

BUILDERS CORNER

A MODEL WATER SKIER THAT REALLY WORKS!

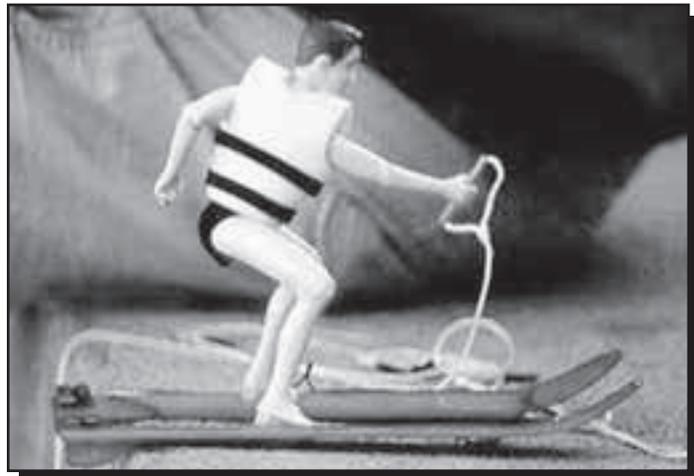
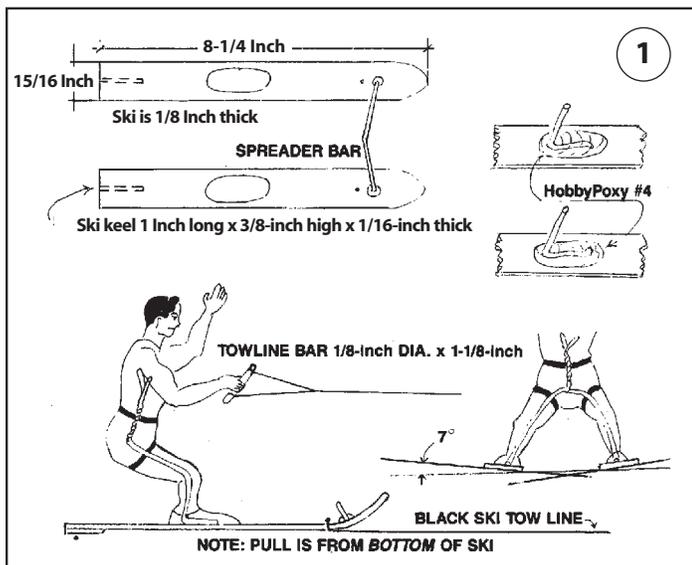


By Dale Johnson

I have been asked how I made my water skier and in this article I will try to show you how I did it. A couple of years ago George Pfeifer borrowed me an old issue of Scale Ship Modeler that had instructions for making a water skier.

I took the basic principals described in that article and scaled them for the 1/8th scale Dumas boats.

I have included the drawings from that original article to help explain the way it works. I will also include patterns for making your own 1/8th scale water skier.



I think the key to making the skier work is to make the skier so that when he falls over he will be in position to get back up, (leaning back with skis pointing up at an angle) I had to add lead weights on the back of my skis to accomplish this. It also helps that the man floats and is wearing a life vest that floats.

Notice the skis are not flat, they slant inward at approximately a 7° angle and they are parallel to each other. I used a couple of pieces of stiff brass wire to keep the skis parallel and about one and three quarter inches apart. The skier is actually pulled from under the skis by a (20lb test) black line that becomes invisible in the water.

To speed things up I used a Breyer figure for the man and my wife Connie volunteered to make some swimming trunks for him. I found this man to be the perfect size.

First the pair of skis are made using the accompanying pattern. I made mine from a piece of 3/4-inch thick cedar on my band saw, in about five minutes.



Step 1: You cut out the side view patterns and spray mount them on a piece of wood (7/8 x 1 1/8 x 8 1/2), then just cut them close to the lines and sand to the final size.

