

A Boat and a (w)hole new problem

Right. I shall explain.

I like mangling metal*. But, in another world a long, long time ago, I looked enviously at the Aerokits illustrations in Model Boats (mid '60s – I still have it). I loved the Sea Urchin, Sea Hornet, RAF Crash Tender and others. I was about 10. Nothing happened until a few years ago Model Boats published a plan for a model loosely based on the Sea Hornet called Sea Hornet Minor. I kept the magazine and nothing happened unless you can count having the drawings copied.

About two years ago I was somewhat unwell and had to have a few weeks off and so dug out the notes and plans and started the model. I got as far as the basic hull and then had to drill the prop shaft. How? The problem terrified me and so, in spite of great ideas, nothing happened.

And we have NOW. Groundhog Day. So I finished tidying the workshop, sort of, fixed the knock on the old Kennedy saw and finally fitted an auto stop (no-volt release, etc) to it. Then had a go at the sander's motor which was sticking. Fixed that.

And then the Hornet Minor. HOW was I going to do this little hole without wrecking it? Over a large number of malt whiskies (Talisker mostly) I had a cogitate. And what emerged was a horizontal drilling machine, sort of, and a bit of hand control. And a chunk of 3"x3" angle as the bed, a strip of aluminium as a guide and then clamp everything together – power by a battery drill using a cable tie on the trigger for slow speed and slide the boat propped on a bit of wood towards the drill bit. And it worked well enough! The composite photo will show what it all looked like, I have had to put a drape behind since my home is the sort of home that people wipe their feet when they leave.

Mike Joseph

* Model Engineering = Mangling Metal = Start with a large piece of metal, create a small piece of metal and a HUGE pile of swarf!

