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

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Building a Dory

Terry helps Eric nail the plywood side to the boat. Each rib will be made using three sheets of plywood that have been attached together with scarf joints. The bow stem leans against ribs that have been built prior to the assembly day. 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.

The bow stem and starboard (right) sides have been attached at the bow stem to start the assembly of the dory. Once this has been completed, the first layer of marine plywood will be added. This layer provides a close-up view of the bow deck and the bow stem. The bow stem is aligned with the outside edge of the plywood. 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.

Pam, Annie, and Eric are placing rib #3 in its position. With each rib the dory begins to straighten and take shape. The port (left) and starboard (right) sides are made using three sheets of plywood that have been joined together with scarf joints. The port side is attached to the ribs. Each side is made using three sheets of plywood that have been attached together with scarf joints.

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 be removed to create the keelsons and keelsons. The keelsons will be 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.

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.

The image to the right provides a view of the console and the fish boxes. The fish boxes are placed on either side of the console with lids that act as seats, which can be removed easily to store the day’s catch. On each side a tray extends to the back of the dory for use as a surface to work on tackle. Storage areas are included below the trays.

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