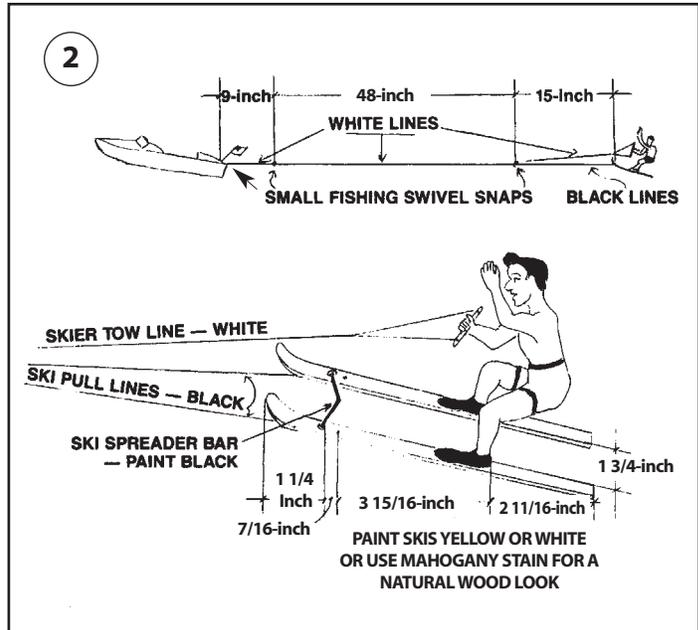
Step 2: Cut out the top view pattern pieces and spray mount them on top of the skis. Once again cut close to the lines and sand to finish. Leave the pattern on the skis until you drill the holes for the eye screws and spread bars.



Step 3: Cut out the fin pattern pieces and spray mount them on a sheet of wood or brass, then cut them out using the same process as before.

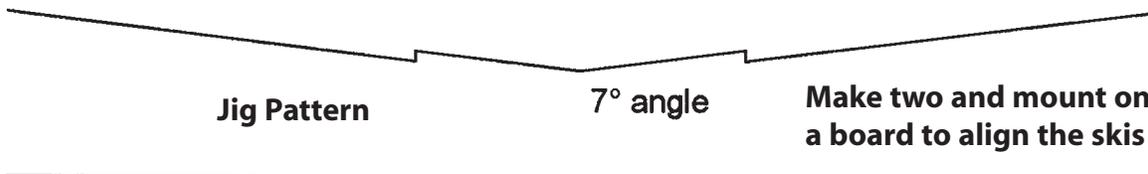
Step 4: Attach the fins with a strong water proof glue. After the fins have dried stain and finish the skis.

Step 5: The skis must be parallel - one and three quarters inch apart, and also at a seven degree angle as shown on the drawings. To align the skis I made a



jig using the jig pattern (below), this will help keep the skis parallel and at a 7° angle when you attach the spread bars and man. To attach the spreader bar at the forward part of the skis, 1 1/4-inch from the tip or front of the skis. This spreader bar is made from 3/64-inch stiff brass wire, and is used to keep the skis parallel. A 1/16-inch hole is drilled through the skis 7/16-inch behind this spreader bar. This hole is for the ski tow line and this is truly the line that pulls the

