

The ribs for the Baidarka

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maandag, 02 februari 2004
Last Updated donderdag, 20 oktober 2005

The ribs are being placed in Dick's Baidarka.

He has routed 10mm round strips of white ash for this. After two nights of experimenting with steaming, first 4 minutes and later 20 minutes, Dick gives up. They keep breaking as the grain is not straight enough and grain runout can not be controlled.

Frustrated he resorts to thin willow branches. Some of these also break but the majority bends to shape. First the willow is bend by hand, centimeter by centimeter, until it has become quite flexible. At that stage the bark is removed and the rib is placed in the gunwales.

After placing the ribs, the keelson and chines can be placed.