BOXTOP
LIVE ABOARD SCOW
30' X 8'
5000 POUNDS EMPTY

Boxtop is intended to be a civilized live aboard boat for one. However she has three full sized berths and will be a very good weekender for a family. She is 30 feet long, 8 feet wide and will probably weigh around 5000 pounds empty.

A look at the cross sections shows a four foot deep basic hull made from standard plywood sheets without longitudinal butt joints. An island house sits atop the deck providing standing headroom in all three rooms. The side decks are a constant 21 inches wide for secure lounging and walking. In the bow, the side decks lead to a bow deck and a large anchor well. Aft, there is a huge cockpit and a stern well for the motor, fuel, anchors, etc.

Boxtop draws 12 inches at 5500 pounds displacement and is designed to be beached. Once beached you go ashore through the open bow well dry shod. The pivoting leeboard and rudder swing up in shallows. Inside ballast is 900 pounds of steel bars bolted to bulkheads.

Her sail rig is a powerful, low cost, free standing balanced lug which can be folded on its tabernacle with an attached winch. The mizzen is added to balance and hold her head to wind at anchor but she may sail well under main alone for easy daysailing.

I've tinkered with Boxtop since these drawings were copied. The bow is now 2 feet longer to get it to sweep up higher above the water. I did that after I saw a similar scow cruiser pushing its flat bow through the water. That designer knew better, but I believe the problem is that: 1) It's hard to guess the weight of a new boat this size, and 2) It's impossible to control how the boat is really built and how much junk the owner is going to stuff into it. So if Boxtop really weighed 6000 or 7000 pounds in service I won't be too surprized, and the extra swoop in the extended bow should handle it.

Boxtop requires about 50 sheets of 1/2" plywood, but she's built in the same jigless fashion as the small boats.

Plans are seven blueprints plus keyed instructions. They are $35 until a prototype is tested.