

Blog from the website forum Modellismo.net: <https://www.modellismo.net/forum/navi-e-velieri-work-progress/133711-mezzo-scafo-etoile-de-paris.html#post1521953>

Title: Half hull – Etoile de Paris

- Posted on 06/02/2022

It is a wooden river boat made in 1953, model Star Craft, 30 ft in length.

These boats, which ranged from 20 ft to 47 ft, were built by William Bates & Son in Chertsey, Surrey on the River Thames between 1946 and 1975. The builder aimed to produce a British-built luxury motor boat to compete with the American Chris Craft.

The smaller models, including this one, were designed for river navigation while the larger ones were also made for sea navigation.



Coming to the model, why this “unusual” choice from my side?

In September 2021 I was in London and by chance I passed by the St. Katharine Docks on the Thames, where many historic boats were moored for the annual Classic Boat Festival. Wandering around the piers, among all the boats I have been impressed by a small one ("it's a baby!" the owner told me) which immediately captured my attention for the elegance of the shapes and the care of the details. It was the Etoile de Paris and I promised myself that I would build it, so I started taking many pictures, like these ones.



Surfing the web to find some photographic material, I discovered that there is a Star Craft Owners' Club, founded by a group of owners in 1993 and dedicated to the conservation and use of these classic wooden boats. The primary goal of the club's website (<http://www.bates-starcraft.co.uk/>) is to connect with previous owners and other friends of Star Craft to share stories and knowledge of these boats. Through the willingness of the webmaster, I have been able to get in touch with the current owner of Etoile de Paris and he has been very helpful in giving me information and photos of the boat, even

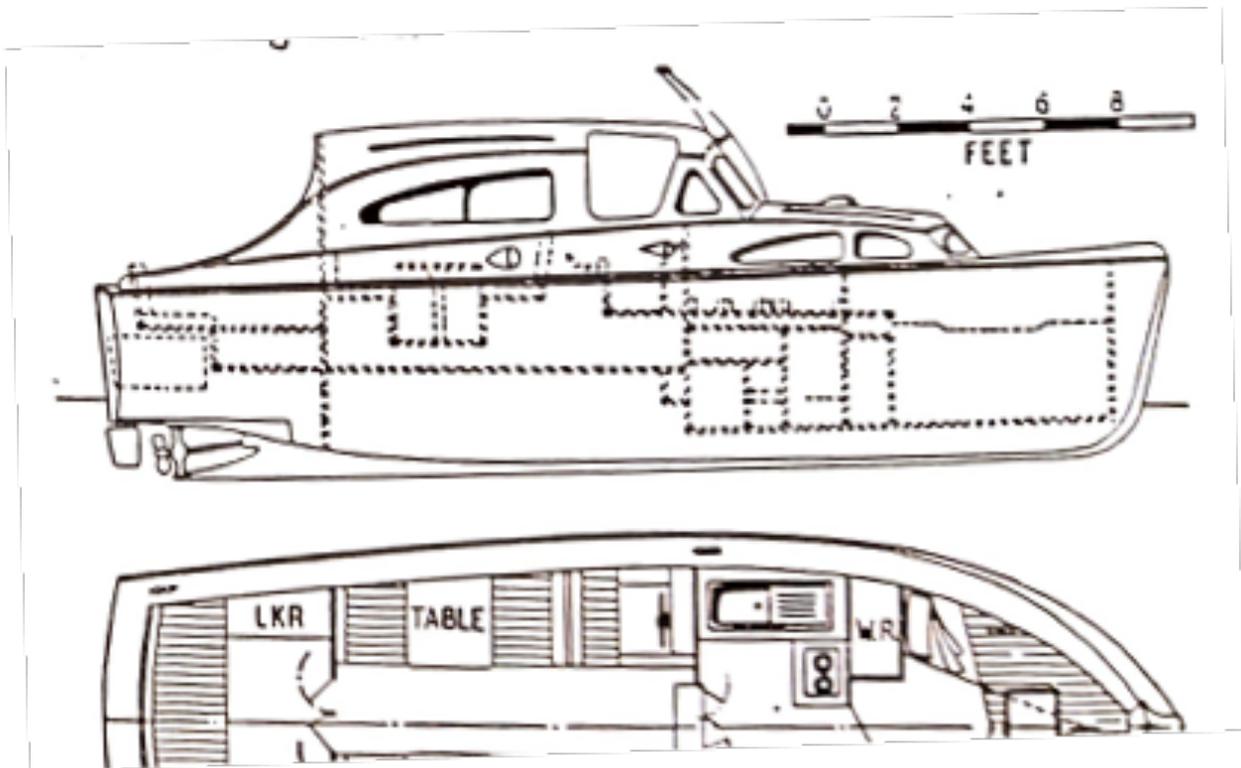
inviting me for a visit! Moreover, he is a boat modeler too and he is currently building a wonderful Riva model.

- Posted on 06/07/2022

At this point, I started planning the construction of the boat.

- I will first make the hull with the classic method of the overlapping layers that I have used for all my previous models. I will detail the interior of the boat from the stern to the helm seat, leaving out the lower deck, as it would not be visible once the model is completed.
- I will then detail the seats in the cockpit, in the dinette and at the helm, the table and the flooring of the boat.
- I will then build the elevated structure above the deck (deckhouse) with the portholes and I'll apply it at a later time.
- Regarding the wooden parts of the boat, I will use mahogany strips while I'll paint the rest in semi-gloss white.

Despite the help of the Star Craft owners, I was unable to get any detailed plan from which to obtain the boat sections, but they sent me some very useful drawings, such as the one attached.



So, I used the plan of a boat quite similar to the Etoile de Paris that I found on the net, and I adapted it to the measurements of my model using an image editor (Gimp). Later, during the construction of the hull, I will make further adjustments based on the pictures in my possession.

The model will be in 1:42 scale, with a length of about 22 cm and I will obtain the hull sections from a 3mm thick lime wood tablet.

I printed the longitudinal sections and glued them on the wood tablet, ready to be cut by a scroll saw.

