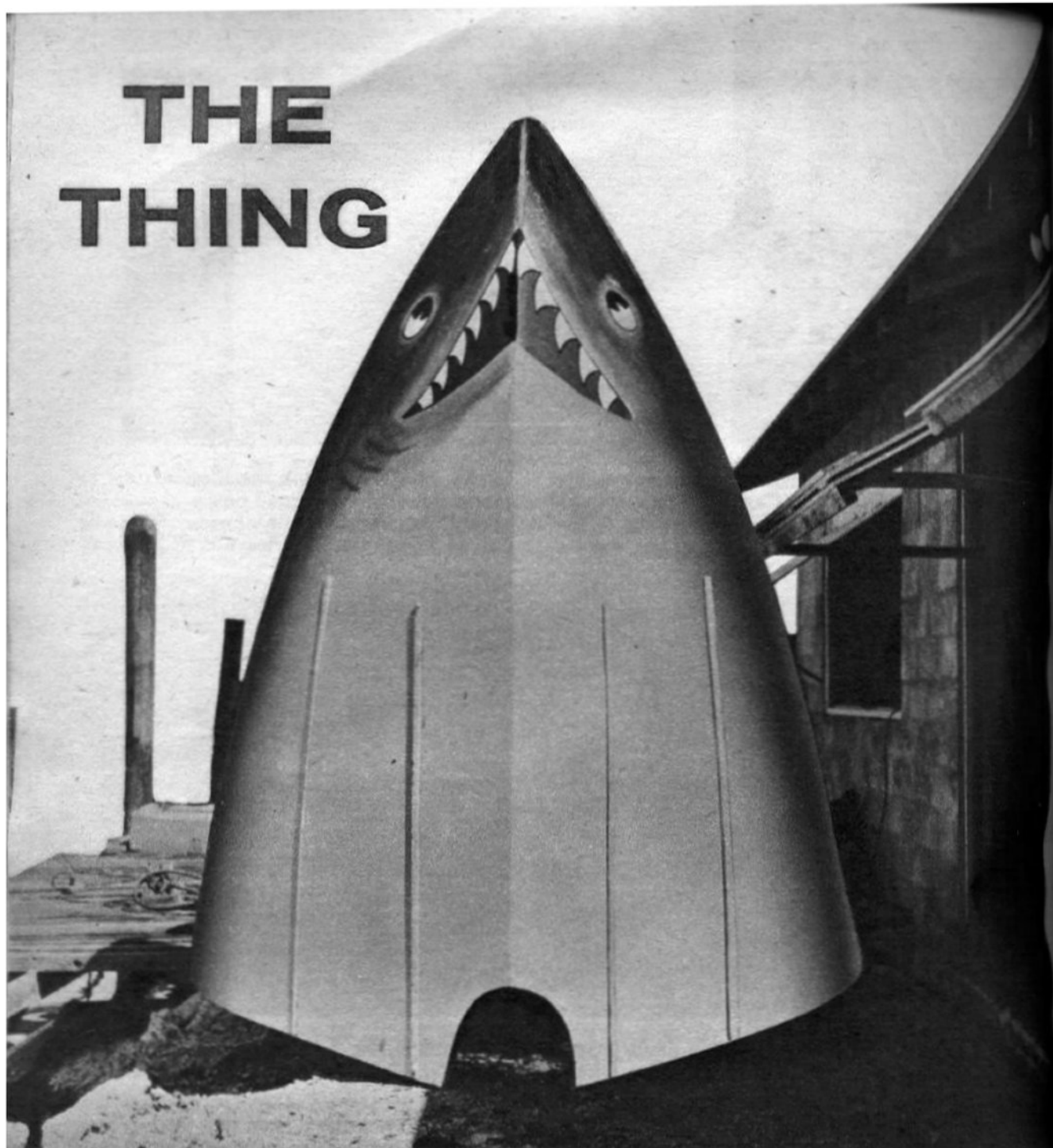