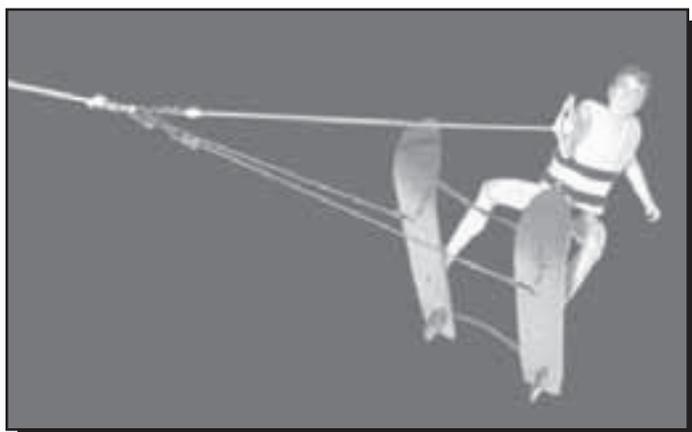
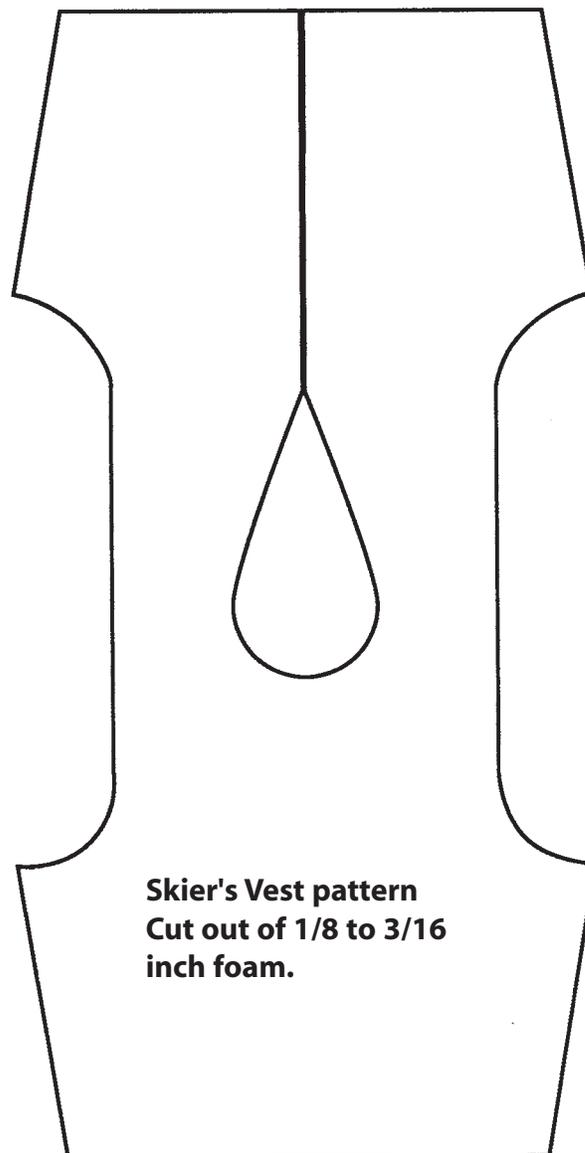
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Builders Corner continued From 6

skier, not the normal ski line that the skier holds in his hand. I used a black braided 20 lb test fishing line because the black line becomes invisible in the water. To attach the man I drilled a hole in the heels of the man and the skis and used a brass peg and epoxy to secure him. He is mounted on his toes with his knees bent and epoxied in position, the right arm is also epoxied in position. Leave the left arm adjustable for balancing.

Step 6: Now the tow line is all that is left to assemble. I mounted eye screws on each side at the rear of the boat hull to attach the ski tow line. I made two lines nine-inches long and at one end of each line I tied very small fishing swivel snap. These two pieces of nine inch line are then attached to one very small fishing swivel snap. The next section of line is 48-inches long and has at one end another very small fishing swivel snap, which I call the common snap. The opposite end has just a loop on it, to go into the first swivel snap. The last section of line is the section that is attached to the skis at one end. These lines are 15-inches long and are black. They are attached to the common snap with the skier's tow line, which is white and about 17-inches long. This white line is attached to the tow line bar at the other end..



Step 7: Make the vest out of closed cell foam sheets 1/8th inch thick, You can color it with puff paint and use shoe laces for straps.

NOTES

Make a couple zerox copies of all patterns before beginning.
 Breyer products can be found at Hub Hobby or toy stores, they make the horse models.
 I used 3M spray mount found at Michaels.
 I used Dumas water based mahogany stain and clear lacquer for my finish on the skis.
 The inspiration for this project was an article that originally appeared in Scale Ship Modeler Vol 13, Number 5, July 1990, by Robert A. Burns

1/8 SCALE SKI PATTERN

