



# My *Sidekick*

A dinghy is a necessary evil for *Solace*, our 24-foot O'Day. We like to anchor out occasionally and a dinghy is our ticket ashore. Inflatables are hard to row and the motor takes up too much space. *Sidekick*, a 7-foot-long home-built Polliwog dinghy designed by Sam Devlin was the answer. She's pictured here, floating off Killbear Point in Georgian Bay, Canada.

*Sidekick*, my first boatbuilding project, occupied my leisure hours for a winter. She was built from 1/4-inch exterior fir plywood coated with West System epoxy. My

thinking, at the time, was that the plywood provided a good core for the epoxy. Marine plywood is lighter, and provides a superior base for finishing; its extra cost, as a proportion of the total project cost, is minimal.

In spite of her humble origins, *Sidekick* has been a huge success. She weighs in at about 80 pounds, planes at three knots on a towline, bobs over the waves like a seagull on a swell, and rows extremely well with one passenger, and adequately with two.

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