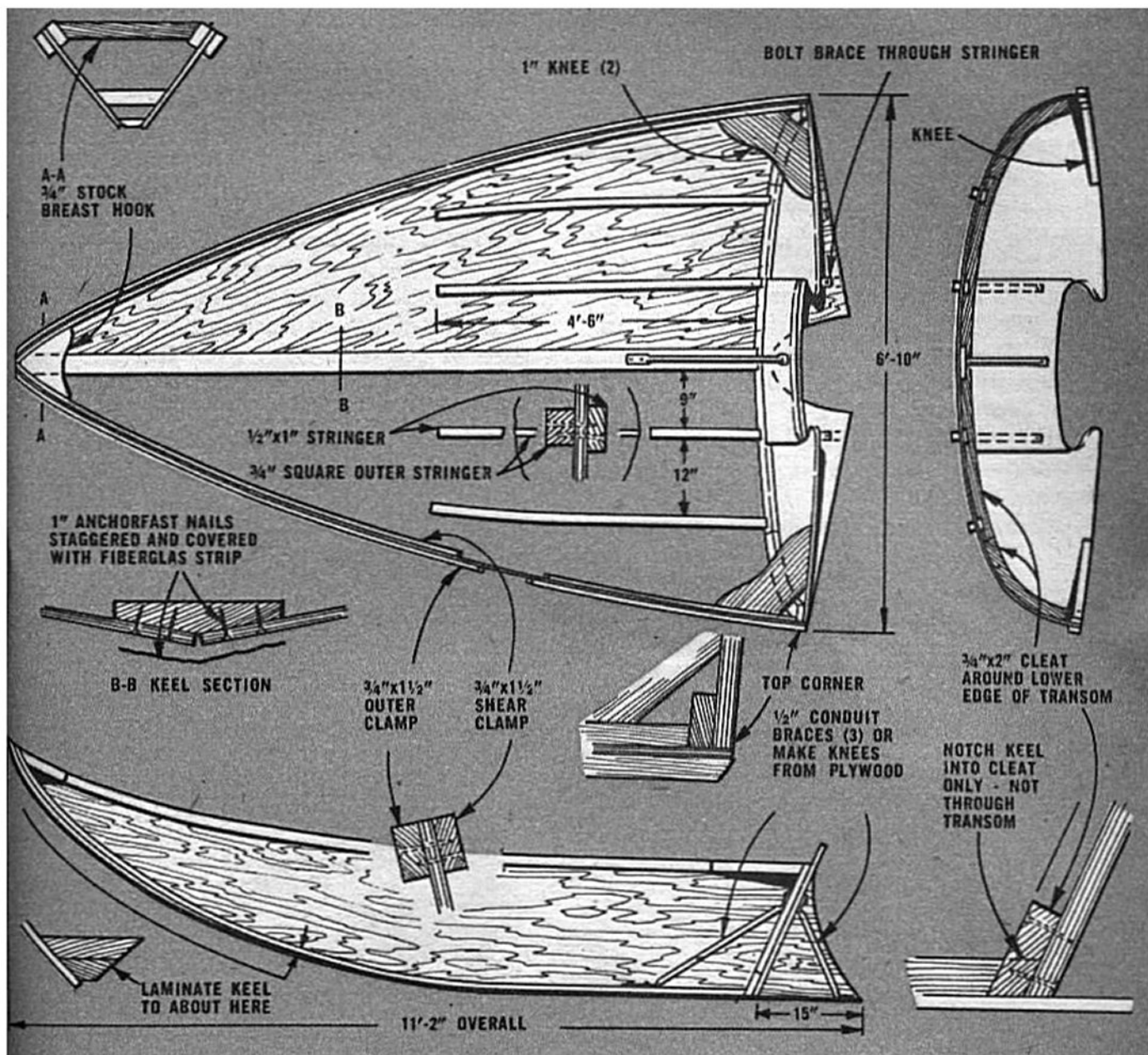


