

A SIMPLE STRIP PLANKING JIG

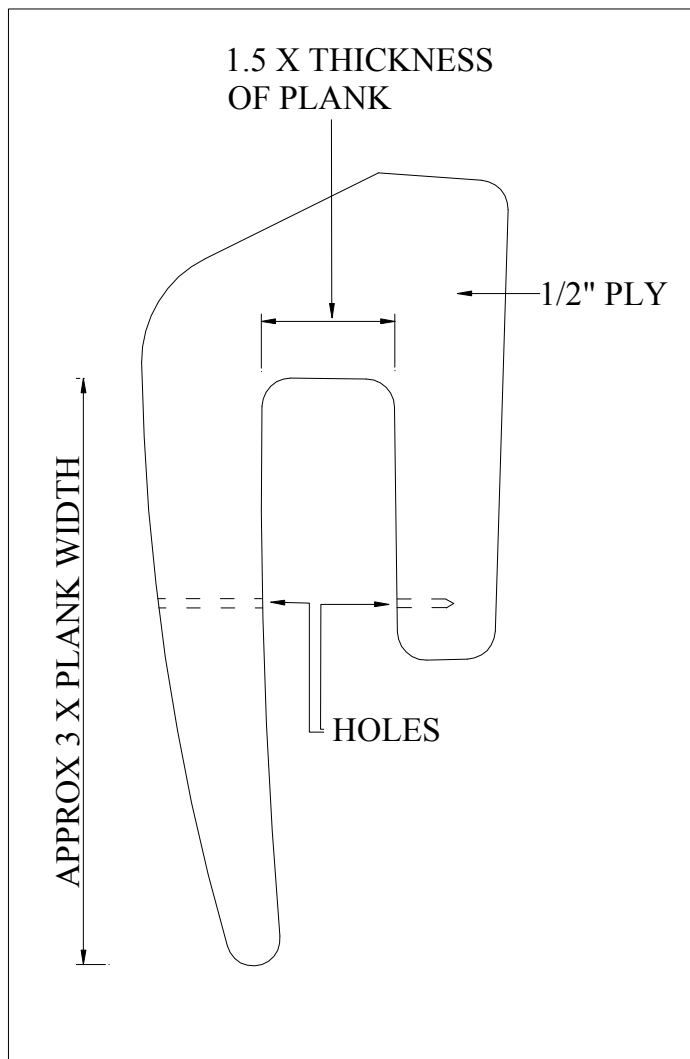
BY MIKE WALLER

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How many times have you heard, or read the comment, in relation to strip planking, that it would be easier if 'we had a few more helpers'. Perhaps you have been in that situation yourself.

The ideal way to strip plank any hull is to pre-scarf each plank so that it can be laid as a single strip, (**unless you are using the more expensive tongue and groove quick strip, which can be laid in short strips**) but unless you have many willing hands, getting a long, flexible, pre-battered plank into position without getting epoxy everywhere can be a little difficult.



