

The Melatelia

The Melatelia is a lightweight 2 person day-sail dinghy, designed for very light, yet gusty winds. Weighting only 45kg fully rigged (hull weights 30kg), it can be car-topped by a single person, and does not exceed the legal 35kg roof rack limit found in specifications of most family cars.

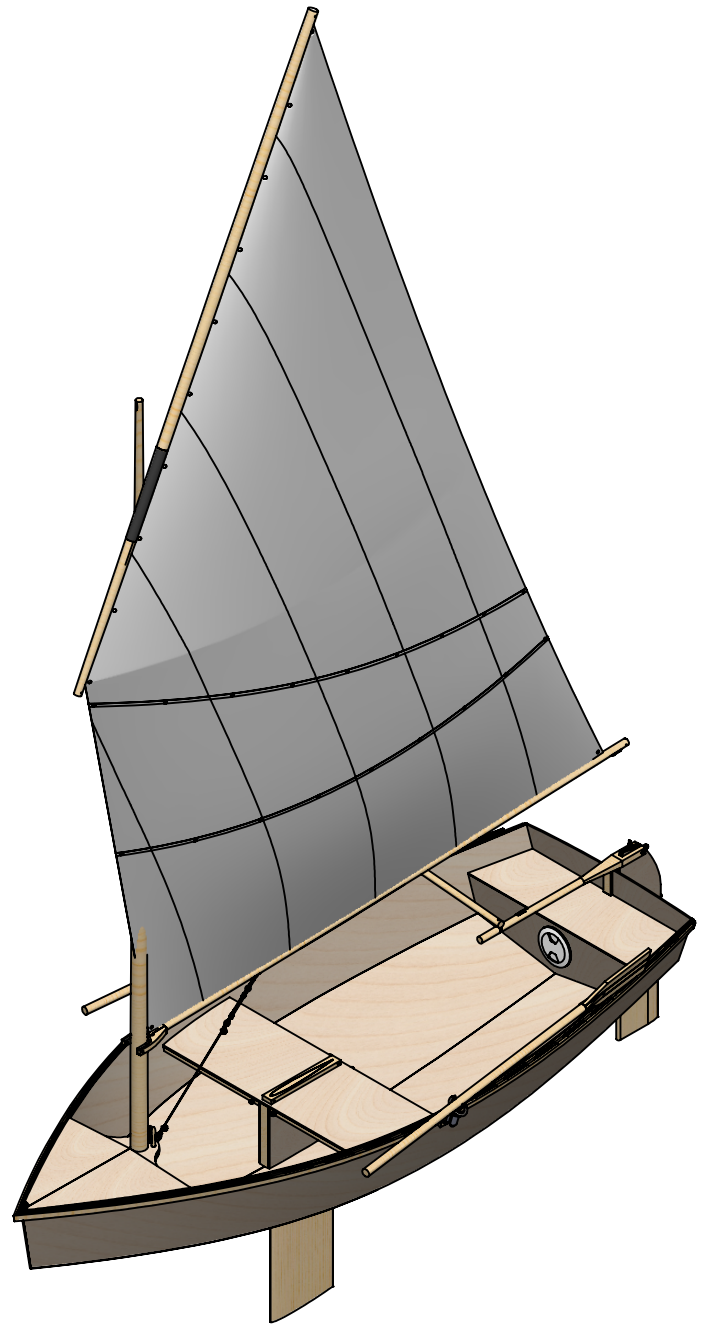
What distinguishes this boat is it's light hull with low prismatic coefficient, and a very large sail area. This is, by no means, a racing boat (hull is optimized for 3 knots), and even though it's stability with both reefs allows survival in 26 knot gusts, it is generally not recommended to sail in violent weather conditions, as hull rigidity has been somewhat sacrificed in favor of low hull weight.

Two buoyancy tanks below aft seat and in bow compartment allow for easier recovery in case of capsize, and can be used for dry storage.

A tiller is designed to be lashed for hands-free sailing in safe and predictable conditions.

Melatelia can be also sailed single handed, as well as rowed.

The boat got it's name from Baltic goddess Melatelia (lit. "Méletélé") of dyes and colors. Legends tell that she was blue, as this boat is also meant to be.



