamps work best for fastening the PVC to the stanchion. You may want to use a plastic or nylon wire tie wrapped around the bitter end of the exposed hose clamp to prevent it from catching on stray flesh.

When you have finished this simple anchor storage device and you're pulling the hook up, you merely lift the anchor up and drop the anchor shank, shackle and chain down into the PVC tube.

One more item to consider. You can cut a notch in your anchor well lid, to allow the spare rode to slip down inside the anchor well.

I discovered an added bonus when I added this anchor storage device to my pulpit. The anchor line comes up over my bow roller, then to a good deck cleat. The four-inch PVC tube is large enough that the anchor line rubs against it.

One of my first nights out and laying to our plow anchor with this anchor storage tube fastened to the inside of the pulpit, the wind picked up. Sleeping in the Vee berth, I could hear the anchor line rubbing around the plastic PVC tube when the nylon line stretched to hold the weight of the boat. As the weight of the hull eased off the anchor rode, the anchor line and the line would rub again.

The sound was not annoying and it saved me from going on deck occasionally to be certain we were not dragging. I could tell from the rubbing line that the anchor was in solid and staying there. I've never been concerned about the line chafing because of the large diameter of the tube.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dirk Sullivan:

Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information today can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be a know-how or any news even a concern. What people must be consider if those information which is within the former life are challenging be find than now's taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you receive the unstable resource then you buy it as your main information there will be huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen throughout you if you take Simple Boat Projects as your daily resource information.

John Enriquez:

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