Launching through the Surf Traveling Exhibit Panel 09: Building a Dory

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Eric nails through the plywood side to the perimeter the ribs should line up with the inside edge of the plywood. To avoid the possibility of developing a crack around the boat's perimeter the ribs should line up with the inside edge of the plywood. Each rib is unique to its specific location in the dory. The ribs have been notched along the bottom for the keelsons and along the sides for the chines, which will be added later in the building process.

Because the side of the dory angles at twenty degrees, to prevent the ribs from being drawn up to the outside edge of the plywood. The bow stem leaves against ribs that have been built prior to the assembly day. Each rib is unique to its specific location in the dory. Each rib will be placed about 14" apart from the other. Once it is in place, epoxy is spread over the entire first layer. The bottom of the dory consists of two layers of half-inch, marine-grade plywood. Each layer uses two pieces that are offset so the seams don't line up with each other. Once it is in place, epoxy is spread over the entire first layer. Then, the second layer is placed on top of it, lined up with the outside edge, and nailed in place.

All the ribs have been put in place, the sides have been nailed to the ribs, and epoxy has been applied. Straight edges are clamped along the side while the epoxy sets up. Annie checks the alignment along the bottom and side of the dory to ensure that the bottom is flat and straight. In a couple of days these straight edges will be taken off and become the chines attached into the inside notches along both sides of the dory. The keelsons will be attached into the middle three rib notches running along the length of the bottom of the dory. These two elements provide strength and a surface for attaching the plywood that forms the dory's bottom.

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Eric nails through the plywood side to attach it to the ribs. Each side is made using three sheets of plywood that have been joined together with scarf joints.