

TurboCAD sails away from the competition for Jordan Boats

Jordan Boats is a Fife based operation which has been producing plywood boat kits since 2003.

Many people wish to build their own boats as an antidote to the mass produced plastic boats which have prevailed in the leisure boating trade since the early sixties. While there are a large number of kits available in the UK market, these are largely of similar size and specification. There are a significant number of people who want to build from the many sets of plans available from professional designers.

Alec Jordan who had previously spent 20 years in the IT industry decided to “downshift” and make boats for a living.

Out of the boatbuilding came a requirement to have plywood sheets cut to the right sizes for assembly of the boats. Having found a local company to do the work, he realized that cutting kits for other home boat builders could be a profitable sideline. Three years on, the boatbuilding has returned to being a hobby, and the kits are the main line of Jordan Boats business.

Alec needed a low cost professional CAD package that would run on a standard PC and be able to provide the drawings that could be supplied to the company's CNC router.

CAD packages vary greatly in cost and function and many were beyond the budget of Jordan Boats, but TurboCAD gave the best profile of function against cost. Alec had also tried AutoCAD but after a few weeks chose to use TurboCAD, describing AutoCAD as “a poor port from the DOS operating system with a clunky command line interface”.

Alec was now able to loft the shapes of the hull planks into a 3D model which could then be sectioned to provide the shapes of decks, benches, and other internal fittings.

As the kits became more sophisticated, a further package was added to allow the development of hull plates.

From this, Jordan Boats started producing clinker ply kits which combine the look and style of lapstrake or clinker boats with modern adhesives to produce lightweight boats with a much lower maintenance requirement than the older type.



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