LOA: 3.3m
Beam: 1.28m
Design displacement: 210kg
Draft: 0.16m (0.77m with daggerboard down)
Hull weight: ~30kg
Sailing weight: ~45kg
Maximum load: ~165kg

Estimated build cost: 470€ (510\$)

Specifications

Hull:

Prismatic coefficient: .52
Wetted surface area: 2.73m^2
Longitudinal center of buoyancy: 1.6m from transom
Maximum heel angle before flooding: 25°
Freeboard: 0.26m
Bow buoyancy tank volume: 58l
Stern buoyancy tank volume: 47l

Rig:

Sail area: 7.47m^2
First reef area: 5.26m^2
Second reef area: 3.95m^2

CoE height: 2.49m
Mast length: 4m
Yard length: 3m
Boom length: 2.78m

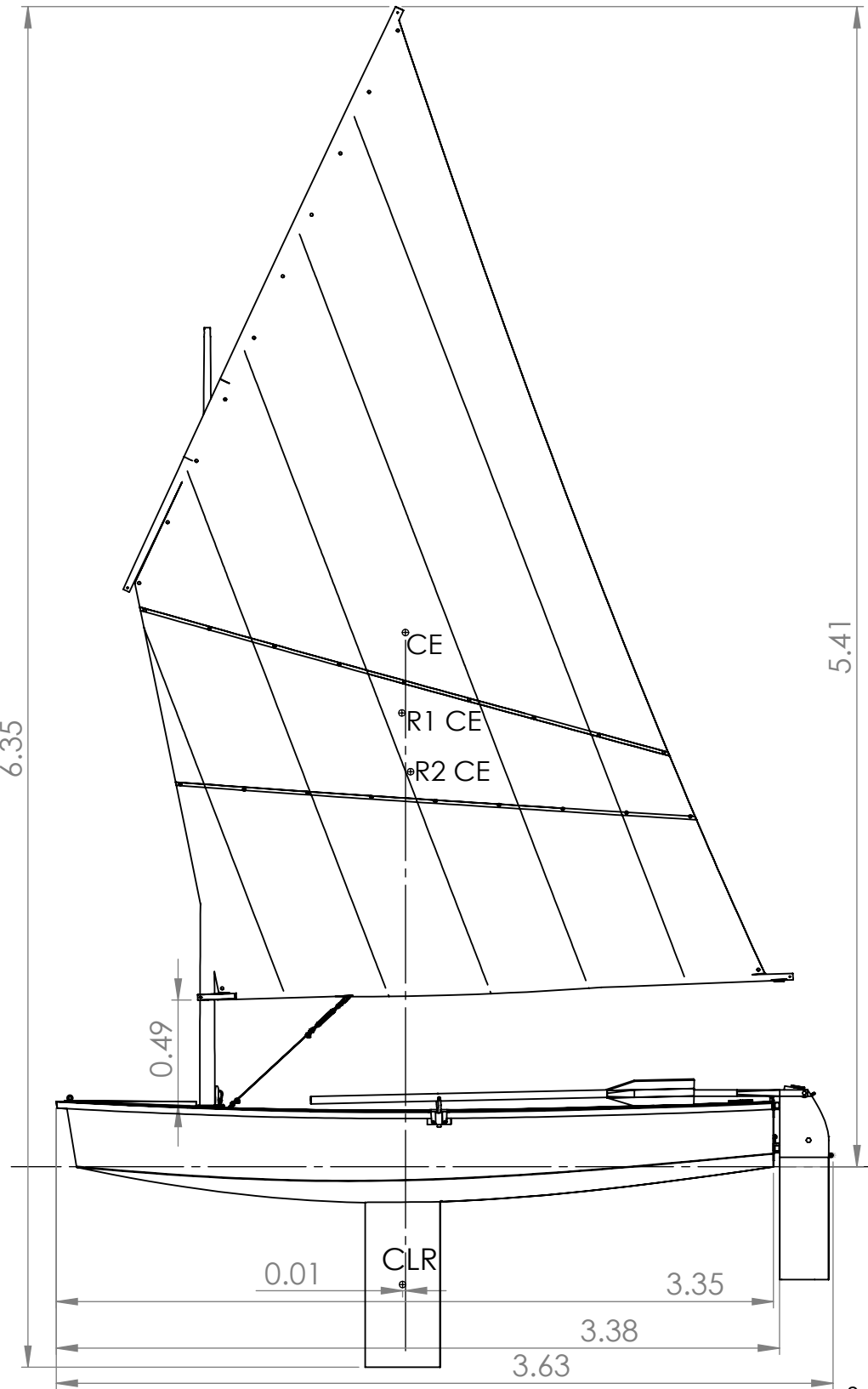
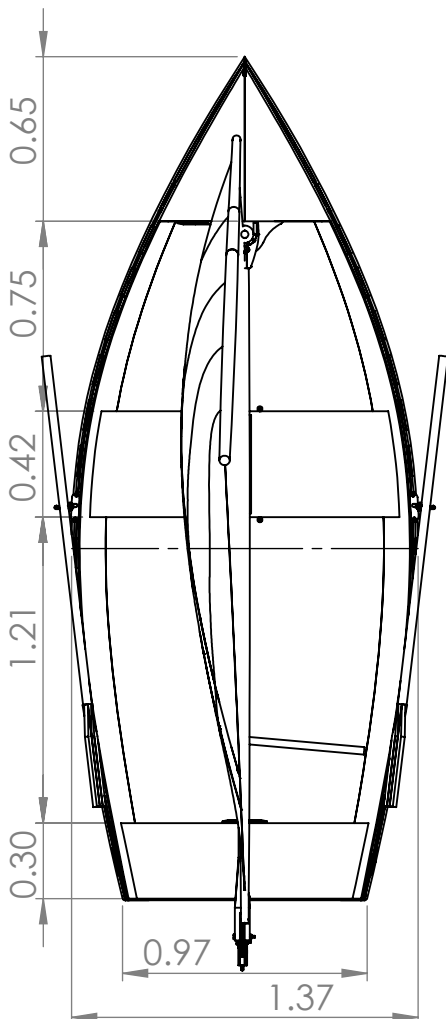
Boards:

