

T34C Tech Articles & photos

By

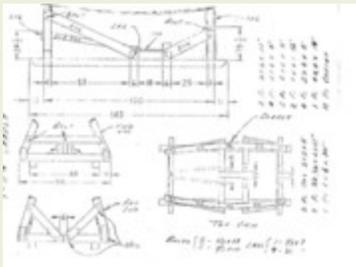
George Harrington Colligan



How to Assemble a T34C Cradle

See Appendix D for enlarged cradle assembly images

Making a Cradle



Assembly Sketch
(Appendix)



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4

Why make a Cradle?

On a number of occasions, I responded to inquiries regarding land storage for the Tartan 34C. I replied with drawings of a permanent shipping cradle that I obtained in my Tartan 34C Owner's Manual that I received when I purchased my boat. This cradle, shown in Photo 1, is built of oak and represents an ideal way to store the boat, so long as the marina owner where you keep it likes cradles. Some marina owners - me included - don't like cradles because they are a nuisance to haul away and store. I much preferred jack stands.

However in some areas, cradles are the way to go because winter freezing and spring rains can cause excessive heaving in the ground under boats and sometimes, jack stands offer only marginal security against a hull falling over. In my marina, I was forced, because of some bad experiences, to shift to cradles as the ground in the north country by the Lake proved to have about 6" of heave with sink holes appearing randomly during heavy spring rains.

But, permanent cradles are one thing. Collapsible cradles are something else; and, they can represent for you and your marina owner a viable compromise. Moreover, if you build it right, you can take it down every spring and stack it in your garage or somewhere more convenient.

A Collapsible Cradle

Photos 2, 3, 4 & 5 show a collapsible cradle I built under "Temujin" last year; and, I reassembled it this year for winter storage.

It is made from 6, 12' - 2x6 lumber, a pile of 2x4's and plywood gussets all cut from a 4'x4' piece of construction grade plywood. The assembly is done with the boat hanging in the travel lift.

The most important part of the design is that the full weight of the boat rests on the center two cross beams. This locks the cradle in place and serves as the anchor for



Photo 5

[Cradle Sketch](#)
8.5x11" pdf (38kb)

