

the Pacific 40 kit catamaran reborn

as the Solitary Island 12

by MARK GILES

Recently Pacific Multihulls went into receivership in a tangled collapse of several companies badly affected by the global recession ... a not uncommon event in recent times and sad event for all concerned.



BETTER NEWS IS THAT MARK Stephens (the designer of the P40) and I (production manager) have, with the support of a backer, bought the company's IP, equipment and stock. So backup and continued production of the P40 is guaranteed with the cat now under the banner of the 'Solitary Island 12' and produced by our new company AUSTRALIAN COMPOSITE PANELS. (If anybody were to doubt Mark's commitment he still offers support for the proas he built and helped design in his former business partnership with Harry Proa. He's just that sort of guy. He's built cats, tris, proas and light aircraft and loves talking about mucking about with fibreglass, carbon and cores.)

This predicament has resulted in a leaner company with a tighter grip on control of quality, prices and service. We can now get a kit to you in just over a month from starting; with the components of the kit supplied almost entirely from in-house. Also, as the recession demanded production diversification, we have developed our panel making and laminating skills to a higher level and they now arrive even bigger at 6000 x 2400 and beautifully fair on both sides. It is an exciting time for us as we are filling orders from such diverse areas as set construction, architectural design and recreational vehicles to racing car components. Another development has been our incorporation of gelcoats into panels for some of our clients. We can provide, as an option, 1-2mm white gelcoating sheeting for application to hull areas where such a finish might appeal. It's flexible, quick and looks very professional.

Just as exciting to us, as sailing is our first passion, is that the feedback from the owners of the three P40s sold last year is very positive. What better way to start than with the words of our first international customer, Cedric Baldwin!

Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2009.

"Wayne & I would like to say CHEERS! to you guys! Everybody at Pacific 40! The Kit is Awesome! Packed great, easy to get to things & remove ... especially the wheels on the hull palette!!! Helped a lot. We also really like the Plans! We have been passing them back & forth to take

a look & study. Wayne said they are the best looking plans he's ever seen. I have cut all the MDF & made the cradles & most of the parts besides some of the big panels are stored in a 20' container I am renting. OK, we all here feel really good about the build & project. Going to be an Awesome Cat! We're all impressed!!! Thanks, - RICK"

So who is Wayne anyway? FH Russel a boatbuilder from Long Island, NY says of Wayne Iwamoto at Gils Catamarans on

boatdesign.net "If you are looking for someone to build you a cat here in the US, you should call Gils Catamarans in Costa Mesa, CA. They have been at it longer than anyone. They have built every kind of multihull under the sun. Gil and Wayne Iwamoto are the kindest people as well."

For those unfamiliar with the Solitary Island 12, a detailed discussion is made of the then Pacific 40 in editions 95 and 96 of this magazine. Back orders are available

“We can now get a kit to you in just over a month from starting; with the components of the kit supplied almost entirely from in house”

Like opening a birthday present.





Very quickly it's a 40 footer again. (top left)
Our rack puts everything in one place. (top right)
Painting not fairing. Hull shoes arrive quite fair, straight from the mold. (above)
Construction photos compliments of Doug Abbott.

from *Multihull World* mag. Or go to our website at www.australiancompositepanels.com.au for a combined version of those stories as well as a look at our study plans and extracts from the actual plans. Be patient loading the PDFs as they are quite large.

Photos show how the kit arrives in a 20ft container; If the 20ft container is your choice you will need to join the hull sections. Rebates are built into the hull to minimise fairing of the join. Because

“Because we use epoxy resins the join is as strong as the rest of the hull”

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Doug Abbott from Warmnambool emailed us this message on his feelings.

“Hi Mark I am really enjoying the building of the P40; I have found the manual explains most things pretty well. It's great being able to ring and talk through my problems which is good if a part doesn't seem to fit ... I probably have it around the wrong way. I have changed a few pieces of interior around and have found it takes a long time to make the bits myself. It would be good to get some suppliers onboard to help with the fit out like Fusion and Schionning do, but that might happen in time. I am going to take some more photos tomorrow and will send some up. Everyone that walks into the shed looks at it in awe.” – Doug

For the record Doug, Stallion Marine in Queensland now does provide a service in that area. (see *Multihull World* mag #96 page 92 for a thorough discussion of what they offer. Or give Dave a call on 0422 099 072).

Mike Waller Yacht Design

Mike Waller - Yacht Architect SNAME

<http://www.wallerdesign.com.au>

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There are many more construction photos on our website at www.australiancompositepanels.com.au contained in the PDF study plans and PDF discussion by the designer.

In short Mark Stephen's design is a big, light, 12m (all high strength epoxy), performance oriented cruising cat with vast flat decks. The accommodation is spacious, as is the roomy saloon, complete with a well thought out galley which becomes part of both the sailing action and the dining area. The strengths of this kit lay in its use of high tech innovations to attain an elegant simplicity resulting in ease and speed of construction, smoothness of all panels on both sides and producing a craft with a generous finished volume. The package includes exceptional detailed plans, all the glass tape, resin, hardeners, fillers etc required for construction of the cat. With a kit price of AU\$130,000 plus GST this is very competitive and an utterly tempting sum to get you started on course to luxury open sea cruising. Take a good look at our website for much, much more info.

Big components make for rapid progress. (above left)

Temporary frames ready for fitting the saloon roof. (above right)

Construction photos compliments of Doug Abbott.

Almost there ... (below)