Daggerboard area: 0.27m^2 (3.61% of sail area)
NACA 0008 profile

Rudder area: 0.12m^2 (0.44% of sail area)

Balance:

Maximum heel angle before swamping: 25°



Righting moments:**At 0° heel:**

Solo: 255 Nm

2 crew members: 411Nm

At maximum heel:

Solo: 435Nm

2 crew members: 703Nm

Windspeeds at which heeling moment equals righting moment:**2 crew members, 0° heel:**

Full sail: 6.30m/s

Reef 1: 8.10m/s

Reef 2: 10.10m/s

2 crew members, maximum heel:

Full sail: 8.30m/s

Reef 1: 10.70m/s

Reef 2: 13.20m/s

Windspeeds at which heeling moment equals righting moment:**Solo, 0° heel:**

Full sail: 5m/s

Reef 1: 6.40m/s

Reef 2: 8m/s

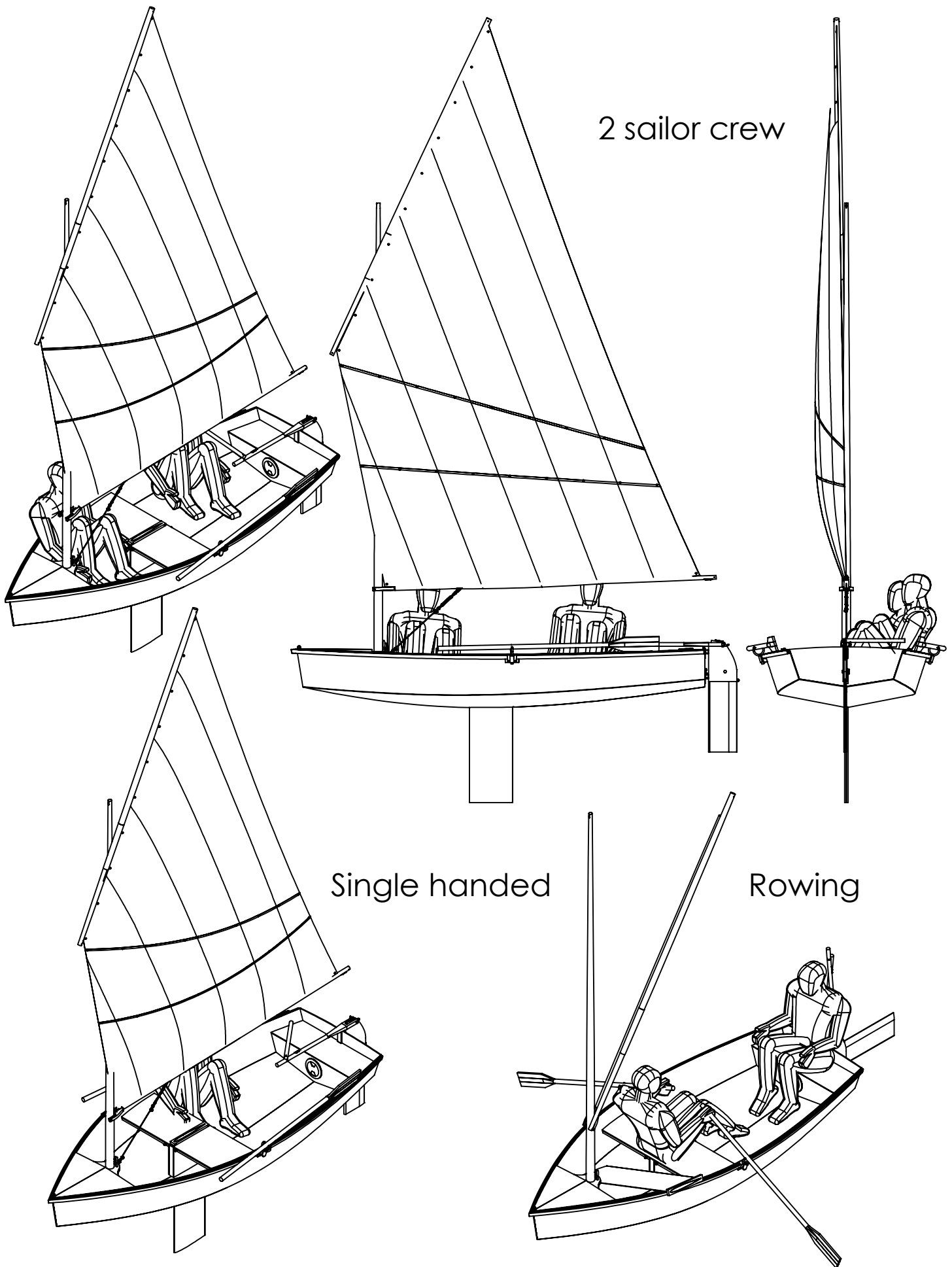
Solo, maximum heel:

Full sail: 6.50m/s

Reef 1: 8.40m/s

Reef 2: 10.40m/s

Crew positions



Materials used in construction

Original design calls for 2 sheets of 4mm birch plywood, which is used for hull panels, deck, aft cross section and aft seat. Another 6.5mm birch plywood sheet is used for transom, thwart, bow cross-section, daggerboard case, rudder, mast step and partner pieces. Pine or spruce timber is used for various structural beams, as well as gunwales, spars, tiller and oars. Rudder and daggerboard blades are also made from said timber. Epoxy is used as the main adhesive with some fiberglass tape and fillers (wood flour), while joinery is made using wood screws (nails are not required). Weatherproof paint is used to protect most parts, while varnish is reserved for spars and tiller. Sails are made from Tyvek, stuck with reinforced sticky tape and sewn with typical twine. A small amount of synthetic leather is required to protect some parts from chafe. No specialized hardware is required, as most of these parts can be bought at typical hardware store. Several boat-specific pieces, such as cleats and oarlocks are preferred, but can be substituted with home-made analogues.

Required tools

This project can be completed with a minimum amount of expensive tools. Jigsaw and drill is a must, however, no table saw or router is required, while a power sander and sewing machine is recommended. Hand tools include wood and metal saw, plane, sandpaper, set of clamps, pliers, hammer, screwdrivers, set of rasps, some brushes and metal containers for mixing epoxy, sewing set.

Other notes

Unless specified otherwise in building plans, use flat head screws with set-depth pre-drilling. Although most of possible hardware interferences are accounted for, always check further steps to be sure.