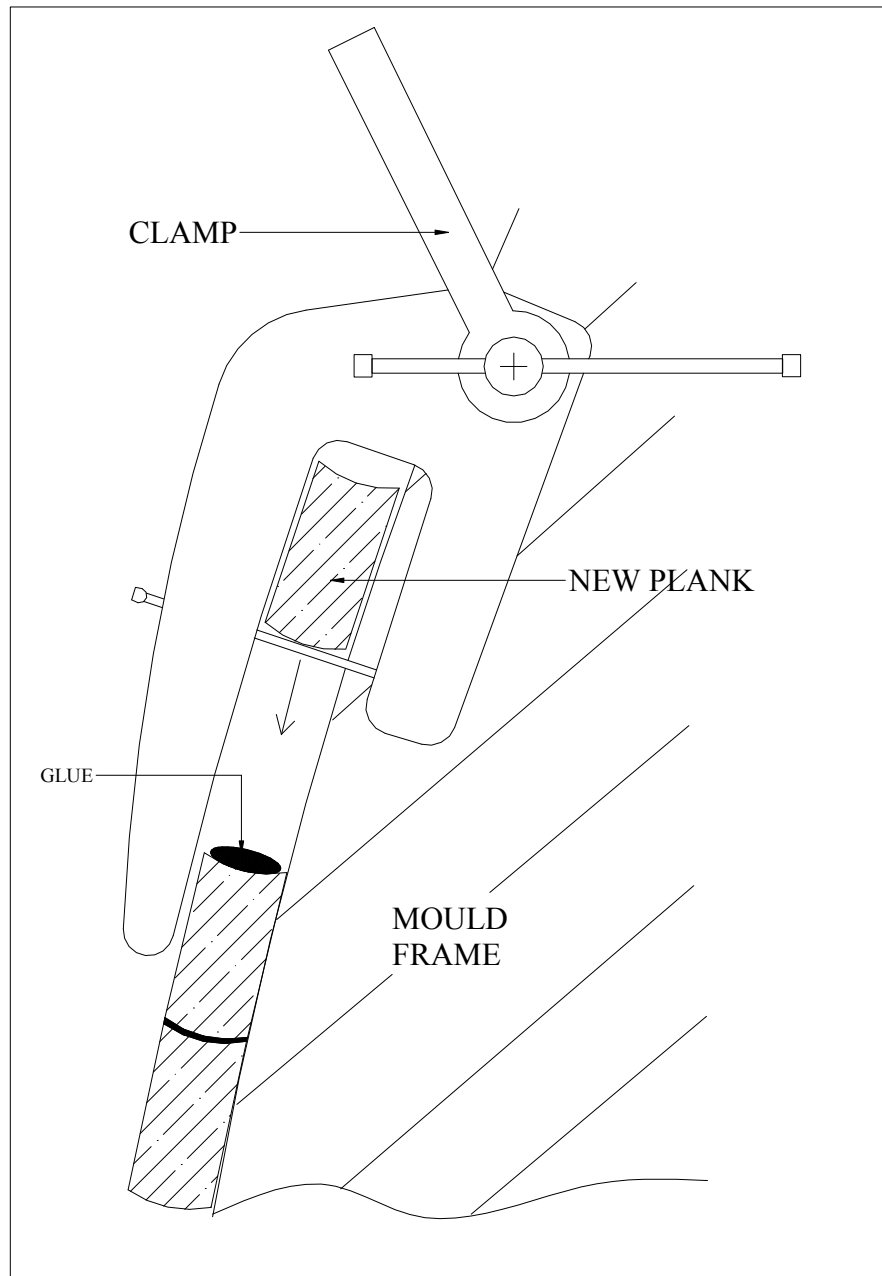
The diagram shows a simple jig which can make life a little easier if you have to do the job single or short handed. The jig can be cut from a scrap of 1/2" (12mm) plywood, and you need one for each mould station on the hull. Cut the jig to the shape shown in the diagram, (**Use a jig saw, and make a template, as you will probably have to replace the jigs fairly regularly**) with the long arm about three times as long as the depth of your widest plank. The width of the slot should be 1.5 times the thickness of the planking. Bore a hole carefully through the long arm and part way into the shorter back arm. The hole should be positioned so as to allow room for the widest plank in the top of the jig slot. Lastly, insert a long steel nail loosely through the hole. That's all there is to it.

