

The Streamlinia Project 1

What is/was Streamlinia? In the 1930's Bassett Lowke produced a ready to run model boat with either steam or electric power. See the advert for both versions, Fig 1. As a matter of interest one of our Society members has an original electric version.


BASSETT-LOWKE LTD

FAST MOTOR BOAT
STREAMLINIA



This model is the result of much careful experiment and is a swift, efficient and reliable craft. The first sample under trials ran at 3½ knots continuously for half an hour.

The Streamlinia has a hard chine V-bottom hull carved from the solid. It has a slipper stern and shell-back giving a vivid impression of speed.

This model may be relied upon to give a satisfactory performance and is an excellent example of fine craftsmanship.



General Details and Specification of both Steam and Electric Models

The hull 3' 3" long x 8" beam is carved from carefully selected seasoned timber, and is fitted with wood deck and superstructure. The steel propeller shaft runs in a brass stern tube properly bushed, fitted with watertight gland and supported in a cast brass bracket. All deck fittings and rudder are made of non-ferrous metal, finished plated or painted. Workmanship throughout is of the highest and the painting and finishing may be relied upon to withstand the effects of sun, wind and water.


BASSETT-LOWKE LTD

THIS POWERFUL AND EFFICIENT MODEL IS NOW OFFERED IN TWO DESIGNS



POWERED BY STEAM

MACHINERY. A specially developed plant comprising:—

- Engine $\frac{1}{16}$ " bore x $\frac{1}{16}$ " stroke double acting slide valve type.
- Boiler Copper drum and water tubes silver soldered throughout, working pressure 45 lb. sq. in. Tested pressure 150 lb.
- Firing Methylated spirit controlled by automatic drip-feed regulation.
- Lubrication Automatic Displacement Lubricator to cylinder.

Price £40 0 0



POWERED BY ELECTRICITY

MACHINERY is an economic consumption unit comprising:—

- Motor Permanent Magnet Type with heavy duty 3-pole armature.
- Power Supply Dry Battery or accumulator.

This model is particularly suitable for installing radio-controlled equipment.
Details on request.

Price £33 0 0

In attractive lightweight carrying case with leather straps and handle.

Details of machinery, hull and parts for building this model are given on page 6.

Several years ago Roy built a Streamlinia and installed one of my little twin cylinder engines together with a centre flue gas fired boiler. Using a pressure of 30psi, it went fairly well and almost managed to plane, but this wasn't quite what Roy wanted so an electric motor was fitted which produced the desired result with quite a quick boat that easily planed.



Fig 2

I don't know if this is an original Streamlinia, but it is the only photo of one I can find on the water. I rather fancy that it has been modified somewhat. The funnel appears to be round rather than streamlined and the exhaust is taken up the rear if the funnel instead of passing out through the transom. Also the speed control knob is missing.

I've never seen one of the original steamers, but with a maximum speed of 3.5 knots as quoted in the advert I'm sure it's nowhere near fast enough to plane. So this project is to build one that really goes well! I have the drawings for the boat and intend to make it plank on frame which will be considerably lighter than the original which was carved from solid. I intend to use 1/8 balsa planks sheathed with glass tissue inside and out. This will give a really strong hull that is waterproof and resistant to all the filthy oils etc. that my steam plants seem to produce.



Fig 3. The prop on the original is shown as being about 1 1/2" diameter (you can see how small it looks in the photo) although there is room for a 2" one. Some experimentation with the prop will obviously be needed to get the best performance. Luckily I have a small test tank so various trials can be carried out in that rather than waiting for the boat to be completed and being allowed to travel to a suitable water.

At the moment I've started on the power plant. Materials for the boiler and engine were my Christmas and birthday presents. Information on it's progress will appear in subsequent newsletters.