

The Beginning and a Word of Advice

Now that you have all of your materials and tools it is time to get started on our 16' Grand Banks Dory. This is an awesome project that you will be very proud of once completed, and it is a heck of a lot of fun to build. The key with this project, as it is with any building project, is to simply take your time and walk away from it when things just aren't going your way. A few minutes away will clear our head and refocus your attention. That is a lesson we learned the hard way ;-). You will get frustrated on occasion, so walk away and take a breather.

Starting at the Bottom

When building our Dory, we will start at the bottom and work our way up. We must construct the bottom of the Dory first. Pick out the 5 pieces of 12' x 7" x 1 1/4" pine planks that you purchased for the bottom and lay them side by side on a flat work table.

These pieces will be laminated together via a tongue and groove, along with a generous amount of marine glue. The pieces, when fitted properly, will be held together with clamps until the glue hardens. Approximately 24 hours.



****Key Point**** – Using plenty of glue here is important. We don't want water to seep through the joints.

So, you will need to cut a total of 8 grooves. The three inside planks get grooved on each side, while the two outside pieces only get grooved on the inside side. To do that, you will need to setup your table saw with the dado blade adjusted for a ¼" cut width and sitting at 1" high. That setting ensures that you can make your groove cut with one easy pass.

You will turn each plank up on its side, and slide it through your saw blade making one complete pass over the blade. That will cut a 1" groove that is ¼" thick into your plank. With your saw turned off, place a piece of plank on its edge up against the blade and resting against your saw fence. Adjust your fence until you are comfortable that your blade will make the cut in the center of the plank. This is important. The cut should be made in the center of the plank's 5/8" width.



Once your dado blade and saw fence are adjusted correctly, be sure to not adjust it again, otherwise your grooves won't match up and your floor surface will not be even. If that does happen, you will have some sanding on your hands to level it back up. Not fun, but sometimes necessary.

Ok, when you are sure that the blade and fence are correct, it is time to cut the groove. Turn on the table saw and slide the plank over the blade slowly and as evenly as possible until it is cut through the length. This will be our first bottom plank. It only needs to be grooved on one side.

For the next 3 (three) planks, groove both sides. For the 5th and final plank, do as you did with the first plank and only groove one side. This will serve as our end piece.

Now, you are ready to make sure the tongue fits in the groove. Try each piece in the groove where it needs to go to see if they fit snugly. It should be tight enough that it barely fits in the groove. So much so, that you may have to gently tap it in with a hammer.

If either tongue piece is too thick, you can run it through the planer to thin it out so that it fits the groove. If they fit really loosely, you will need new tongue pieces. It is important that they are not slack in the groove. A tight laminate is important to stop leakage.

Once you are satisfied that each piece fits, apply a bead of glue inside the groove of the first sidepiece. Slide the first tongue piece in the groove. Repeat this process until all 5 pieces are joined together.

Once each piece is fitted, we need to place our 4 clamps on the planks spaced evenly and tighten. Make sure they are tight enough to force the planks together. The glue should squeeze out between the planks.



Let this sit until the glue hardens. Approximately 24 hours.

Take a break. You deserve it!
It is required as part of the instruction manual ;-)