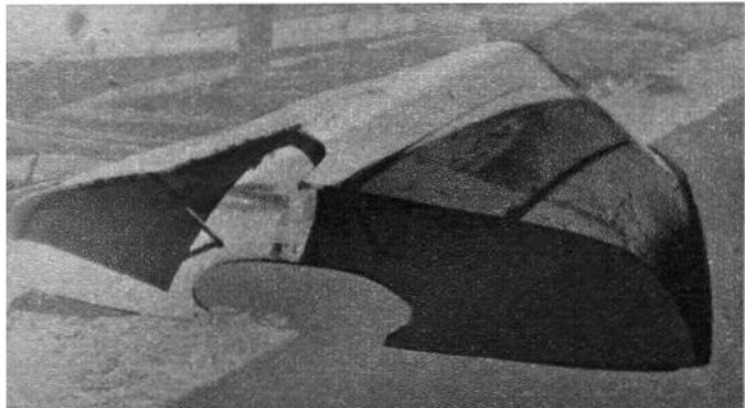
# THE THING



**Unconventional? Yes. But it really does perform and it costs only \$60 to build.**

**I**F you're in or on the water near Marathon, Florida, and happen to spot what appears to be a sea monster bearing down, don't die of heart failure—it's probably nothing more than Al



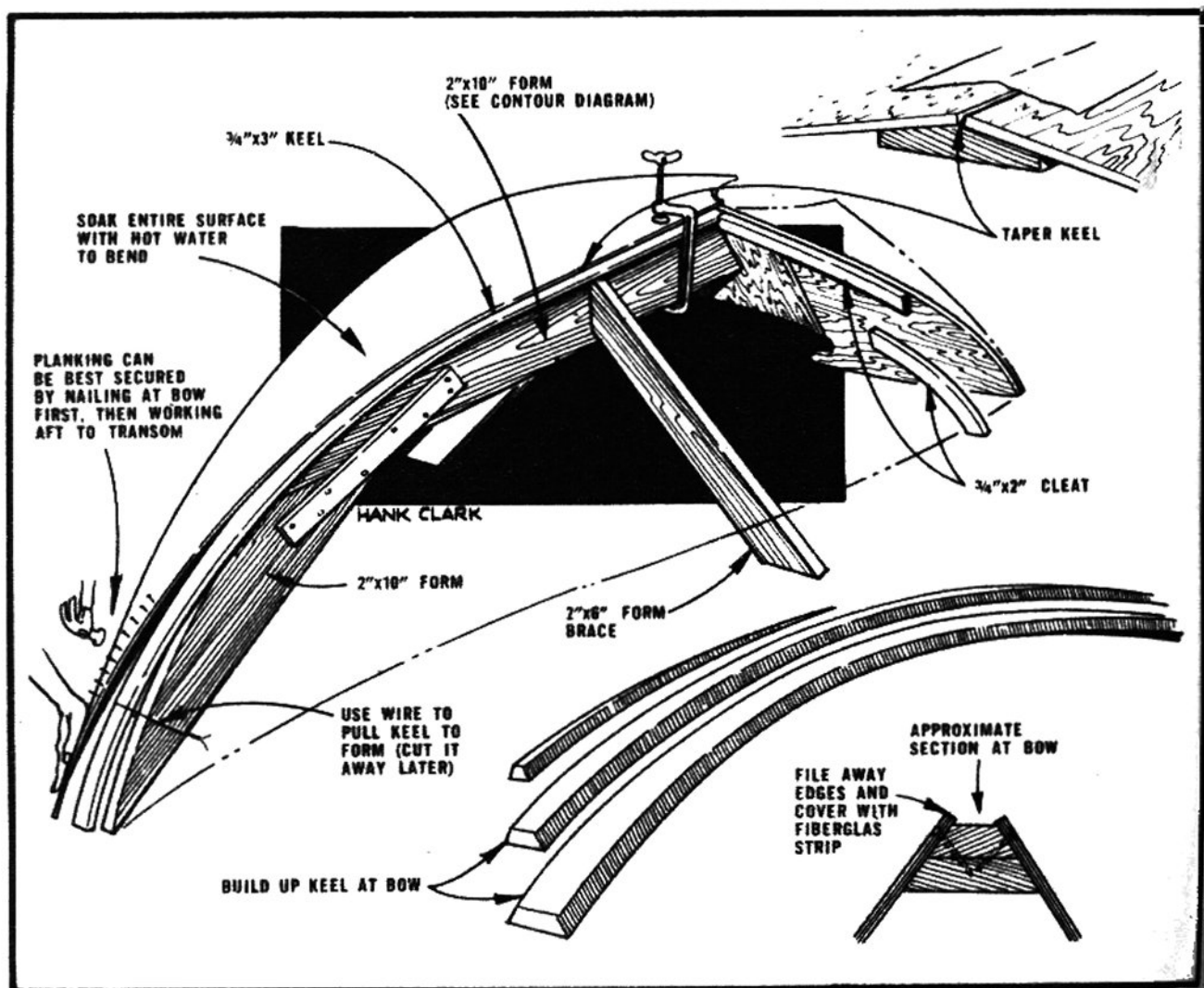


**TRANSOM** is braced inside and out since skin extends beyond keel, with cutout for motor.

Bayles' Thing. All who see it say it's the darndest boat ever built, but they have to admit it performs. The Thing has great maneuverability and literally flies across the surface. Under full power of a 10-hp motor, little