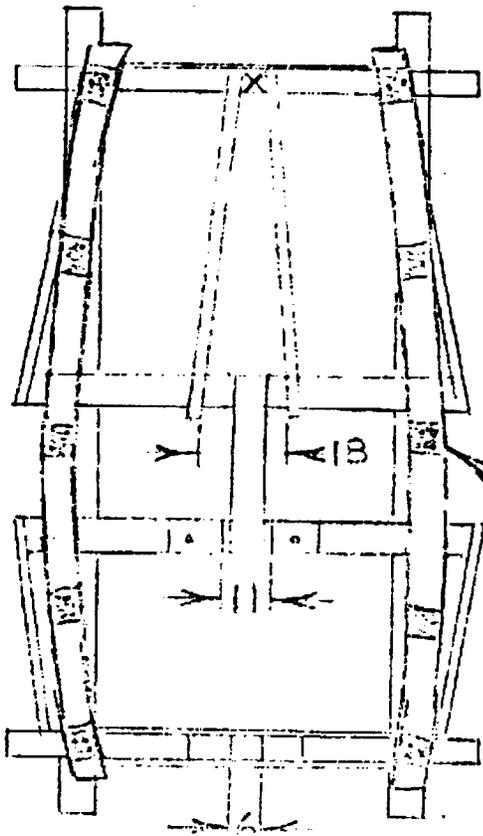
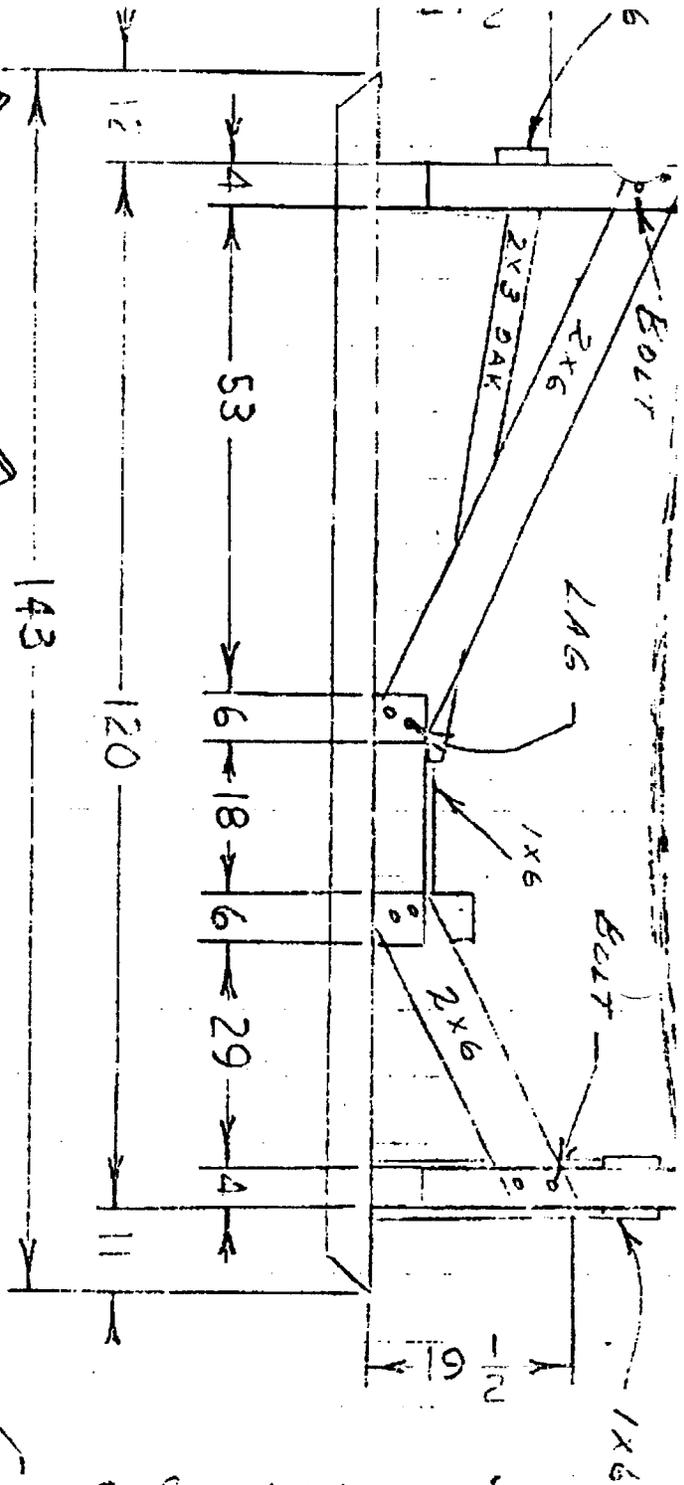
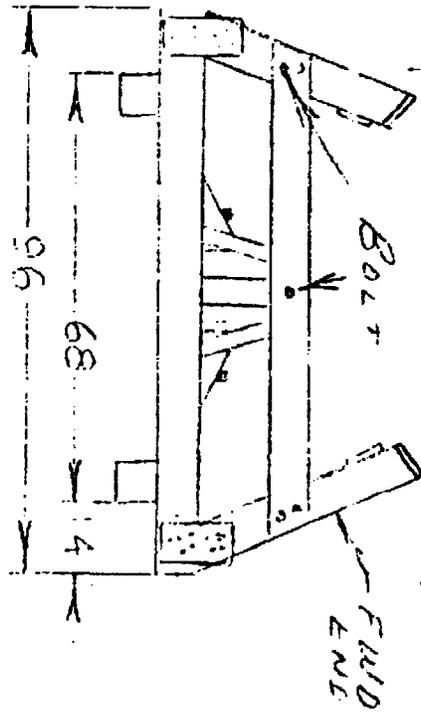
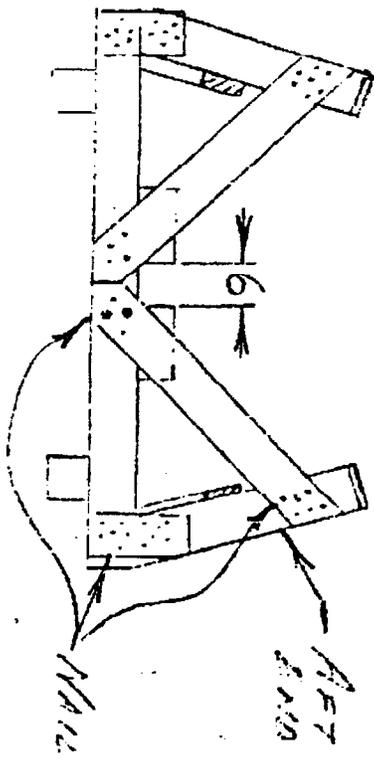
all the other uprights that you will build.

The fastenings are long - 4" heavy duty dry wall screws and 2" heavy duty dry wall screws. Tools consist of a portable Milwaukee drill/screw driver and a circular saw. The cradle, initially takes about 4 hours to make; but, once done, can be disassembled in no time, and if you marked it properly before you take into down, it can be set up in subsequent years in about 2 hours. Each year, you will need to renew the screws. Dry wall screws can rust and you should replace them. The lot will cost about \$10.00 at Home Depot.

It is not as heavy duty as a permanent cradle; but keep in mind that they are used to ship the boat from the builder to the dealer. This cradle is designed only to hold the boat upright in a static situation.

Years ago, I used to marvel at how Mike Mullins, who was the yard boss at White Rocks Marina, would bang together a cradle right under a boat made from scraps of 2x4's and whatever else the tide brought in. He loved doing it and said it was faster than using jack stands. He was much younger then and so was I; but, this youthful hubris notwithstanding, none of his boats ever fell over. And the yard was not cluttered with cradles.

So, you might want to give this a try. If you can't make it work, you can always use the lumber to start that deck you were promising to build.



TOP VIEW

BOARDS { 3 - 1/2 X 13
2 - 1/2 X 10
LAGS { 1 - 1/2 X 7
9 - 1/2

2 PC OAK 2X3X6'
3 PC 3/4 OAK 4X12"
1 PC 1X6X30"

2 PC 6X6X12'
4 PC 4X6X8'
2 PC 6X6X8'
2 PC 1X6X12'
4 PC 2X6X8'
1 PC 4X4X18"
11 PC CARPET



