



a natural state

Artist: Phil Greene

Video 2. Process A: Building the Hull

Greene: And I use this to show people the halfway stage of building a hull, so that people can still see where the ribs are and the shape of the ribs. And they can see how the, the individual strips are being laid up over the rib.

And, as you can see, there's a lot of stress. The strip starts out...this strip right here will start out almost straight up and down; come over, where it's tilted down; and then it's almost flat down here. And also is making a big curve, like this. There's a lot of stress in these particular strips.

One of the things that makes modern wooden canoes different from, from the older wooden canoes is the use of epoxy. And when you're using epoxy, basically it's a liquid plastic that penetrates a fiberglass cloth, which is then placed on the inside of the hull and the outside of the hull.

So let's say that, that this is an ebony hull strip. This is the thickness of the hull. It's three-sixteenths of an inch thick. By itself, it's fairly weak and very flexible. But when you sandwich it between two layers of fiberglass cloth—one on the inside and one on the outside—and once it hardens and it sticks to the wood, it becomes very stiff.

These strips go on, on the boat over the frame, like this. And they're bent, twisted...however it conforms to the frame. And on top, there is a groove, and this is called a bead and cove. There'll be a groove on this side and a bead on this side. It's just a rounded cove and a bead. So the next strip that fits on top will go in just like that. And you can see how it locks in place. And it can roll. And you can see in this boat where, where the individual strips are.