more than the prop and the keel remain in the water. And 10 hp is all that Al recommends—any more and The Thing assumes control!

Al built his unusual boat for \$60 and

it weighs just about the same in pounds. Though the bend in the 1/4-in. plywood hull planking may appear extreme, it is not difficult to accomplish. The nature of construction, with the transom angled and beveled, is such that the curves are of large radius and the plywood can be fastened in place with no more than the usual amount of soaking with hot water. In doing this, the sheer assumes its own contour and the addi-

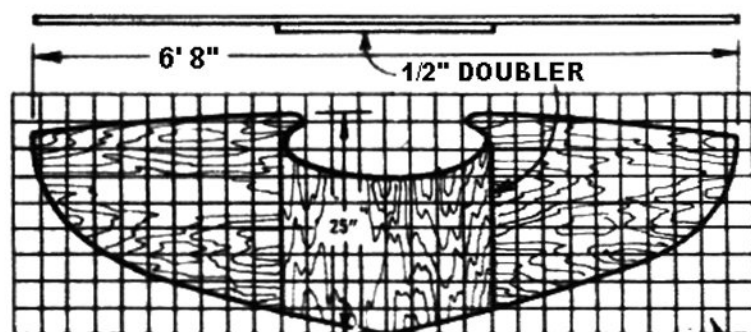
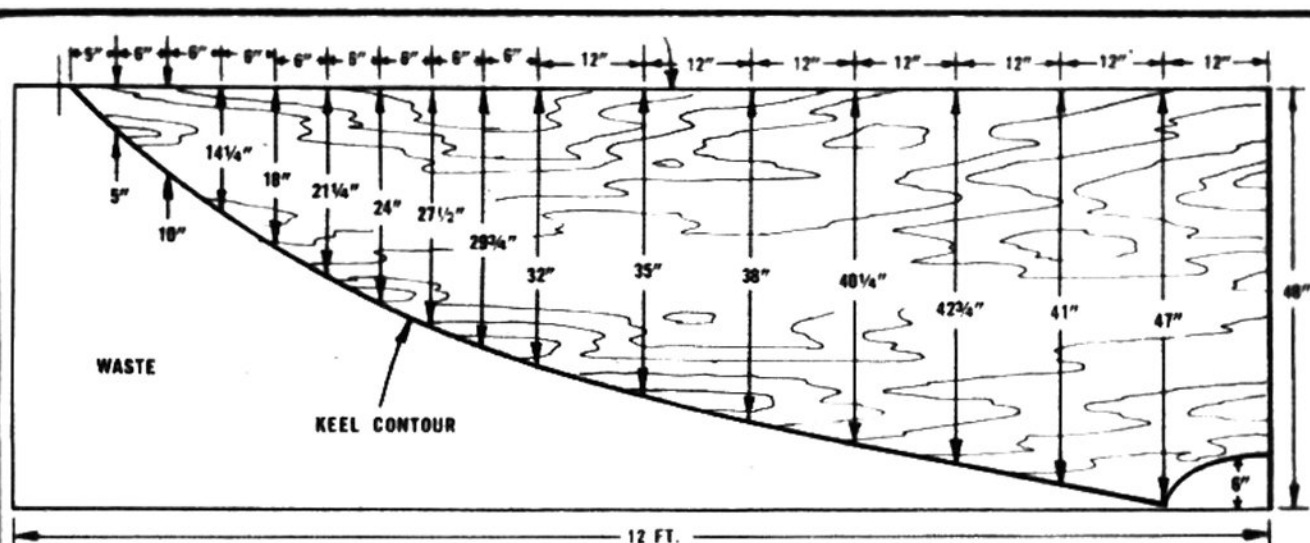