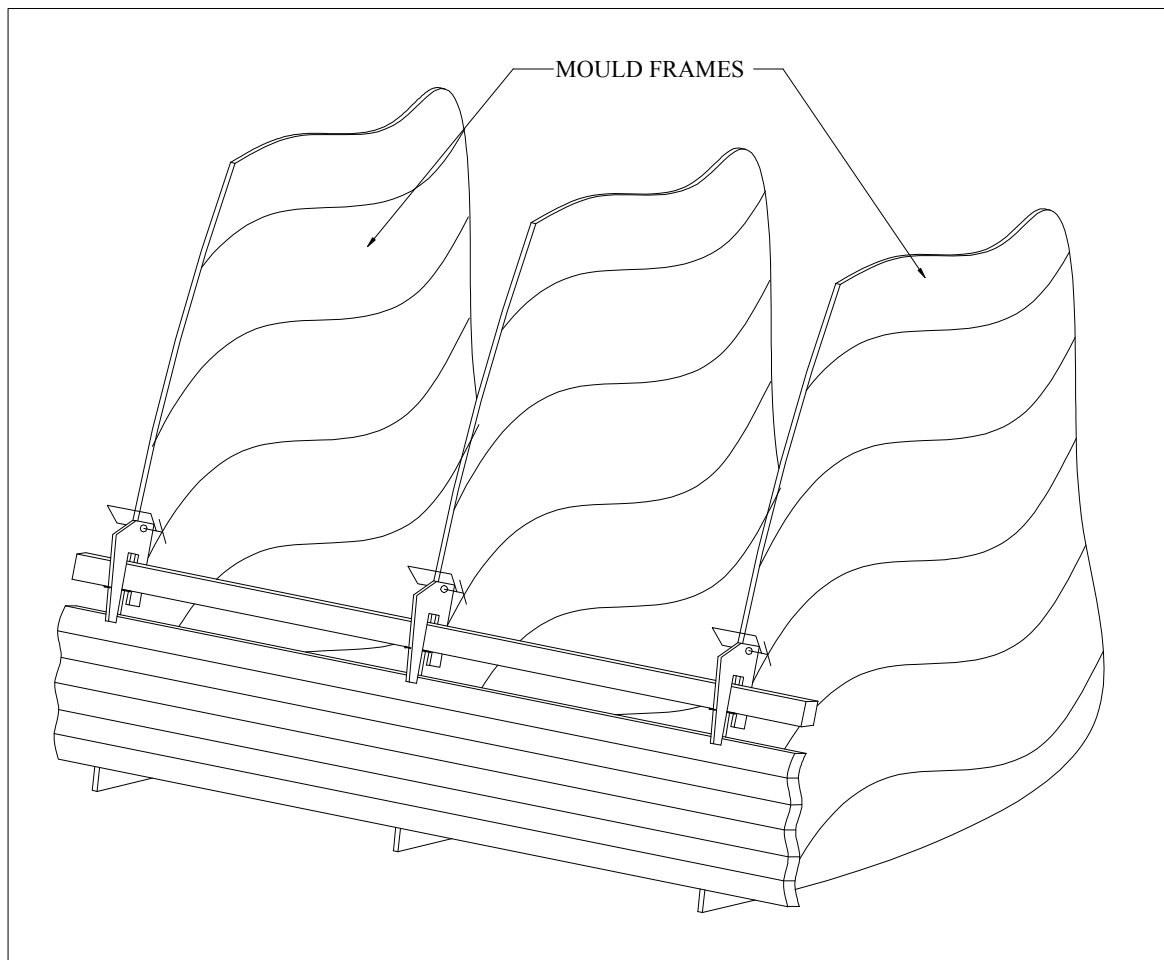
To use the jig, you **do not pre-butter your plank with epoxy before putting it on the hull**. If you are working alone, start at the centre of the hull, slip a jig over the new plank, insert the nail to hold the plank in place and then use a clamp to secure the jig to the hull mould. Repeat the process at each mould station, working towards each end of the hull. It should take only a few minutes to fit the plank. **Adjust the jigs until the new plank is just above the last plank already installed.**

Next, use a wide bore syringe, cake decorator or plastic bag with the corner cut off, to apply the epoxy glue to the top edge of the last plank already installed on the hull. Loosen the jigs one by one and lower the plank until it is just slightly above the one you have buttered up. Your new plank is now well positioned just a little above its final position, and the jigs will keep it there as long as you like.

Starting at one end of the hull, simply pull the nails progressively from the jigs, lowering the plank into position and fastening in place using your favourite method

(screws, dowels, plastic nails, whatever.) When you remove the jigs, make sure you clean any epoxy from the nail and the hole. If it does clog up, **let it dry and bore it out again, or** throw it away and make another one.





This simple jig is not intended to be a magic cure to all strip planking difficulties. It is simply one of those little ideas that pop up from time to time, which when used correctly can make life easier if you are short handed.

All it does is position the plank. It is still up to you to correctly position and secure the plank. It is also still up to you to make a good job of it. Of course it is still quicker and easier to have many willing hands.

Happy building

Mike Waller.