Bill of materials

Plywood sheets:

4x1500x2500 x2
6.5x1250x2500 x1

Timber:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|----|
| Rudder fitting backing piece: | 4x1x33 | |
| Mast step timber: | 9x10x2.5 | |
| Thwart beams: | 1x2x60 | x8 |
| Gunwale spacers: | 3x2x312 | |
| Mast partner lower support: | 3x4x30 | |
| Mast partner backing horizontal beam: | 2x5x31 | x2 |
| Gunwale fore and aft spacers: | 1x3x55 | x4 |
| Hull spreaders: | 2x2x118 | |
| | 2x2x131 | |
| | 2x2x98 | |
| Daggerboard case spacers: | 2.5x4.7x31 | x2 |
| Rowlock supports: | 3x3x11 | |
| Transporting beams: | 4x4x220 | x2 |
| Transporting beam anglers: | 1.5x3x10 | x4 |
| Tiller: | 3x6x140 | |
| Rudder blade: | 1.95x4x75 | x6 |
| Daggerboard blade: | 4.5x2.9x120 | x8 |
| Mast: | 7x7x400 | |
| Boom: | 4x4x270 | |
| Yard: | 5x5x300 | |
| Boom jaws: | 2.5x5x18 | x2 |
| Oars: | 3.62x3.62x180 | x2 |
| Oar paddles: | 1.5x4.2x41 | x4 |

Hardware:

Flat head screws:

10mm x8
15mm x2
20mm x89
25mm x6
30mm x156
35mm x2
40mm x16
45mm x12
50mm x6
65mm x10

Round head screws:

6mm x12
8mm x3
15mm x20
25mm x6
30mm x8
35mm x5
50mm x4

Nails:

10mm x34

Eye-bolts:

M6 x6

Bolts:

M6x40 x1
M8x80 x1

Nuts:

M6 x1
M6 locking x1
M8 winged x1
M10 winged x1

Washers:

M6 x1
M10 x1

Pad-eyes:

Diamond x1
Triangle x1
(see Hull building
pages for drawings)

Gate hinges:

Male D13 x2
Female D13 x2

Oar hardware:

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Rowlocks 17.4mm | x2 |
| Oarlocks 17.4mm | x2 |

Cleats:

| | |
|---------|----|
| 6cm | x2 |
| 11cm | x2 |
| V-cleat | x1 |

(see Boom building pages for drawing)

Pulleys:

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Double, for 8mm rope | x2 |
| Double, for 4mm rope | x2 |

| | |
|-------------|----|
| Carabineers | x4 |
|-------------|----|

Other:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| L-shaped sheet metal corner 2x2x4mm | x1 |
| D4 wire rope sheaves | x2 |
| Cable tensioner (eye-eye) | x1 |
| Cable clips (adjustable) | x2 |
| Round plastic boat hatch 210,6mm | x1 |
| Round plastic boat hatch 176mm | x1 |
| Roll of wire for stitch&glue | x1 |
| One sided utility sticky tape | x1 |

Leather:

15x100cm strip

Rope:

Running rigging

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Halyard: | 8m of 6mm, low stretch; |
| Downhaul: | 2m of 4mm, ultra low stretch; |
| Mainsheet: | 12m of 8mm, normal stretch; |
| Mainsheet traveler: | 1.5m of 4mm, low stretch; |
| Outhaul: | 0.7m of 4mm, low stretch; |

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Rudder uphaul: | 1.5m of 4mm, any stretch; |
| Rudder downhaul: | 0.5m of 4mm, elastic cord; |
| Tiller lashing: | 1.5m of 4mm, elastic cord; |

Standing rigging

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Daggerboard pull-up line: | 0.7m of 8mm, any stretch; |
| Boom downhaul: | 0.7m of 4mm, wire; |
| Oar holders: | 1m of 4mm, elastic cord x2; |
| Daggerboard lashing: | 2.5m of 4mm, elastic cord; |
| Boom jaws lashing: | 0.5m of 6mm, any stretch; |
| Yard lashing: | 4.5m of 4mm, normal stretch; |
| Yard beads: | 0.7m of 4mm, low stretch; |
| Tack lashing: | 0.5m of 4mm, low stretch; |
| Clew lashing: | 0.5m of 4mm, any stretch; |
| Tiller extension lashing: | 0.5m of 4mm, elastic cord; |

Sail materials:

Tyvek 10.5m² (7 meters of 1.5m roll)
2 spools of white thread
2 rolls of 5cm double sided reinforced sticky tape
4mm grommets x14
6mm grommets x8

Glue, paint, etc:

Epoxy resin: 5 liters
Thickener (wood flour): ?
Primer: ?
Paint: ?