**THE THING**, at 60 lbs., is easily beached.

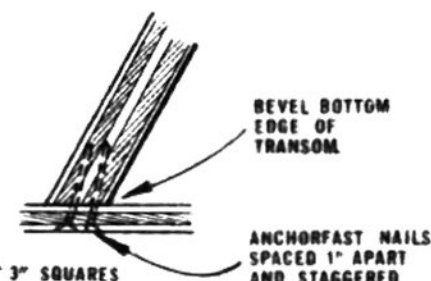
tion of a few knees and braces makes the boat.

For Al, The Thing was an experiment and he didn't span the hull with seats because he felt this would make it too rigid. He also was afraid the outward pressure would create a tendency for the hull to pop apart. However, the boat has carried five people with a gross weight of 800 pounds and there has been no sign of undue stress. •



**TRANSOM CUT FROM 5/8" PLYWOOD**

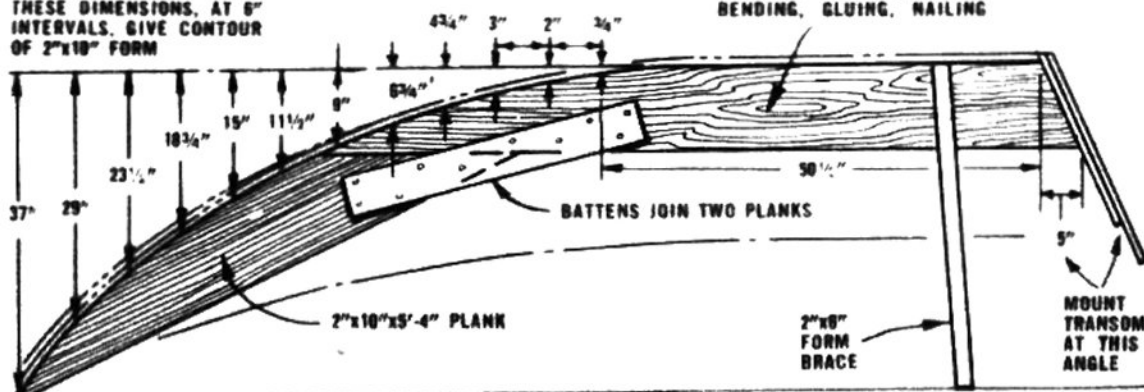
**HULL PLANKING.**  
CUT TWO FROM  
1/4"x4"x12"  
MARINE PLYWOOD



**BEVEL BOTTOM  
EDGE OF  
TRANSOM**

**ANCHORFAST NAILS  
SPACED 1" APART  
AND STAGGERED**

**THESE DIMENSIONS, AT 8" INTERVALS, GIVE CONTOUR OF 2"x10" FORM**



**2"x10"x7'-3" PLANK  
SUPPORTS KEEL FOR ALL  
BENDING, GLUING, NAILING**

**BATTENS JOIN TWO PLANKS**

**2"x10"x5'-4" PLANK**

**2"x8"  
FORM  
BRACE**

**MOUNT  
TRANSOM  
AT THIS  
ANGLE**