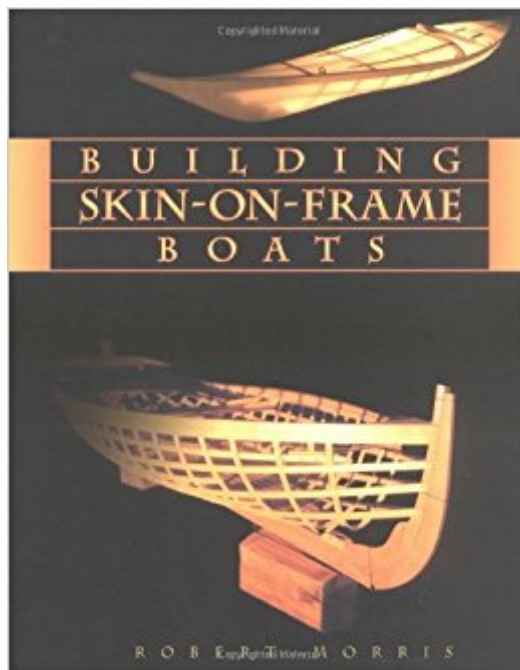


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# Building Skin-On-Frame Boats



## Synopsis

This book is a goldmine for experienced and novice boat builders and wanna-be boat builders alike. Based on classic skin-on-frame boat building techniques of the Inuit, learn step-by-step how to construct seven boat styles, from a kayak to a canoe to a small sailboat. Discover innovative materials, such as the well-named "ballistic nylon," that result in strong but incredibly light and transportable skin-on-frame boats. Builders are encouraged to apply their own judgment to a few basic rules and every aspect of the boat can be customized. Detailed instructions are complete with illustrations, diagrams, photos, personal anecdotes and a thorough tool guide.

## Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

It's hard to understand why one might pay upwards of \$100 for soft-bound out-of-print book on boatbuilding... until you leaf through "Building Skin-on-Frame Boats". Thirty minutes later it's clear that this cult classic has earned its reputation simply by being the most detailed instruction manual available. Using the example of building a Greenland kayak, Robert Morris walks you through both the design and building process. That's important, because the appeal of this boatbuilding style lies in customizing every boat for its owner, using your body parts as the measuring devices. The sections on materials selection are still current and the procedures are ageless. This book is a prize addition to my already-extensive boatbuilding library.

a very good DIY book. Robert Morris gives you lots of his knowledge and experience, on how to

build the Greenland Kayak, but does not give you everything. Some points of the construction are vague and I think this is done intentionally so you either have to figure it out for yourself, or contact him for advice. Also he wants you to go through his company to get some of the materials which are needed to construct the boats, but if you research enough you can find all the materials needed. This is not a knock. I understand that to be successful you have to be a successful businessman.

I bought this book first and then bought Chris Cunningham's book. Both books compliment each other and since I do not know much about this process, I consider both required reading before I build. I really enjoyed this book. The author really tries to stay faithful to the spirit of the craft where possible. Of course, sealskin is no longer used but there is no glue for the joints (just lashing) and no varnish (linseed oil) so that the boat can remain as flexible as possible. I like that several designs were provided to show the possibilities of making skin on frame boats besides kayaks. It is a fascinating read of an ancient boatbuilding method. I am used to building small boats with wood, epoxy and varnish. I always like to try and learn new methods, so I am glad I came across this book. While this book does not provide all of the minute details and pictures of the Cunningham book, it still is very worthwhile getting. The author's fondness for this craft is contagious and comes across well. I would love to take a course at his shop sometime.

Robert Morris has built a lot of skin-on-frame boats in his shop- not just kayaks, but canoes, dinghies and other forms as well. He's used a number of different woods, skin materials, coatings, designs and techniques, and they're all summarized here in magnificent detail. There are scores of photos, detailed drawings, historical notes, boat plans, discussions of tools and technique as well as extensive discussion of hulls design and dynamics. Morris understands the whys of hulls; he will tell you how moving a strake closer to the keel or the gunwhales will change the behavior of a boat, and why you should keep the skin suspended off the ribs. If you have the urge to build a skin-on-frame boat- or even if you're just curious about the topic, you need this book. As good as previous books on the subject by George Putz, Wolfgang Brinck and H. C. Petersen have been (and I have them all), this book goes a step further. I've been reading all I can find on the topic in preparation for building my first skin-on-frame kayak, and with this book my research is finished.

Well written and illustrated, Morris' book covers all the details. This book provides a good basic background and a thorough presentation of the design and building processes. You will find all the

information you need to design and build your own boat(s), including a good discussion of "urban beachcombing" for materials. A good value for the money and a worthwhile addition to the boatbuilding library.

The book is very well written, though I found the stability to length and beam explanations to be cut short. I do not believe that this is for a first time kayak builder. This is for those interested in building kayaks using traditional methods and for those who wish to push the envelope. As someone looking at building a skin on frame kayak to get into the sport of recreational kayaking (I can't afford a factory assembled kayak), I prefer a less labor intensive method, such as plywood frame members and glue and screw connections vs. lashing everything. I would have liked to have seen the author discuss the pros and cons of other methods, but his take seemed to be that this was the only way he knew to build kayaks. Overall, it is a useful book, I believe it should be part of anyone's kayak building reference library and provides ideas for making modifications to the plywood frame kayaks and many of the methods can be applied to other skin on frame kayak plans. I would not recommend a first time kayaker try to build using this method unless you are really dedicated since it looks to be time consuming and a bit complicated compared to other methods I have seen.

Very good information on building different styles of boats.

Just great! Starting from the history, the materials, the tools, the process... it covers everything. It's an amazing job! If you are planning to build some traditional boats -and kayaks in special- start by here... you will find hours and hours of fun and great building, with all the info you need.

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